

BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S MEETING

May 10, 2021

Present: Jerry Harrington, Rosemary Kelley, Karen Fillis, Jeanne Dawley, Ed Rawlinson, John Hilbig, Jon Tramer, Joe Ramirez, Lisa Talcott, Roxi Raaf

Absent: Jeri Tribo

Guests: Laurie Levin, Steve Simpson, Everette Lewis, Rich Lampman

The meeting was called to order at 2:00 pm by Jerry Harrington. Karen Fillis moved to approve the minutes from April 12, 2021; Jeanne Dawley seconded. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: There was no treasurer's report for this month as they are now being done every other month. Karen Fillis will have the report at next month's meeting. The question was asked as to what our minimum balance should be to be okay financially, to which Karen stated a \$25,000 minimum balance is needed and we are well above that currently.

Membership: Jeanne Dawley sent her report to the board members. The Unit has lost more members with most being in the Non-life master category. She is hoping with the start of live games that our numbers will improve. Discussion ensued regarding the percentages of those who used to play at clubs versus percentages playing online. Steve Hultquist is trying to get Kerrville started up. Barbara Morgan is holding New Braunfels games in her home as the church they met in is not yet available for use.

Education: Our education sessions continue to have low attendance. However, the monthly district education sessions seem to be doing well with high attendance.

Mentor/Mentee: There is no change in status of the program, having 7 active pairs.

Tournaments:

Regional:

a. **Flier:** The flier for the regional is posted on the ACBL website as well as the District 16 website.

b. **Publicity initiatives:** Rich Lampman talked to the editor of the Bulletin and there are all kinds of disclaimers for that. On BBO it is \$75 a month for message advertising, which will be started at some point soon. Rosemary Kelley talked to her friend who works for the city and they might pay for advertising buttons. Joe Ramirez made a motion to authorize Rich to get the ball rolling on "Get your partner some gold for Christmas" buttons advertising the San Antonio Regional with the dates of the tournament that can be worn to sectionals and the national, contingent on checking with the city to see if they will purchase them. Motion was seconded by Rosemary Kelley and carried.

c. **ACBL restrictions:** Rich spoke to Scott Humphrey recently regarding tournament status and the "Next Steps for Face-to-Face tournaments" documents outlining tournament parameters. At 100 days out, 60 days out, and 30 days out for each tournament these parameters are reviewed, and status of each tournament will be evaluated. If requirements set up by the ACBL on the "Next Steps" document are met, then tournaments may proceed. Right now, the Omni is at 100% occupancy with no restrictions. At present there are not quarantines required and the San Antonio Covid positivity rate is below 5%. Greater than 25% of Clubs in the Unit must have reopened with significant player participation. Since this is a fluid situation this requirement will hopefully soon be met as clubs are reopening now. ACBL will require proof of vaccination and at present facemasks are also required. A lively discussion followed

regarding the “Next Steps” requirements. The question of sanction was asked and answered that yes, we do have a sanction for the tournament, but it can be rescinded at any time if requirements are not met. ACBL has access to all the information they need to review our data at the intervals stated. One of the two people that are reviewing the data for all tournaments is greg.coles@ACBL.org. The review board will hopefully communicate their decision at the stated intervals of their assessments of the “Next Steps” requirements and contact the tournament chair of any issues. If the regional ends up being canceled, the cancellation fee is estimated to be about \$50,000. The requirement of the local clubs running and growing is something we have no control over and difficult to abide by this requirement. Table space for all tournaments but be 11 feet center to center.

January Sectional: The January sectional will include the NAPS. Ed Rawlinson reported on venue choices. The Drury Plaza Hotel rates: \$800 for each ballroom (one upstairs and one downstairs). He estimated we would use only the downstairs ballroom Thursday and Friday and both ballrooms Saturday and Sunday. There is a small 800 square foot room upstairs that looks like it is part of the upper ballroom that we used last year. If participation is higher than expected, we can add the use that additional space if needed. Room rates are \$110 for a single or double room. The Hilton Tapestry (old Doubletree) was contacted but rates were originally quoted at \$5000 per day. The contact person was to get back to Ed with possibly lower rates but has yet to do so. The Leon Valley Civic Center has the same square footage as the Drury Plaza Hotel but in preliminary discussions their rates were not as well priced as the Drury. Profit made from the last tournament at the Drury was around \$6000.

Ed made a motion that we go forward with the Drury Plaza Hotel. Joe seconded and the motion carried. Ed will sign the contract for the tournament to be held January 13-16, 2022.

Kerrville Sectional: Ed contacted Carol Ramberg and discussed Kerrville. She and Steve Hultquist are willing to be cochairs for next year. Steve Hultquist will be taking over the Kerrville games.

New Braunfels Sectional: Karen Fillis discussed tournavigation for the sectional with Barbara Morgan. Barbara is not sure of attendance and asked for the board’s input. The cost is \$400. The Board agreed that tournavigation is good to have. Barbara also asked for input on signing a contract for 2022, and the board agreed to signing a contract for 2022.

Election Sectional: This will be held in October and is given to Laurie Levin.

Naming Sectionals/Events: The I/N events at the Regional will continue to be named in honor of Marie Bailey. The policy for naming events/sectionals states each situation will be handled separately. The clubs need permission from the board to name a specific sectional after someone. Ed Rawlinson moved to name the following upcoming sectionals, Jeanne Dawley seconded, and motion carried:

August – Jim Gorman Sectional

October – Bill Walker Sectional

Unit Games: Recap of May 1 game: Great job and kudos to Rosemary and Karen for job well done! There were lots of sodas and snacks left over that can be used in future games. \$280 was spent with some additional sanction fees to be paid. There were some issues with the remotes. Batteries may be an issue as they were not in used for so long in the last year. Some are owned by Laurie and some were purchased by the Unit. There are several options for issues with remotes: 1) Get more Bridge Pads – not made any more so would be refurbished ones 2) Switch to Bridge mates system 3) Use tablets with loaded software (would have to keep them charged) 4) use paper slips. ACBL provides Bridge Pads for the regional and we provide them for the sectionals. Steve Simpson will check the status of the remotes. Bad remotes can

be sent to Florida to be refurbished. Carol Ramberg and Barbara Morgan need to be consulted as to the status of their remotes as well. Steve will report back on the Bridge pad status at the next board meeting.

It was brought up that we have up to 24 Unit games available to us this year. Unit games will all be single session pair games with masks optional if vaccinated. Discussion followed resulting in the decision to have Unit games on the following dates:

June 5 – Hosted by Jerry Harrington, assisted by Roxi Raaf

July 17 – Hosted by John Hilbig assisted by Joe Ramirez

August 7 – Hosted by Ed Rawlinson assisted by Everette Lewis

Schedule of Luau and Annual Membership meeting: Typically, this is held the first Saturday in August. Ed moved to apply for the sanction for the Luau on August 7. Rosemary seconded and the motion carried. Discussion followed regarding food at the Luau. Jason's deli was used last year at the January Sectional. We should have a 10-15% coupon available from last year for Jason's and Nancy Tom would have that information if coupon is still available. Ed will check on the possibility of using Jason's for a box lunch.

Old Business:

Fiesta Follow-on lease: Laurie sent the landlord a big check this week since her games are about to start back up again.

Online/Face-to-Face Games: Laurie will start her games back up next week on Mondays and Fridays while continuing daily online virtual games. Barbara Morgan has started games in her home as the church is not available, but she is only able to have 3 tables per game. Everette mentioned other clubs in the Unit have started back up meeting regularly as well. Concern about suspicious play online was also discussed briefly as it remains a big problem.

Membership Initiatives: Lively discussion ensued on incentive ideas to encourage participation in clubs in our Unit as they reopen. Ideas discussed were: 1) Providing lunch to be plated (not self-serve). Rosemary can do lunch for \$2-3 per person. 2) Free plays provided after a certain number of paid games obtained. Karen Fillis made a motion to provide a free play after 5 games have been played in any public club in our Unit. The punch card provided by the Unit is to be kept by the player and to be turned in to the director after completion for their 6th game to be the free play. The club manager will turn in cards to the Unit treasurer for reimbursement. This is to be done for a 3-month trial period ending August 31, 2021. Rosemary seconded the motion and the motion carried. Rosemary will create the cards with a special punch to be provided to the clubs.

Trailer Inspection: Trailer inspection is scheduled.

New Business:

Election progress: David Mitchell will run the election vote. Ed will check on Bios of all the candidates. Steve Simpson has photos of everyone.

Jacoby Award: Rebecca Brown was last year's recipient. There is information on the District 16 website with forms for submission. We will come back to this next month to give the board members time for thought for nominations.

Next meeting: Monday June 14 at 3 pm after the Fiesta game is finished.

Jeanne Dawley moved to adjourn the meeting, Roxi Raaf seconded. Meeting was adjourned at 3:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Roxi Raaf, subbing for Jeri Tribo, secretary.