



DENVER BRIDGE, Unit 361
Promoting Contract Bridge in the Denver Area
<https://denverbridge.org/>

2/17/2024 Denver Unit 361 Board meeting.

Attendance: Don, Nancy, Ed, Kathy, Jay, Sue, Jennifer, Margaret, Kevin, Rita – by phone. Paul, Julie and Kathleen not present. A quorum of voting members were present. Don presided in Julie's absence.

9:09 Called to order

Minutes from last month were approved.

Financials: Ed. Minimal expenses.

Ed tendered his resignation as Treasurer which was accepted by the unit board.

Moved, seconded (passed unanimously) to elect Rita Simas, a current board member, as Treasurer, effective immediately. Ed will be responsible for Hospitality, effective immediately. Ed has transferred all materials and bookkeeping to Rita.

Moved, seconded (passed unanimously) to update the Wells Fargo bank accounts to reflect the change in Treasurer. This includes specifically:

1. Remove Ed Yosses from the Unit's Wells Fargo accounts.
2. Add Rita Simas to the same Unit Wells Fargo accounts (with full signature authority) at the earliest time feasible.
3. Change the Unit 361 address on the Wells Fargo account to be the home address of Rita Simas.

At this point, Rita left the meeting. A quorum still existed after her departure.

Intermediate/Novices and Communications: Kathy, Nancy

Discussed the pros and cons of increasing publicity for members who achieve milestones to encourage more play and aid in retention. The frequency for doing so was discussed, with the suggestion that it could be adjusted based on experience. Pianola costs were investigated and the impact on the

budget was evaluated. Moved, seconded (passed unanimously) to send monthly Pianolas to all unit members highlighting rank changes and other unit information to encourage play and support clubs. A committee was formed to determine and review content (Jay, Kathy, Nancy). This will have no impact on the 2024 budget due to an existing Pianola positive account balance. Review of Pianolas by the unit president was discussed, with consensus that, under most circumstances, this will fall under the routine duties of board members on the committee and thus should not need to be reviewed by the president or board.

District 17: Jennifer

District 17 will receive \$10,000 for the Charity Foundation this year, to be allocated to the Denver area. We can choose up to 5 charities. Procedures will be developed at the next District 17 meeting. As noted at the last Unit President's meeting (attended by Jennifer for Julie), lapsed guest members are now able to convert their guest memberships into regular memberships at the discounted rate up to one year after their guest membership has lapsed, not one month later as before. Kathy requested help from the District to identify I/N Coordinator contacts in other units. Jennifer also suggested asking for I/N contacts via the Bridgewinners website, to reach people outside District 17.

Regional: Don

Don met last week with hotel catering to discuss food options. As previously described, coffee/snack service will be provided by the hotel for two hours before each playing session for \$100/day. Lunch will be provided at \$25/person cost to players with an additional \$9 paid to subsidize the hotel's \$34/lunch charge (service charge/tip included). The hotel restaurant will have a daily soup and sandwich lunch option.

Membership: Jay

Based on monthly reports, there has been improvement in our ACBL membership reports, with lapsed members decreasing and names dropping off both retention lists. Jay emphasized the need to complete assigned contacts with lapsed and at-risk members. Due to problems using the ACBL spreadsheet, Jay demonstrated the way to make sure contacts were being incorporated and saved, so that we get credit for them. Specifically, be sure to hit the blue submit buttons! At-risk has a separate submit button. A revised method for assigning names to specific unit board members was discussed. Jay will send new assignments to each board member monthly via email. The program starts officially in the month of April. At that point, it will cost our unit money if we do not all do our share by contacting members.

Two member concerns were discussed, resulting from member contacts with the board. A member asked why Unit 361 could not have bridge-related decorations and commemorative hangings like those in Colorado Springs. It was noted that we do not own our building, as they do there, and that many of the clubs are unable to modify the walls in the space they rent. Further, the unit board by policy tries not to interject itself into the operations of clubs. Colorado Springs operates differently because it

owns a building that is shared by its various clubs. A second concern was raised by a member who asked when board meetings are. This has been listed on the unit webpage regularly, aside from a problem with this month's meeting. There was agreement that we should make board meeting information visible to members.

Front Range Challenge: Ed

The need to avoid conflict with our September 14, 2024 I/N Sectional was discussed. There is now tentative agreement with organizers to hold the Front Range Challenge on Sunday, September 22 in Boulder (at the Elk's Club).

It was noted that our own I/N Sectional in September has no State listed in the ACBL Find a Tournament listing on their webpage. Nancy will contact ACBL to get this problem fixed.

Education Fund: Kathy

At the last unit board meeting, a motion was passed to use Education Fund money to subsidize lunches for those attending a team game/training session before Sam's Game. Subsequently it was discovered that there were district limitations on the use of the funds. At this meeting, a motion was moved, seconded and passed (unanimously) to rescind last month's motion to subsidize food. A revised plan was developed and it was moved, seconded and passed (unanimously) via email to spend District 17 Education Fund money to subsidize team training on the Wednesday before all Sectionals (I/N and Open) in 2024, provided that there will be a team game at the Sectional. These sessions will be similar to the training events organized at Denver Metro Bridge Studio prior to this month's Sam's Game. This email motion was reaffirmed at this board meeting. Kathy and the Events Committee will coordinate this with club owners. Details were described in an email circulated to board members on February 1, 2024.

Nonplaying Members at Sectionals: Kathy

Kathy described Rita's meeting with the non-playing member who raised issues at the last sectional. After discussion, there was general agreement that people present during a playing session should be playing or be official kibitzers, not volunteers or others not involved in the game. A series of recommendations by Rita for dealing with kibitzers at tournaments and liability issues arising from that were discussed. Susan confirmed that insurance claims are not a concern due to ACBL coverage. Margaret identified kibitzing rules set by the ACBL:

In the General Conditions of Contest (All Events) <http://web2.acbl.org/coc/AllGeneral.pdf> :

KIBITZING

1) Each player may bar one individual (excluding tournament officials, the recorder or his designee(s), or officially approved members of the press) from kibitzing play at his table during a session without assigning cause. Any kibitzer may be barred for cause by the

TD.

2) A kibitzer must sit at least three tables away from his team. A kibitzer may not kibitz at any table playing boards also being played by his team.

It was agreed that these could be applied to non-players at our events. Margaret will add them to the unit webpage. Problems arising from non-playing tournament attendees or disruptive members of the public should be brought to the Director's attention first. If needed, Iliff School Security (currently Michael McMillan) can be called at a Sectional. At the Regional, hotel security can be called if needed to deal with disruptive situations. This is in accordance with existing ACBL policies so no motion was offered.

Awards: Nancy

Don will announce awards in place of Julie at the March 8-10 Sectional. Certificates are coming from ACBL and may not be available in time, so they will be awarded at the Regional. Mini-McKenny medals are in-hand and will be awarded at the Sectional.

Next Meeting: March 30, 9 AM, at the Eloise May Library. Because of conflicts with tournaments and the recency of the March meeting, the April meeting will be held on May 4, 9 AM, at the May Library.

10:57 AM Meeting Adjourned

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Alvarado, Unit Secretary