

## ACBL DISTRICT 22 BOARD MEETING MINUTES

MARCH 27, 2024

### ATTENDING:

- Lamy Agelidis
- Christine Denny
- Millie Garrison
- Vicki Graves
- David Lodge
- Paul Markovitz
- Richard Picheny
- Subba Ravipudi
- Gary Waldron

### ABSENT:

- Frank Swanson

### GUEST:

- Ken Horwedel, San Diego Regional DIC

### MEETING MINUTES:

President **Christine Denny** opened the meeting at 7pm. She welcomed new Board members Millie, Subba & Gary. She thanked Past President Lamy Agelidis for the outstanding job she had done as the leader of District 22 and presented her with a gavel as a fun memory of all her accomplishments.

Christine said she wanted to define the District's role—i.e. what does success look like? She asked how we can support the ACBL goal of bringing in new members and referenced her recent call with the Unit Presidents seeking their input. The feedback after the call had been positive and her plan is to schedule such calls on a regular basis.

**Paul** has been appointed the Unit Liaison and reported that his goal is to visit each of the Units to find out what each is doing to recruit new members. To date he has visited four and hopes to have been to all by the end of October. Paul noted that each of the four he'd visited so far had a plan they were using, and he acknowledged that different circumstances might make one's plan not applicable to another. Christine suggested that Paul might put monthly type updates in the D22 about what each unit he talked to was doing in the membership arena as an awareness for others and he agreed to do so.

**Lamy** then provided an update on the San Diego Regional. She said the Marriott site has been a problem and we would be unable to use this venue in 2025. There wasn't

enough space, and the new staff coordinate Marriott had assigned had been non-responsive. **Ken** spoke to the concerns & ideas that he and Lamya had as to what they'd do tomorrow if the table counts exceeded the ballroom space. There was also a discussion about the potential that there would not be the minimum of seven teams needed to host the Mini-Soloway event which is to run Thursday-Friday. Ken said his observation is that two-day events historically do not do well in California—i.e. if there's a two-day team event on the schedule pair table counts increase and if there's a one-day team event on the schedule pair table counts decrease. Lamya said she is considering taking the Mini-Soloway off the schedule for the Labor Day regional in Irvine.

**Richard** reviewed the D22 2023 Financials which show a net profit for 2023 of \$53,316 and total assets of \$266,750. The profit was in large part a result of the increased card fees. He also said that the bank signature cards need to be updated. Christine moved that the signature cards be updated to include the President (Christine Denny), Vice President (Lamya Agelidis) and Treasurer (Richard Picheny). Vicki seconded the motion and all approved.

**Millie** reviewed the four submissions she had received for reimbursements under the District's Education Grant program. She said she found all four grant requests credible and believed that the future of bridge is new students. She also said though that she would like to change the grant process going forward to provide a flat amount per student for an approved grant request and possibly just for ACBL Beginning Bridge classes. Christine suggested \$20 and that priority might be given if the instructor was ACBL certified. David thought the teacher should be paid only for those students who signed up for an ACBL guest or regular membership. A method of tracking resulting new ACBL memberships was also discussed. It was agreed that Millie would put together her recommendation for vote at a later date.

Referencing the fact that the existing grant requests had been submitted under the old guidelines and shouldn't be kept waiting while we redefined the guidelines, **Paul** moved to approve all four pending grants for a total cost of \$3529. There was discussion about using so much of the \$5000 annual budget in March, but Paul argued that we could adjust the budget, if necessary, given viable requests. Vicki seconded the motion and it carried with 5 yes votes and 3 no votes.

**Lamya** said she would also like to discuss at some point what the district could do to incentivize Director training as we are short staffed.

**Christine** discussed the low participation the District continues to experience at NAP and GNT events. She suggested we re-institute a process which provided an additional subsidy for 2<sup>nd</sup> place NAP teams who compete at Nationals—i.e. add \$400 per person for travel costs for the 2<sup>nd</sup> place teams so that the amount is equal to the \$700 the 1<sup>st</sup> place players get from ACBL. She said should write up a proposal for subsequent vote. She also said the entries for the GNT event next week are very low and we need to find out why we have such ongoing disinterest as compared to other regions.

**Lamya** asked David for clarification on the funding we would receive for hosting the 2026 NABC in San Diego—what ACBL will provide and what we need to raise via fund raising games. David suggested she talk to Bronia. Lamya said she will also put together a list of the 8-10 committees we need to assign chairs for.

**David** updated the board on three National priorities: the new online cheating tool EDGAR which is providing good results, IT issues and delays for which there are no easy answers, and membership growth.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:15pm

Submitted by: Vicki Graves