

## ACBL DISTRICT 22 BOARD MEETING (S) MINUTES

DECEMBER 13, 2023

### ATTENDING:

- Lamy Agelidis
- Christine Denny
- Vicki Graves
- David Lodge
- Nance Lodge
- Paul Markovitz (via zoom)
- Richard Picheny
- Sam Reddy

### ABSENT:

- Frank Swanson

### GUESTS:

- Margot Hennings, ACBL President-Elect
- Ken Horwedel, Palm Springs Regional DIC

OF NOTE: Board Member Ron Lien passed away on October 25, 2023

### MEETING MINUTES:

President Lamy Agelidis convened the meeting at 7:15PM. She welcomed Margot who spoke briefly about her experiences on the ACBL Board and about major issues being addressed at the national level. After approval of the minutes from the 4/25/23 meeting, subsequent items of discussion at the meeting included:

### TOURNAMENTS:

The table count at the Palm Springs Regional after three days is 30% higher than in 2022. (Addendum: The final table count for 2023 was 2020--up from 1581 in 2022 not counting Sunday.) Lamy voiced her concerns that additional directors had been called without sufficient input from the tournament sponsor—noting the big impact this has on costs. Ken said that he had to ensure that the tournament ran smoothly, and the table count per director had been 19—their goal was 17. Other items for analysis post event will be the impact of the focus on Soloway two-day team events, the elimination of Sunday play, and low table counts in the 0-299er games. The idea of an online regional for Sunday had been tabled for 2023 but will be reconsidered for future events.

Lamya also reported that:

- The modest profits from the 2023 regionals in San Diego and Ventura had been encouraging. The table counts were higher, and the entry fees had increased from \$15 to \$18.
- Since our last meeting, a final contract had been signed to host the 2024 San Diego regional at the Marriott Del Mar. The tournament committee decided to make the first day a regular game schedule given that the pro's would be in route from the NABC and an assumption that the local players preferred AM/PM.
- The contract for the 2024 Ventura regional had been signed with the Ventura Marriott.
- Addendum: As a deterrent to the number of people who had reserved rooms and then cancelled at Ventura, the tournament committee decided to implement a deposit of one night's room rate a month in advance of the event at upcoming regionals. This is the same as at a NABC. The committee also moved to buy 25 dozen playing cards (\$1000) to replace those of poor quality and to negotiate the purchase of 100 refurbished bridge mates (approx. \$5000) from David White. This will eliminate the need to find some to rent for each tournament and transport them.

The question as to whether the District would again sponsor Non-Life Master Regionals was addressed. Vicki reported that these were run in the Coachella Valley in January of 2017, 2018, and 2019 and in March of 2020. Table counts for the four-day event were 481, 432, 350 & 254 respectively. Profits were good in 2017 but trended to negative in 2019 & 2020 given table issues in 2019 and COVID in 2020. It was agreed that we would look at the table counts for the NLM Sectional in Palm Desert in January as a gauge of player interest.

#### FINANCIALS:

Richard presented the District's Financial Statements as of and for the eleven months ended 11/30/23. There is \$179,154 in the checking accounts which includes \$5904 remaining from the last NABC in San Diego. Richard also asked the board how best to use the \$350 donated when Nancy Erickson retired but no decision was made.

Richard requested that the board consider a change in board member reimbursement for attending regionals. Currently each is entitled to a \$50 per diem, one night at the hotel, free plays, and a mileage reimbursement at the IRS rate. He and Lamya recommend that the per diem be eliminated and the mileage be reimbursed at half the IRS rate. This motion was approved.

#### ELECTIONS:

Vicki reported on the board elections. Subba Ravipudi will be the new board member from Area 4, Lamya will retain her position for Area 3, and Vicki will retain her position for Area 2.

Lamya reported that she had selected Gary Waldron and Cornelia Gould to replace Ron Lien and Nance Lodge (expiring term) on the Advisory Council. For 2024, Gary will be the AC

representative to the District 22 board and Cornelia will be the Western Conference representative.

#### EDUCATION:

Sam reported that one grant of \$541 had been awarded in 2023 although the budget was \$1000. Varying ways the board could be more proactive in encouraging bridge education via this grant money were discussed. Sam agreed to take this as an action item. David noted that the Boost program at the national level supported beginning bridge education via advertising support, etc.

#### NAP/GNT:

Christine reported that the NAP Finals were being held at the Duncan Bridge center on Sunday. She is working with Richard to find a date to host the GNT Finals at the South Orange County Bridge Center. (Addendum: The dates of the GNT Finals will be Saturday & Sunday, April 6-7, 2024.) She is also working to address the fact that too often the winners decide not to travel to the NABC Finals (2 of 4 last year). One possible thought is to ask the winners to advise them of their plans for the NABC by a fairly immediate date so an alternate team can be found. The impact of the lack of a stipend to attend the NABC from the district and national levels was discussed. Margot did not realize the national stipend had been cut and said she would investigate.

#### NATIONAL REPORT:

David's report covered three areas:

- The online cheating tool, EDGAR, will be used beginning in 2024. It is believed that the online rate of cheating is 1-2% (1000 players) and the investment in this system was warranted. When EDGAR identifies cheating, the player will be assumed to be guilty and must prove otherwise.
- The new 555 Unit reimbursement of membership dues system will replace an automatic 11% of member dues sent to the units. Going forward, 5% will be automatic but the Unit can earn 5% more by reporting efforts to reach lapsed members and another 5% for new member recruitment.
- The ACBL budget for 2024 reflects a projected \$300,000 operating loss. Membership is flat and major upgrades are needed to fix the IT systems. Tournament director costs are too high. In response to Richard's question, he said that there is \$7 million in the bank to cover this loss. He noted that the BBO contract is up for renewal in 2025 and they currently pay ACBL \$500k annually for exclusivity.

#### OTHER ITEMS:

David reported that the goal of the Western Conference was to more efficiently run StaC's (3 a year). He said he is looking forward to the expertise Cornelia can bring to this.

Lamya reported that the All-Western 99er NiteClub continues to draw 10-18 tables each of the four nights per week that it runs.

Readership of the D22 has been trending up (more hits) and comments about the publication are positive.

Planning committees for the San Diego 2026 NABC will need to be formed in conjunction with the ACBL coordinate for the event. David said that ACBL would run fundraising games for the NABC at both virtual and face to face games.

This meeting was adjourned at 10:15 PM. A second board meeting for the purposes of electing officers for 2024 began immediately thereafter.

**2024 BOARD OFFICER ELECTIONS:**

Lamya proposed that Christine be President, she would be Vice-President, Richard would be Treasurer, and Vicki would be Secretary. This motion was approved.

This meeting was adjourned at 10:30PM.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Vicki Graves