

ACBL Unit 143 Board Meeting Minutes, Wednesday November 8, 2023

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

Attendees: Dennis Abeln, Sandy Bigg, Mark Boswell, Dian Brazier, Don Chase, Terry D'Amato, Ken Obrecht, Alan Popkin, Jay Shah, Steve Russell, John Welte, and Mark Zellmer

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 PM and met quorum requirements.

President's Report

Mark B reported about a ruling from the District 8 Board stating that a NLM Regional cannot take place within a week of another Regional within the District. He pointed out that this will not be an issue every year but is an issue for 2024: we cannot hold a NLM in May due to this ruling.

Mark B also reported that Unit 143 needs to find a tournament chairperson for the ACBL Spring National slotted for 2026. This role used to be bigger but because the ACBL now handles most major decisions regarding the national tournaments, the tournament chairperson would primarily just be a job of recruiting volunteers to help with partnership, directions, extra food if we want to go beyond what the ACBL has planned for hospitality, helping the ACBL with deciding on a location, and gifts. He also mentioned that District 8 has a large fund set for the National.

As a Board, we agreed that each of us would come to next month's meeting with 2 or 3 names of people whom we might approach to take on this role. We'll discuss further at the next meeting.

Mark reported that at the Annual Membership Meeting that the membership had elected Alan Popkin, Dennis Abeln, Don Chase, and Ken Obrecht as board members.

Mark called for a vote to approve Dian Brazier to fill a board vacancy; Dian will be taking the place of Diane Deutch, who resigned last month. The motion to approve Dian was unanimously passed.

Mark called for an election of officers for the coming year. The following were nominated, seconded, and motions were passed unanimously to re-elect the following officers:

Mark Boswell, President

Mark Zellmer, Vice President

Sandy Bigg, Secretary

Steve Russell, Treasurer

Mark B said that at the Annual Meeting, our new by-laws were approved by a membership vote.

He asked Terry to remove the old by-laws from the website and make sure the new ones were posted. Mark Z asked Terry to email him a document of the by-laws.

Mark B asked Sandy to send a copy of the by-laws via email to Debbie Romero, President of District 8, and Larry Sealy, the Director of Region 7.

Mark B asked Steve to find out who at the ACBL he should send the by-laws to and to follow up in doing that.

Mark mentioned that at the Annual Meeting he brought up the problem about the treatment of the hotel staff by bridge players, but that he didn't think anyone from the NLM side came over to listen to his speech. So, he plans to give that speech to the non-life masters at the January NLM Regional.

Approval of the Minutes

The Board unanimously approved the amended meeting minutes from September 13, 2023.

Treasurer's Report

Steve reported that neither of the financial organizations where we have accounts had issued statements for this month, and so he will email us his report after he get those statements and can prepare his report.

Steve needs to reimburse Mark B for some expenses for awards; Steve will follow up.

Steve has done the federal income tax report for the fiscal year and filed it.

Tournaments:

October Sectional/NLM Regional

Dennis reported that we had 215.5 tables, which was up 75% from the previous fall and up 8% over May. However, much of this came from increased table counts at the NLM Regional where entries were free. At the NLM Regional, there were 92 tables with I/N attendance up 500% from last fall and up 275% over May. However, since the NLM Regional range allowed players up to 750 MP to play compared with the previous Sectional I/N events' range, capped at 500, Dennis believes that some of these higher I/N numbers can be attributed to players who previously played on the Open side at the Sectional. Also, the fact that the NLM entries were free compared to paid entries of past is another consideration as we compare the numbers.

We lost \$3109 on the event. Had we charged \$12 for the NLM entries, we would have made around \$1300.

January Sectional/NLM Regional

Dennis reports we are offering the same schedule in January as we did for October's event. Bob and Beth have agreed to help again, which helps keep our director costs down.

Flyers are printed and we have sent out a Pianola blast. Dennis reported that we plan to charge a \$5 NLM entry fee if a player has pre-registered for an event using Entry Express vs. a \$10

entry fee if players just show up at the door. Dennis reported that Entry Express has been having problems, and he has received mixed reports on whether it will be fixed in time for our tournament. He should know by mid-December, and we can have a discussion at the December board meeting about what to do about entry fees if Entry Express is not available.

Committees

Membership

Jay reports that we have declining membership, with non-life masters having the most decline.

GNT

John reports all is good order.

Website

Terry needs bios from Dian and Alan, as well as from Don Chase.

Terry has photos of Dian and Alan; if they want different photos, they should get that to Terry. Also, she needs a phone number.

Terry asked if we still needed to be posting game results on the web; she proposed discontinuing this. We decided to table this decision until we can talk to Milt to find out if having these results on our unit's website made it easier for him to tabulate the Player of the Year award. If yes, we would keep. If no, we would remove them but offer directions that explain how to go to the ACBL's website to pull up results from club games in our unit.

Finance

Ken said there was nothing to report.

Education

Mark Zellmer reported that at the end of the Saturday morning game at the Sectional/NLM Regional, there was enough time to put in a 10-15 minutes class.

The decision was that there has been such poor attendance that we would drop it for now, but if people express interest or seem upset by not having a class, we could always bring it back.

Hospitality

Mark will call Dian to discuss with her.

Trophies

Mark reported that Dian has agree to take on the responsibility of the trophies.

He also reported that the trophy maker will hold the trophies we've purchased in bulk at his business and then make and place the name tags close to the time of the events.

Caddies

Jay reports that we are all set for the caddies in January.

The meeting adjourned at 7:41

Next Meeting: December 13, 2023