

## Unit 361 Board Meeting Minutes

September 21, 2024

Meeting called to order at 9:03. Present: Board members: Julie, Kathy, Jay, Ed, Rita, Susan M, Paul, Don. Adjuncts: Margare and Susan G.

Approval of minutes waived due to external issues.

**Financial report: Rita.** Current balance in checking: \$65,000. CD #1: \$40,000. CD #2: \$30,000. CD maturing on Monday. Rita and Julie will manage its reallocation. Rita is setting up a Fidelity money market account so that we will get more interest from our free money and still have quick access to it. Julie suggested that somebody besides herself be on the account to minimize transition issues.

Rita will update the report to change one term, and to compare current year actual to budget.

**5/5/5 report: Jay.** We are at 115% of contact goal. 40 lapsed, 3 at risk. New “to contact” list will be sent out to board members for them to work. ACBL has updated the guidelines for this program. *Jay recommends that we establish a Membership committee.*

**I/N tournament report: Kathy.** Total tables: 49.5. Lower attendance than before. Possible reasons: 1) Date change from October to September due to conflict with Cheyenne. Kathy is talking to Cheyenne to see if we can get back to our usual date. There’s a location issue in Cheyenne. 2) Tournament fatigue from Grand Junction, where a lot of INs went. Lessons learned: There are a couple of free night games for I/Ns. They would rather have a day game. Kathy is suggesting that we arrange to have an I/N game in parallel with some of the current day games. It would be sanctioned – a cost of \$20. *Issues to be determined:*

- *Which clubs? Cannot favor one club over another.*
- *Who would direct?*
- *Need to get the games sanctioned*
- *Boards and hand records need to be provided*

*Kathy and the Events Committee are approved to explore this option. Also, we may want to go back to 24 boards at the I/N tournaments.*

**November sectional: Julie and Jay.** Carol is taking care of parking. Boards are in process. Cowboy is set up to deliver and pick up crates. Jay and Kathleen are scheduled to meet with Michael at Iliff, and will also do a precheck on the crates. Jay will send an updated flyer to Susan. More details will be covered in the October board meeting. Don will take the boards away from the tournament to deliver to Jay for next tournament. Julie explained that the computer file used to generate the boards cannot be opened unless the PC is connected to the dealing machine, so there is little possibility of board info getting out to players.

**GNTs: Julie.** Unit has no role in GNTs. Clubs may or may not choose to run GNT games. *There are GNT qualifiers online.* Julie is GNT coordinator for District 17, and has contacted district clubs. In a change this year, D17 is allocating financial support to national reps based on the income generated at GNT games, rather than a fixed amount, so it is in our interest to encourage GNT games. Having GNT games also supports the Rocky Mountain Regional, as the GNT finals are played here. The board might choose to add to the financial support.

**Upcoming sectionals: Jay.** Lunch: January flyer: Lunch available for purchase on *Friday and Saturday*. March flyer: Lunch available for purchase on *Friday and Saturday*. Game times: Five hours required between game start times for 27 boards, which is what the board decided to stay with at the last meeting. Therefore, for all games that don't have flyers out, the afternoon game will start at 3:00. Membership requirement on flyers needs to be updated to reflect new ACBL policy. The EC will meet and discuss Friday and Saturday lunches for future sectionals.

*All tournaments through 2027 are sanctioned. Jay is working with the ACBL to get some outdated information corrected.*

Susan M. will print some flyers and take them to Taos. She can add DRAFT as required. She will charge the unit for paper and ink.

**Volunteer coordinator: Rita.** Anne Schuster and *Gale Kahn* are willing. Board approved Rita to go ahead with them. Rita will set up a spreadsheet. Joan Curran should be tapped to manage Hospitality at the regional. Marion is handling volunteers at the regional.

**Front Range Challenge: Ed.** Five of the six Denver teams are formed and the sixth is in process. Game will be October 27, 10:30 at Elks Club in Boulder.

**Unit game: Don and Paul.** Hub in Lone Tree looks good, but Don hasn't made contact yet. We think they already have bridge tables.

**D17: Julie for Jennifer.** Jennifer ran unopposed to be the D17 rep for Unit 361, so will be our rep for the next three years. D17 is running the Taos regional.

**Website: Margaret.** Don fixed a minor bug. Directory code could use a Find function. Add the CTRL-F function to introduction to directory on that web page.

**December meeting.** We need this meeting because it's when the new board members come on. Tentative date: December 14.

**Meeting location:** Elly is willing to have board meetings in her space. Mixed preference for club location vs. library – TBD.

**October meeting:** *October 26.* Not sure where it is going to be. Don will check.

**November meeting:** November 16 *at Eloise May Library.*

**Boys and Girls Clubs of Denver: Paul.** He has contacted a few and they're open to us. Need to decide when, how long, etc. Susan G recommends a book called *Teach Me to Play (A First Bridge Book)*.

**Regional: Julie.** She contacted the Denver Tourism Board. They don't have any money that we can have but they do have some contacts for giveaways. They are also available to manage RFPs. Contract for 2026 at the Renaissance has come in.

**ABA: Margaret.** Make contact with the ABA and explore "sister unit" concepts.

Meeting adjourned at 10:43 am.