

Minutes of Board of Directors Meeting

Location: Laguna Beach Conference Room 2 & 3, Hilton Costa Mesa

Date and Time: September 4, 2019, at 7:00 p.m.

Members Present:

Area 1: Deb Cameron

Area 2: Nancy Erickson & Linda Decquir

Area 3: Lamy Agelidis & Bill Grant (Vice President)

Area 4: Ron Lien (President) & Richard Picheny (Treasurer)

ACBL District Representative: David Lodge

Members Absent: Diane Gunther (Secretary)

I. Call to Order

President Lien called the meeting to order at 7:33 p.m.

II. Correction of Minutes from April 20, 2019

Lien moved to correct the minutes of April 20, 2019. The minutes should read that the NLM Regional had a loss of \$3,571. Picheny will submit an invoice to Unit 533 for \$2,571 limiting D22 loss to \$1,000. Picheny seconded, and the motion passed.

III. DIC Report - McKenzie Myers

Myers stated that he now holds two roles: Director-in-Charge and Area Manager. As of Wednesday the Regional attendance is a pleasant surprise, down by only 3% from last year due to two recent nearby NABC's impacting west coast Regionals. Staffing is not overly expensive, the facility is nice, and the hotel staff is very helpful. Myers presented an issue about the scheduling and format in Knockout with Bracketed Swiss starting the next day. He informed us that the ACBL approved that districts can decide to have a very small top bracket in Knockouts and play a round robin all day with the top four teams advancing to play the semifinals the next day. He suggested the Board considers this format in the future, as needed. Picheny moved to approve all options and to leave it up to Tournament Committee to discuss and implement when needed; Agelidis seconded, and the motion passed.

Purple Pass credit card system for registration is currently being used by 15% of the players; it slows registration. We are being charged 2% surcharge which the ACBL is currently paying. Lodge stated this is not the favorite product. They are currently talking to several vendors, but no solution yet. Lodge stressed the importance of some type of system to be in place to avoid large sums of cash being handled by our people which have resulted in theft. We must secure the safety of our people. In N.Y. and N.J. 80% pay with credit or debit card.

Temporary memberships are still available for purchase, but in 2020 it will go away. Guest passes will be available.

Lodge said that Tournament Chairs would like input into which Director would be assigned to certain tournaments. Myers stated his responsibilities entail supervising all Directors in California, assigning Directors to tournaments and being the liaison between Directors and Board Members. He emphasized we currently have a shortage of Directors with only two full-time Directors employed by the ACBL. ACBL requires that their employed Directors be utilized first.

IV. Treasurer's Report - Richard Picheny

Picheny stated the balance sheet has four line items:

1. \$174,000 cash at Bank of America

2. \$6,000 being allocated to Grand National Team stipends
 3. \$26,000 for future hotel payments through 2022
 4. \$2,571 receivable, resulting from NLM Regional
- Balance sheet submitted to Board does not reflect \$8,033 received from ACBL for Grassroots. Lodge explained that these funds can be used for general purposes.

Picheny recapped financial statements:

NLM Regional loss of \$5,600

San Diego Regional \$24,000 profit

GNT cost was \$5,000 due to an increased stipend amount.

Overall, we had a loss of \$15,000 loss which is right on target; in 2018 our loss was \$14,000.

Erickson questioned why we are receiving money from REACH (Regionals at Clubs). Lodge explained that participants were tracked by Districts and funds are allocated back to the club depending on the number of individuals that participated in REACH. Cameron clarified that Club Directors only need to register with ACBL (no cost) and participate in the Common Game.

Individual players must register and pay the ACBL \$30; players can play as many games as they want that week at any club holding a Common Game. REACH participants are awarded red and gold. The funds received from ACBL are for the Club's general fund.

Board members were all in favor of Picheny emailing financial reports before our next board meeting.

V. Executive Session – 8:23 p.m. 9:05 p.m.

VI. Committees

1. Tournament - Lamya Agelidis

Lien stated that we were at 104% of our hotel room obligation to the Hilton. They would not extend the cut-off date for the room reservations. Picheny suggested exploring the idea in the future of room rates being non-cancellable after the cut-off date to receive the tournament rate.

Lien moved to approve Ken Monzingo purchasing more cards to fill up the extra boards at a cost of \$1,500. This would eliminate having to replenish duplicate boards mid-week at San Diego and the two Orange County Regionals; Picheny seconded, and the motion passed.

2. NAOP/GNT - Ron Lien

Tournament Committee (TC) met and decided to move the 2020 GNT District Finals to San Diego; Bill Grant will take over from John Kissinger as GNT Coordinator. Some TC members met with Gary Zeiger, who will be the DIC at the San Diego Regional. He had excellent suggestions, such as, run it like a Bracketed Swiss. Basically, everyone will play the first day, and by the final half of the second day only two teams will be remaining; the League strongly believes District 22 GNT Finals should be between two teams. The D22 GNT COCs will be submitted to the ACBL for their approval.

3. MAP - Deb Cameron

Cameron stated not much has happened and will talk with Picheny to get the \$50 to clubs that met the criteria of five masterpoints; she plans to have it out by October. Cameron may need Erickson's help to verify the players' masterpoints. Only three clubs have taken a push and really participated in MAP, which was not well received by club managers. A club in Escondido really took off and will receive money for their efforts.

4. Goodwill - Nancy Erickson

Gunther wrote to each Unit President this year to seek nominations for Goodwill. Erickson distributed a list of nominees that consisted of 11 names that were submitted for consideration from Areas I, II, and IV. Picheny wanted Maggie Briskie from Unit 538, Area 1 to be added to Goodwill nominees. Gunther requested that all names submitted be approved. Erickson moved that the language in District 22 Goodwill Committee Charter stating “each member of D22 Board of Directors may appoint one new inductee from their area and the National Board Representative may appoint one member” be waived. The motion included naming all 12 nominees as Goodwill Recipients this year. Picheny seconded, and the motion passed.

5. Nominations - Nancy Erickson

Election of D22 Board of Directors:

Three seats are up for re-election, Diane Gunther, Linda Decquir and Bill Grant; Units in Areas in I, II, and III have been notified, pursuant to D22 By-Laws. All three Board members are running for re-election.

District 22 Board of Governors:

An election is required as four members have filed to run, and ACBL mailed out ballots. Candidates are Pat Larin, Brian Trent, Linda Trent and David Sizemore. Each member of the Unit Board will have a vote. Lodge explained that the Board of Governors is a body of 125 people with five representatives from all 25 Districts and they meet three times a year in conjunction with the NABC. They have two functions:

1. Review what the Board of Directors has passed as a motion. To ask for reconsideration if an individual on the BOG does not like the motion and they get a majority of votes the BOD must reconsider that motion.

2. Make a recommendation for the Board of Directors to consider.

At this year’s meeting in Las Vegas a motion was made by the BOG that the President of the ACBL, Russ Jones, form a task force in order to consider and give a report back on reducing the size of the BOD. It was passed by 99-4. BOD is desperately trying to figure out a way to better govern themselves and give the BOG way more importance than what they currently have.

6. YNABC & Harvey Mudd - Nancy Erickson

Five individuals were sent, and funding provided for two college teams. Decquir is considering working with the YNABC. In the future, shirts need to be purchased by the District. Over 300 youth participated in the YNABC at the Las Vegas National. Decquir stressed the importance of reaching out to youth in our District.

7. Director Refresher Course - Nancy Erickson

Total expenditures were approximately \$600; twenty-eight people attended. The feedback for the Director Refresher Course presented by Arleen Harvey was fabulous, and many said they would attend again. Another course will be presented in 2020 if Arleen can be convinced to do it.

8. Recorder - Bill Grant

Grant reported that at the NABC held in Las Vegas, the ACBL Board of Directors passed a motion eliminating unit disciplinary committees and recorders. This is effective January 1, 2020. Lodge stated, we have 300 units around the country, and 99% of the Recorders have no idea of what the process is. 100% of the disciplinary committees have no idea as well. This is evident at the lowest level that disciplinary conduct issues are not well understood, and the BOD decided that units should no longer have the authority or responsibility to figure out disciplinary action. The new process will go straight to the District Recorder. Grant was not sure how this new procedure would work.

9. Western Conference - Ron Lien

The original purpose of the Western Conference (WC) was the Forum; its current function is running the STAC games. Four WC Board Members attended an informal meeting was held in

Las Vegas at the NABC. Several board members have scheduling issues so a meeting will be probably be conducted via conference call. The WC board needs to decide whether to dissolve the WC and divide the \$34,000. The WC is spending \$3,000 yearly on tax filing and treasury expenses.

VII. District Director - David Lodge

Lodge expressed significant objections to moving the District 22 GNT finals from South Orange County to San Diego Regional, which will coincide with San Diego Regional.

Specific objections:

1. Changing from two consecutive weekends to Thursday through Saturday
2. Working players would have to take time off from work.
3. Team play would be limited.

Erickson supports the San Diego Regional site for 2020 but wants the Board to explore moving the GNT to North Orange County or Riverside based on the need for the event to be more centrally located. Lodge would like the GNT's moved back to South Orange County next year and believes all teams will willingly participate.

National Level

The whole governance currently structured and established of 125 members of the BOG and 25 BODs. 25 BODs can't possibly be effective because it's too large. The President of the ACBL has assigned Lodge to lead a task force of five to develop a proposal to reduce the number of Directors from 25 to a smaller number. There have been four meetings via telephone and one or two meetings will be held before October 19, 2019 to develop a proposal. So far, the five members of the task force have not been able to come up with a consensus.

Two thoughts:

1. Geographical representation is out-of-date. The BOD should be comprised of a group elected-at-large regardless of region. This theoretically would provide skill-based representation. The first proposal has some value, but a low likelihood of approval.
2. Geographical reduction by combining existing districts to, for instance, 13 logical combinations of regions with 13 leaders who would be the BOD for ACBL. For example, two regions could have one Director.

The BOD would no longer have anything to do with the game of bridge; only the business side of bridge. Bridge items would be off-loaded to people who are knowledgeable.

Financially the ACBL is doing better than the last couple of years. There is one class action suit regarding full time Directors vs part-time. Presently there are 40 full time and 30 part-time Directors.

The ACBL does not recover its cost of a Director at a tournament. Each tournament, sectional, regional, etc. pays a predetermined rate per session for and a director, and the current rate is insufficient to cover the actual payroll and fringe costs. Currently full time employees are working 240 sessions but are being paid for 300 sessions. They will get all their pay, but they now must work 300 sessions. There is likely to be an increase of the per hour rate.

IT issues are slowly going away due to better leadership. Joe Jones has taken on the difficult but effective role of staffing. Susie Cordell is running the IT Department, leading them in the right direction with priorities.

VIII. New Business

At the next Board meeting in Palm Springs we need to discuss the effectiveness of running evening sessions. Everyone loves the Bracketed Swiss. The SoCal Winter Regional will have four Bracketed Swiss events next year.

IX. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:12 p.m. The next meeting of the Board is to be held in Palm Springs, Thursday, December 12 at 7:00 p.m. Location to be determined. Lien moved to adjourned and Agelidis seconded.