

## **ACBL Unit 143 Board Meeting Minutes, Monday, December 9, 2024**

Location: The meeting was conducted on-line using ZOOM.

Attendees: Dennis Abeln, Sandy Bigg, Mark Boswell, Don Chase, Terry D'Amato, Ken Eiger, Steve Russell, Jay Shah, Janet Vontz, John Welte, and Mark Zellmer.

Absent: Dian Brazier and Tod Moses. Tod Moses is under the weather.

### **Call to order**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00

### **President's Report**

Per Mark Zellmer, former president Mark Boswell reported that the District 8 Disciplinary Committee decided to drop the complaint that Mark Boswell filed related to the incident at the Regional.

### **Approval of the Minutes**

A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes from the November 18, 2024, board meeting.

### **Approval of the Treasurer's Report**

Steve Russell reported bills are still coming in for the Regional and we have nearly \$73,000. A motion was made and seconded to approve the treasurer's report.

### **Regional Tournament**

We will use the Renaissance Hotel in 2025. Dennis hasn't signed the contract yet as there are still minor details to work out. Dennis will share the final contract when it is available.

Don Chase reported the insurance issue is closed.

Dennis went over his list of issues regarding the Regional tournament:

Drop the mini Soloway

Drop afternoon side games.

Keep evening games. BBO evening games are cost prohibitive and are limited to Dist 8 players only.

Start times are the same as last year.

The Orly room will be available all week. Phillis holds her games and lessons in the Orly room.

A discussion ensued about offering more educational sessions. A suggestion was made to schedule lessons during lunch break because early morning turnout is very light. The configuration of the lessons relative to the location of the entry to the tournament venue impacts the attendance. The topic selections can be a draw.

We are struggling to attract I/N players. A discussion to enhance I/N has been tabled. A sub committee to visit the I/N games and find out why the players are not playing was suggested. Should the I/N fee be dropped or reduced and subsidized by raising open games by \$1. Is the price a legitimate factor? How do we demonstrate to the I/N players that want them at our tournaments? Is it the fear of competition?

ACBL requires a charity game on the first day of the Regional. Dennis made a motion to run charity games on Monday afternoon and evening and that the afternoon game benefits the ACBL charity fund and the evening game benefits the BackStoppers. The motion was seconded and approved.

Bracketed pairs is a new event that Sandy experienced in New England. It was very successful and sounds like a popular event among the players. Dennis suggests we substitute Bracketed pairs for an open pairs and 750

Gold Rush session. Sandy stressed that the publicity and explanation of the event is crucial. The event she attended had 9 brackets and the Masterpoint awards were more robust than she expected. A motion was made that bracketed pairs be approved for two days in the Regional games, subject to ACBL approval. The motion was seconded and approved.

A motion was made to approve two small ads, which are 1/6 of a page and \$250 each, for the Regional games for the Bridge Bulletin in May and July. It was seconded and approved.

The Renaissance Hotel does not provide free hotel rooms; they provide upgrades. The upgrades are given to players in our unit who are frequent, long time players. Complimentary rooms that are paid for by the unit are provided for Phyllis and Dian from Monday night through Saturday night. In addition, a complimentary room is provided for Larry Sealy who is our representative in District 8.

Dennis will select baked goods that are not sticky to protect the cards. We can change during the week if the players object.

The free Monday evening meal idea was scrapped due to excessive expense.

The final flyer will be presented at the February board meeting.

### **January Sectional Tournament**

\$400 budget for hospitality. There are leftovers from the October tournament.

The director will perform caddy duties for Friday night Swiss. There is one caddy for Sunday Swiss.

Peter will use web movements when warranted.

Beth Percich and Bob McDill will make boards at a cost of \$10 per set as opposed to \$13 if Peter makes the boards.

ACBL suggests a limit of 24 boards per game.

Sandy fielded volunteers for clean up after sessions.

Life Master pins will be awarded.

Player of the Year will be announced at the beginning of the first session.

Dennis will bring the Spring Sectional banner for presentation Friday morning.

### **May Sectional**

The May Sectional is a standard sectional with the same schedule as the Winter Sectional

Sandy is tweaking the flyer details. Dennis will obtain ACBL approval for the Spring Sectional flyer. They will prepare flyers and disseminate them when appropriate.

There will be separate I/N events in the Spring Sectional.

### **Committee Assignments**

Caddies - Jay S

Dist 8 representatives Mark B & Dennis A

District 8 Advocate - Debbie Romero

Education - Ken

Finance - Tod M

Hospitality - Dian B

I/N Tournament - John W

Membership - Jay S

Nominating - Jay S

Publicity - Sandy B

Tournament - Dennis A

Trophies - Mark Z

Unit Games - John W

Unit Electronic Contact - Steve R  
Website - Terry D

Jay is communicating with the guest ACBL members to tell them of the financial incentive the ACBL is offering to become a member.

Mark Z will communicate with Tod as to his desire to serve on the BoD. Tod will be asked to audit the financial records once a year whether or not he is on the board.

### **Old Business**

There still is no chairman for the NABC. The ACBL will run the tournament and request help from our members. We run the risk of not getting future national tournaments scheduled for St. Louis. There will be three downtown hotels that will service the tournament. There is a concern for the safety of players in downtown St. Louis.

**Next meeting is February 10, 2025**

**Meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm**