

Unit 361 Board Meeting Minutes

September 16, 2023

Present: Julie Clark, Don Boyarsky, Rita Simas, Paul Perkowski, Kevin Stansbury, Kathy McMahon, Margaret Devere

On Zoom: Jennifer O'Neill and Ed Yosses. Ed joined at 10:00 am.

Meeting called to order: 9:15 am

Minutes

Minutes from August approved.

Budget

Rita presented budget plan and timeline. Current budget includes recent cost info and detailed estimate for sectionals. IN sectionals not included yet. Final budget will include ability to compare budget to actuals. Regional 2024 budget already developed by regional committee and approved by D17. The final budget will incorporate the regional budget. Open sectionals need to have assumptions checked – Kathleen is out of town.

Don commented that D17 is the only regional that shares the regionals with its units. The unit keeps most of the profit. Jennifer explained what D17 takes and doesn't take. Rita pointed out that hotel shortfalls are on the unit.

Rita pointed out that the unit needs to keep a cushion for various possible emergencies.

Issue with Education category: The ACBL returns 11% to units from membership dues. For Unit 361, this currently works out to \$2500. The money is to be used for education, member recruitment, and member retention. In the past, the ACBL has not asked for an accounting of this spending, but is now requiring a report from each unit. Rita suggests that we include the IN lunches, speaker fees, Pro/Am expenses, and trophies.

Intention: Budget will be complete and approved by beginning of 2024.

Unit Game Discussion

We can design it any way we want. People Julie has talked to are generally in favor, but don't want the game to be held at Metro because that's not "special."

A unit game is a lot of extra work for the board.

Scheduling is a problem: Do not want to collide with Boulder's unit game, which is held in the December holiday season, or with any Front Range tournament.

Possible venues: Mountains somewhere. Iliff School of Theology. Country club. Jewish Community Center. VFW or Elks. El Jebel.

Board voted and expressed interest in making this happen.

Exploratory committee: Don, chair, and Paul. Look for a volunteer from bridge community.

Sidebar: Board lunch or dinner in honor of Vivian. No plus ones. We pay for our own lunches. Paul looking for possible locations.

Financial Report

Two large checks went out: one for November sectional and one for first payment to regional hotel. Otherwise, everything was typical.

Mentor Program

Ed will send out a report next week. Numbers and tracking are unclear.

Volunteer Coordinator

Joan Curran has agreed to be the volunteer coordinator. Her first task will be the October IN sectional. Don has put Kathy in touch with Joan.

Front Range Challenge

Denver teams all formed. Ed doesn't know how many teams are coming from other units, but is working on getting that information from Kelly in Boulder. Ed doesn't know if Kelly and Elly are in touch. As far as we know, Elly is directing, but we don't know for sure. Ed suggests that someone check with Elly today and see if things are good from her perspective – mostly directly for director and food. Kevin will do that. Send follow-up email to board on that conversation.

Deadline for number of teams is October 1. C/D flights have been combined to address the lower level of participation from those players.

In 2022, there were problems with the movement, because teams were admitted at the last minute, and the directors had trouble organizing the movement.

Would it be helpful to have a replacement team or pairs or individuals on call? Ed said that although that would be nice, it's impractical because you won't know ahead of time what is needed.

Lapsed Member Report

President's meeting: ACBL announced that they would be sending out another lapsed member report, and the units would be responsible for certain tasks. Reinstatement deadline is now October 31, and card must be used by sometime in 2024.

Is the new list the same as the old list? As far as Julie knows, there will be a dropdown menu to categorize the response.

Julie proposes that we just repeat the previous responses.

Table Talk

Table Talk will be available for sending by September 20 or so. The program Margaret used is probably not good for unit use. Julie will investigate an Adobe offering that is free.

To TT, add note about website and its QR code.

Margaret will send a proof to the board by Wednesday, then send the final to Carol for sending for a Pianola.

D17

Nothing now. Meeting will occur in Taos.

Awards

Margaret will be on committee. Ed will participate. We need to start from scratch. Honor Wall is up and running.

Flyers

Carol needs clarification on wording of point ranges. Don proposes “less than 2500, 2500.” Paul says that 2499 is better.

Confusion about materpointt total dates. Don will check with Ken at Taos regional.

Regional 2024

Good relationship with hotel; hotel rep has run bridge tournament in past.

Food order has been submitted, in order to lock in prices at current level. Can still change, and changes will be as per the current price list.

IN Sectional

Sixty pairs pre-registered. Metro can accommodate thirty-two tables. Kathy has six people coming from Steamboat Springs! Also somebody who has never played in a tournament.

Last time there was difficulty with payment. Process improvement is planned: This time the entry will be printed ahead of time, with people’s names and masterpoint totals, and everybody will have exact change because change will be supplied in the line. No way to pay ahead of time using the ACBL feature. Ed says that Zelle is an option.

Kathy has worked her own group for volunteers, and will contact Joan for more. Kathy will provide detailed list of needs to Don.

Crowd control has been a problem – people stand around in the way.

Rita said that for a different project, they hadn't charged for lunch but had instead asked for donations. They ended up getting twice what they would have gotten if they'd charged.

Website and Table Talk

Statistics package not working but fixing it is not necessary because we're not using website statistics to manage anything.

Good Book

Mike Lawrence's book on partnership. Get the information and send it to the board. Maybe use the book for awards.

Meeting Room

Carol needs to give us instructions on how to reserve this meeting room.

Next Board Meeting

Room problems. Date and location TBD.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 11:17 am.