

ACBL Unit 143 Board Meeting Minutes, June 5, 2019

(The April meeting was cancelled by prior announcement. The May meeting was cancelled for lack of quorum.)

Location: Creve Coeur Government Center Meeting Room 2

Attendees: Dennis Abeln, Terry D'Amato, Mark Boswell, Diane Deutch, Lee Hastings, Jay Shah, John Welte and Kelly White, and Mike Carmen (non-board member.) **Absent:** John Antognoli, Estella Lau, and Debbie Romero.

The meeting was called to order by President Mark Boswell at 7:02 PM.

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

President's Report: Mark asked for ideas and help for articles for the unit website and the district website. It was agreed the unit's website articles regarding clubs should generally be limited to promoting tournaments including NAP and GNT, major club charity events like Longest Day and Backstoppers, and educational events such as guest speakers. Terry will post something on the unit website promoting the club NAP qualifying games being held in June-July-August. Mark has been writing the articles for the District 8 Advocate but requested someone else volunteer to do it.

Treasurer's Report: Larry presented a financial report showing the bank balance is \$68,693, about a \$2,000 increase from same time last year. Some bills have not yet been submitted, notably the January and May rental fees for Blanchette Park Memorial Hall in St Charles which explains why the balance didn't decrease due to losses at the January and May Sectionals. Larry reported a CD had been automatically renewed at very low interest rate, and he has taken steps to prevent that in the future. The report was approved as submitted.

Larry inquired whether the 2018 tax return should be posted on the website, reporting that none had been posted since 2014. Mark said posting was not necessary.

Tournaments:

May Sectional: Mike Carmen submitted a report showing the May Sectional lost \$2,821. Expenses increased about \$1,000 over 2018 due to director costs. Revenue decreased about \$1500 due to reduction in table count from 327.5 to 299.5. Mike said director expenses will continue to increase, that we have no control as fees and reimbursement policies are set by ACBL. Reduced table counts is a common problem for units.

Mike reported Rick Beye recommended decreasing the master point range for I/N games to 0-199 to make the field more attractive to those players. The issue will be addressed at the next board meeting.

The I/N Swiss game on Sunday generated some negative feedback from players. The Bridge Pads failed which created a stressful situation for the director and for many newer players who did not understand the scoring or movements of Swiss games. Mark circulated some complaining emails he had received. Mike Carmen said he will follow up with tournament director Rick Beye but he needs specifics, not second-hand generalizations so he can determine whether it was a director problem, or not. Mike has tried to follow-up with several players with no response to date. Larry LaBrier played in this game and supported the negative comments. Mike said he gets a director evaluation feedback form from ACBL but has not received it yet. It was agreed some training is needed to explain how Swiss games are organized and scored. Larry suggested offering an apology / explanation and a free play at the Fall Sectional to the disgruntled players. No decisions made.

August Regional: Mike Carmen explained that the following people receive courtesy hotel rooms: partnership chair (Phyllis), registration chair (Linda Siebert?), caddy chair (Debbie), hospitality chair (Dian Brazier), communications (Jennifer Luner), and President (Mark.) Mark will follow-up with Linda Siebert to see whether she will accept the registration chair job. Mark will also check the inventory of the hospitality gifts (pens and note pads.) Need to develop plans for who presents awards and who takes photos of winners.

I/N Tournaments: John Welte submitted a report showing the March I/N tournament income exceeded expenses by about \$293, despite table count being down 15.5 overall from March 2018. Dian Brazier declined to submit bills for treats she prepared – all agreed she should be compensated.

John will prepare flyers and postcards for the September I/N tournament based on the same game plan as March.

Committee Reports:

Awards: Nothing to report

Bidding Boxes: No report. (John A. absent.)

Datebook: Nothing to report.

District 8 Report: Mike Carmen reported in Debbie's absence:

Mark Boswell is now on the District 8 board.

Bridge Camp enrollment is down about eight kids.

NAP District 8 Finals will be Nov 10 in Springfield.

ACBL lost about \$500,000 on the 2018 Nationals in Hawaii. 2019 Nationals are in Las Vegas and are expected to do well financially. 2020 is split among Columbus, Ohio, Montreal Canada and Tampa Florida.

Membership: Jay reported we lost 10 members since the beginning of the year.

Publicity: No report. (Estella absent)

Unit Electronic Contact: Kelly has one obituary to process.

Unit Games: Lee reported Beth wants to change a unit game in October – he will follow up with her. Mark asked Lee to start planning the 2020 unit games – needed for Datebook.

Website: Terry was asked to check all of the links on the unit website. Some reportedly point to old information.

Hospitality: Nothing to report.

Nominations: Mark appointed Dennis as chairman of the Nominations Committee about two months ago. Dennis selected Phyllis Siegel and Linda Myers to serve on the committee as the required non-board members.

Lee Hastings will finish his ninth year on the board and is ineligible to continue. John Antognoli was elected to the board in 2016 and is eligible and willing to continue. Kelly White and Diane Deutch joined the board in December 2019, filling vacancies created by resignations – both are eligible and willing to continue.

The committee recommended these four nominees for the terms starting in November 2019: Kelly White, Diane Deutsch, Jim Cooper and Maureen Curran. The nominees were approved by vote of the board.

The nominees will be posted on the unit website along with a mention of the petition process for being nominated, as covered in the by-laws. Petitions are to be submitted to the Secretary (Dennis Abeln) no later than August 20, 2019, which is 60 days before the unit's annual membership meeting on the Saturday of the Fall Sectional, as instructed in the by-laws.

Financial Review: Lee intends to meet with Larry LaBrier next week.

Old Business: None.

New Business: Lee received one application for the Bridge Camp scholarship, from Carmen Fort. The board approved granting her a scholarship.

Next Meeting: The next meeting will be Wednesday July 11, 2019 at the regular location.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 8:41 pm.

Minutes submitted by Dennis Abeln, Recording Secretary, June 6, 2019.