

ACBL Unit 143 Board Meeting Minutes, January 8, 2020

Location: Creve Coeur Government Center Meeting Room 2

Attendees: Dennis Abeln, Terry D'Amato, Mark Boswell, Maureen Curran, Doug Larson, Estella Lau, John Levis, Jay Shah, John Welte, Kelly White, Mike Carmen (non board member.) Absent: Diane Deutch

The meeting was called to order by President Mark Boswell at 6:59 PM.

Secretary's Report: Minutes from the December board meeting were submitted by Dennis via e-mail. The minutes were approved as submitted.

President's Report: Mark announced Diane Deutch had reserved the conference room for 2020.

Treasurer's Report: Kelly reported the bank account and PO Box signers have been transferred and that the tax return has been submitted. Kelly distributed a treasurer's report showing December activity. The report was approved as submitted.

Tournaments:

Mark circulated a signup sheet for January Sectional setup and cleanup.

Mark reported ACBL wants the Regional game schedule posted on ACBL's tournament website now. The schedule will be the same as 2019 except the 499 games will be changed to 299. Saturday evening events had a poor turnout so changes are needed there, too. Mike Carmen will propose suggestions for Saturday evening and post the schedule on ACBL.

Mike Carmen presented a report of the October 2019 sectional showing a reduction of 30 tables from 2018 and a loss of \$3,040. Mike presented a projection for the January Sectional showing a slight increase in table count.

Mike presented a note from Rick Beye stating Rick will not be able to provide Bridge Pads for Unit 143 tournaments after January 2020. The Bridge Pad manufacturer is ceasing production of the devices. The manufacturer leases the Bridge Pads to Rick and is recalling them so as to have inventory available to support other users. Replacement equipment needs to be in place for the May Sectional. Rick recommended Unit 143 purchase its own electronic scoring equipment, possibly sharing ownership with District 8. Sharing ownership with the St Louis Bridge Center was also suggested. Rick reported options include Bridge Mate and Kindle Fire, with neither being a known viable solution for all of our events. ACBL has purchased Bridge Mates for National events. Mark formed a committee of himself, Mike and Jay to look into this.

Mike reported that Unit 143 should expect higher tournament costs once Rick Beye retires due to non-local director personnel likely taking his place, which will entail travel expenses and living expenses and possible higher charges for consumables or boards. Rick's note also mentioned Chris Patrias may soon give up his stewardship of the unit's boards and dealing machine, so the unit should make alternate plans.

Committee Reports

Awards: Doug will have the Player of the Year trophy engraved and ready for the January Sectional.

Bidding Boxes & Time Clocks: Mark reported that John Antognoli has resigned from handling the bidding boxes and time clocks. Mark said he will take care of this for the January Sectional.

Caddies: Maureen is ready for the January Sectional.

Datebook: Nothing to report.

District 8 Report: Nothing to report.

Membership: Jay submitted a report by email. During 2019, we had 74 new members but lost 125, for a net drop of 51, about 4%.

Publicity: Estella reported all set for the January Sectional.

299er Tournaments: John Welte circulated a draft of the flyer for the March 299r tournament. Same as last year. Phyllis Siegel will be the director. The ACBL tournament website had the wrong tournament chair, now corrected.

Unit Electronic Contact: Life Master awards will be presented to three people at the January Sectional. Mark has contacted the individuals to ask them to be present.

Mini-McKinney medallions will be presented at the May Sectional. ACBL mails Ace of Clubs certificates to Mark - these will be distributed at the May Sectional.

Mark instructed Kelly to name Mark as the Appellate Chairman so the updating of ACBL's officer list for Unit 143 could be finalized to reflect the November officer elections. (Kelly subsequently reported that the Appellate Chair position had been deleted by ACBL and that the officer's list has been updated.)

Unit Games: Dennis reported the sanctions for all 2020 Unit Games are presently structured as Unit Wide Open games, but will be conducted as Split Site Open games. This is not a problem for the clubs or ACBL as ACBL looks only for a valid sanction number, not the type of sanction. This may change next year, so future Unit Games should be structured as Split Site Open types.

Website: Terry is updating the website to reflect the new year.

Hospitality: No report.

Education / Camp Scholarships: No activity.

Outreach: Doug presented a survey for board review. It was decided to print 500 copies and hand them out at the January Sectionals and at the clubs. Also discussed making the survey available on-line, but not resolved.

John Levis reported he will have a marketing plan ready to present at the March board meeting

Financial Review: No activity.

Nominations: Dennis is still seeking a replacement for Larry. The first invitation was declined. Other candidates are being pursued. Mark requested the nominees be invited to attend the next meeting so they can immediately join the board upon board vote of approval.

Rules Review: Dennis reported the committee will submit the bylaws to the lawyers for review this month and expects to submit them to the board at the February board meeting.

Photographer: Mark said he would handle these duties at the January Sectional.

Old Business:

Replacement signage for the Regional: Jay - not discussed.

Upgraded trophies for I/N players: Kelly - not discussed.

Regional Registration Gifts: Kelly circulated catalog cuts of possible regional registration gifts. Selection not resolved. Mark suggested purchasing at least 400 items.

New storage bins for bidding boxes and registration gifts. Mark - no activity.

New Business: (none)

Next Meeting: The next meeting will be Feb 12, 2020 at the regular time and location.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 pm.

Minutes submitted by Dennis Abeln, Secretary. Rev 2 issued Jan 19, 2020.