

ACBL Unit 143 Board Meeting Minutes, December 8, 2020

Location: The meeting was conducted on-line using ZOOM due to risk of COVID-19 Virus

Attendees: Dennis Abeln, Mark Boswell, Maureen Curran, Terry D'Amato, Diane Deutch, Estella Lau, Ken Obrecht, Jan Potts, John Welte, Kelly White, Mark Zellmer.

Absent: none

The meeting was called to order by President John Welte at 7:03 PM.

Secretary's Report: Minutes from the November board meeting were submitted by Dennis via e-mail and revised and resubmitted to reflect comments from John Welte. The revised minutes were approved as submitted.

President's Report: none

Treasurer's Report: Kelly had submitted the monthly treasurer's report via email. The report was approved as submitted.

District 8 Report: Mark B. Unit 143's representatives on District 8 will be John Welte, Mike Carmen and Debbie Romero.

Tournaments: The March 2021 National in St Louis has not yet been cancelled by ACBL, apparently due to contract issues. The tournament is expected to be cancelled. Unit 143's March 2021 299r and May 2021 Sectional tournaments are still on the tournament schedule but are also expected to be cancelled.

Committee Reports

Awards: Mark B. Mark said new Unit 143 director badges are usually ordered in November after board members are elected, but he is holding off until the next in-person tournament is scheduled.

Bidding Boxes & Time Clocks: No report.

Caddies: Maureen. No activity.

Datebook: Dennis has not begun the 2021 Datebook. Dennis contacted the ACBL Special Events department who said they had not released the Special Games schedule for 2021 which would have normally been released in the prior September. He was also told other units aren't yet scheduling 2021 Unit Games.

Membership: John announced that Jay Shah had agreed to continue submitting membership reports as an off-board member. John will check with Jay on whether he is willing to continue other aspects of Membership Chair duties such as mailing welcome packets to new members. Jay has not mailed any packets recently.

Publicity: Estella. No activity.

299r Tournaments: John proposed Ken Obrecht serve as 299r Tournament Chair. Dennis suggested Ken to look into scheduling 299r tournaments in future years, because ACBL sanctions for these tournaments are usually arranged several years in advance. Facilities must also be reserved.

Unit Electronic Contact: Kelly. Kelly agreed to update ACBL's officer lists to reflect board member assignments.

Unit Games: John announced that Mark Boswell has agreed to coordinate Unit games, NAP games and GNT games.

Website: Terry. The website has been kept up to date. Terry reported the unit membership directory download function is not yet working. She will work to restore the ability to download a printable .pdf file of the full directory. Terry requested bio and photo from Mark Z for posting on the director webpage.

Hospitality: Diane. No activity.

Camp Scholarships: Jan. No activity.

Education: Mark Boswell reported he as unit president had coordinated the scheduling of lecturers to present the training sessions held at the unit sectionals. Sessions are held 45 minutes before the Friday afternoon game, the Friday evening game and the Saturday afternoon game. Mark Zellmer volunteered to coordinate this. The post will be called Education Chair.

Outreach: John will talk to Debbie Romero about this.

New Player Services: John proposed formation of a New Player Services Committee as outlined in ACBL's Unit President's Handbook. He proposed Jan Potts be the chair. Jan will work to have the New Player Services program in place for the August 2021 Regional. Maureen volunteered to be on the committee.

District 8 Advocate: John announced that Debbie Romero has agreed to write Unit 143's articles for the District 8 Advocate Newsletter.

Finance: John proposed Ken Obrecht serve as committee chair. Kelly will serve on the committee. They will work together on the Financial Report to be presented at the January 7, 2021 annual meeting and on the unit's federal income tax return due Feb 15, 2021.

Nominations: John proposed Mark Zellmer be committee chair. One position remains to be filled, ideally a person with computer savvy.

Bylaws/Rules Review: Dennis. No activity. Current goal is to present the new bylaws to Unit 143's members for approval at the next in-person sectional, likely October 2021.

Photographer: John is seeking a coordinator who can schedule coverage after each tournament event. There was discussion about focusing on the I/N events, where this recognition is more valued. There was discussion about asking directors to make announcements before each game advising winners to pick up their trophies and get their photos taken. No one volunteered.

Committees - General: The board voted to approve all of the new committees and chair assignments.

Old Business:

Kelly reported he mailed postcards on Monday Dec 7, 2020 giving the required notice of the Unit's Jan 7, 2021 Annual Meeting. Kelly will also send notice via e-mail. John asked Terry to post the meeting notice and instructions on how to participate using Zoom on the unit's website.

The board voted to discontinue the printing of the Membership Directory. The information is available on the unit's website. Members who want hard copies will be able to print them themselves.

Mark B has not purchased new scoring machines as authorized by the board. Rick Beye had previously provided BridgePads for Unit 143 tournaments but he had been leasing them from the manufacturer who recalled them last earlier in 2020. The unit is now responsible for providing scoring machines for Regionals and Sectionals. The need for new equipment has been delayed by the Corona virus. The earliest need is expected to be the August 2020 Regional. Mark was trying to save money by acquiring used BridgePads from the St Louis Bridge Center and other entities. Rick had previously recommended quantity 100. Mark will seek advice from Rick Beye and Mike Carmen as to other possible sources of used BridgePads and to determine the number required for the August 2020 regional. Mark will also check with the St Louis Bridge Center on the price of their used BridgePads.

New Business:

The board voted to drop the Unit 143 Player of the Year award for 2020.

Mark B reported Chris Patrias doesn't want to store Unit 143's dealing machine or boards anymore, as he has retired from being a tournament director. Storing this equipment in the Unit's warehouse space along with card tables and bidding boxes is not ideal because the equipment is needed a week or so prior to each tournament so boards can be made. There was some discussion about needing climate controlled space. No one volunteered.

ACBL Tournament Directors Chris Patrias and Rick Beye are retiring. They both reside in St Louis and have helped Unit 143 keep tournament costs down through avoided air travel and hotel expenses. No other tournament directors reside in St Louis. Future Unit 143 tournaments will have increased director costs which might require increasing tournament entry fees. John and Mark B will follow-up with Mike Carmen.

Diane tried to reserve a conference room for monthly unit board meetings at the Creve Coeur Community Center for 2021. They are currently closed due to COVID virus and not accepting reservations. She will try to get on their waiting list. She will also try to obtain a credit for meetings not held in 2020.

Next Meeting: The next meeting will be Wednesday, January 13, 2020 at 7 pm and will be conducted via ZOOM.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 8:29 PM.

Minutes submitted by Dennis Abeln, Secretary. December 14, 2020.