

BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING

October 11, 2021

Present: Jerry Harrington, Rosemary Kelley, Jeanne Dawley, Everette Lewis, Ed Rawlinson, John Hilbig

Absent: Roxi Raaf, Jon Tramer, Jeri Tribo, Karen Fillis, Joe Ramirez

Guests: Laurie Levine, Steve Simpson, Rich Lampman, Nancy Tom

The meeting was called to order at 2:53 p.m. by Jerry Harrington, Unit President

Minutes: Rosemary Kelley moved to approve the minutes from September 13, 2021. Jeanne Dawley seconded the motion; motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: Jerry Herrington reported that Treasurer Karen Fillis submitted her report to the board by email. Rosemary Kelly observed that the monthly expenses were a little higher than normal. Several of those present explained that the report contained expenses pertaining to the upcoming regional tournament in December.

Regional Tournament Chairman Rich Lampman reported that he had worked with Treasurer Karen Fillis to create a budget for the regional tournament. The budget includes the costs for three directors. Budget projections of income and expenses have been lowered from previous regional tournaments because of the COVID rescheduling.

Election of New Board Members: Via a phone call with Everette Lewis, David Mitchell reported that Jerry Herrington, Karen Fillis, Everette Lewis and Nancy Tom were elected to 3-year terms on the board according to the number of votes received. Sharon Evans (2-year term) and Al Fulton (1-year term) were also elected.

On behalf of the Unit President Jerry Herrington extended grateful thanks to outgoing members Jeri Tribo, Roxi Raaf and Jeanne Dawley.

Membership: Chairman Jeanne Dawley reported that – although membership is declining – it is slowing down somewhat. She also reported that Leland R Briggs was reported as deceased and asked if anyone remembered him. No one was able to provide any additional information about Leland R Briggs.

Chairman Jeanne Dawley, whose term on the board is expiring, suggested that responsibility for electronic communications should be made a duty of the membership chair for operational efficiency.

Mentor-Mentee Report: Chairman Roxi Raaf emailed a report to the board and reported that there have been no additional pairs added since the last meeting. One pair is considering joining the program.

Regional Tournament: Chairman Rich Lampman asked Caddy Master John Hilbig to report on the status of our caddy pool at this time. John Hilbig stated that the Unit only has two active caddies on the pool list and that both are adults with day-time jobs. It was suggested by Everette Lewis that a call for caddies should be published in the *Winning Finesse*.

Chairman Lampman also reported that -- regarding the wearing of masks during the regional tournament – the policy of the ACBL was published on page 80 of the October *Bridge Bulletin* as follows:

Per the ACBL Board of Directors, anyone who has received the required doses of a COVID-19 vaccine (under Health Canada, CDC, or Mexico Ministry of Health guidelines) at least 14 days prior to their attendance at a bridge tournament may be required to wear a mask at said tournament if Health Canada, CDC or Mexico Ministry of Health guidelines recommend this. The ACBL policy does not countermand any ordinance or law in effect at the site of the tournament, and is effective through Dec. 31, 2021.

Although the State of Texas does not have a mask mandate, Chairman Lampman said the ACBL policy may require the wearing of masks at the regional tournament. He also reported that the ACBL does not recognize medical or religious exceptions.

Chairman Lampman also reported that the tournament will have a vaccination desk manned by Jeri Tribo and that they are thinking of placing a dot on the convention card of those who have been vaccinated so that the tournament directors will know who is authorized to purchase an entry. Several board members expressed concerns that it might be too easy for a non-vaccinated person to gain an entry form – such as by a vaccinated person temporarily giving his “dotted” card to someone else. Jeanne Dawley, supported by Rosemary Kelley, suggested that it would be more secure to stamp ink on the hand of those of who were vaccinated. Rich Lampman agreed to investigate this option.

Rosemary Kelley -- supported by others present – suggested that to speed the vaccination check-in process we should have at least two or maybe three lines. One of the lines should be for those who had previously presented proof of vaccination for the tournament. Rich Lampman said that the vaccination table would be supplied with a list of names of those persons who had previously provided proof of vaccination to local clubs.

Chairman Lampman also said that a decision on whether to hold the national tournament in Austin would be announced on October 15. He also said that – if the tournament were cancelled – it would not reflect on our regional tournament. Austin’s COVID positivity rate has been above 7% while San Antonio’s is below 5%. Also, a national tournament draws participants from a much wider geographic spectrum that does a regional tournament.

Laurie Levine then reminded the board that Fiesta Bridge Club would be due a \$1,000 stipend during the regional tournament to make up for being closed during that time. She then stated that -- because her club would be closed only 3 days during the tournament and not the usual 7 – she would accept a smaller stipend from the unit if the board would allow her to continue her on-line games during the regional tournament. Everette Lewis motioned – seconded by Jeanne Dawley – that the board accept her proposal and pay a stipend of \$400 to the club during the regional tournament. Motion passed.

Bill Walker Election Sectional: Jerry Herrington reported that all went well with the tournament. Everette Lewis reported that \$56 was reimbursed to players during the Sunday Swiss as a discount from the Unit.

Winter Sectional: Jerry Harrington reported that Nancy Tom and her crew will chair this sectional.

Unit Games: Jerry Herrington confirmed that the Unit game planned for October 23 has had to be cancelled because Fiesta Bridge Club – which was to be the site of the game – is moving to Congregation Agudas Achim, a conservative Jewish synagogue. It is unlikely that any bridge event can be held at the synagogue on a Saturday. Laurie Levine said she would check to see about holding unit games on a day other than Saturday. Ed Rawlinson agreed to check on other potential venues and on obtaining new sanctions for the games scheduled for November 20 and December 11, if necessary.

Unit Library: Jerry Herrington thanked Ed Rawlinson for packing and storing the Unit's library, plaques, bookcases and other property due to the move of Fiesta Bridge Club. Ed Rawlinson said he will make volumes from the library available upon request, to be picked up during club games.

New Business: Laurie Levine reported that she will have to pay \$50 a day for security for her games at the synagogue and that she would like some help from the Unit in covering that cost. If the club has to cover that cost by itself, she said that she would likely have to raise game fees. She also pointed out that the Board had already agreed to pay any \$1 extra fee for special games from ACBL till the end of the year. Since the ACBL has already announced that – until the end of the year it will no longer require an extra \$1 for special games – Laurie suggested that the Board shift its support from these special fees to help pay for security costs at the new location.

John Hilbig motioned that the board pay \$25 of the fee for security at club games through the end of the year. Rosemary Kelley amended the motion to change the amount to \$30. Before a vote was taken, Everette Lewis asked Laurie Levine if she would commit to not raising fees if the board passed the motion. She said yes, and the motion passed.

Jerry Herrington then mentioned that Diane Olson has been in charge of keeping track of the points earned for the Cisse Horton and the George Gray Trophies. He suggested that we should set up a more formal system for these awards due to Diane's health issues.

Jerry Herrington brought up the need to find a new venue for sectional tournaments. Further discussion was postponed until the next board meeting.

Steve Simpson reported that he had inventoried all of the Unit's bridge pads and given identification numbers to each. The Unit has 43 bridge pads in working order, 1 that can be used in a pinch and 3 others that can be used for parts.

Due to restrictive requirements for potential board meetings at Congregation Agudas Achim, Jerry Herrington, supported by Everette Lewis, suggested that the next board meeting be held at Milano Italian Grill, 19239 Stone Oak Parkway. The meeting was then scheduled for November 8 at 3:30 at that location.

Upon a motion by Everette Lewis, the meeting was adjourned at 4:11 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

John Hilbig, Member