



Minutes of the District 17 Board of Directors Meeting December 8 and 9, 2020 via Zoom Video Conference

Tuesday, December 8th Session

Present: John Grossmann (President), Cindy Shoemaker (National Board), Liz Hamilton, Lakin Hines, JoAnne Lowe, Felix Moore, Jennifer O'Neill, Bill Phillips, Steve Reynolds

Also attending: Richard Rosenthal, Sharon Smith, new Board members as of January 1st

THE PRESIDENT CALLED THE SESSION TO ORDER AT 9:05 AM.

GENERAL

Opening Remarks

John Grossmann

John Grossmann introduced Richard Rosenthal. Richard was elected by Units 374, 381, and 383 to complete the term of office held by Felix Moore, who is resigning from the Board effective January 1, 2021. Richard described his bridge interests and goals and expressed his concern for growing the game. John also acknowledged the fine work of Felix Moore and Rod Southworth, both of whom are leaving the board at the end of the year.

Approval of January 2020 Minutes

Felix Moore

Liz Hamilton moved that the December 2020 minutes be approved as submitted. Seconded by Jennifer O'Neill. Carried unanimously.

Treasurer's Report

Jennifer O'Neill

JoAnne Lowe moved that the Treasurer's Report be approved as submitted. Seconded by Felix Moore. Carried unanimously.

National Board Report

Cindy Shoemaker

Cindy Shoemaker reported on tournament status. The NABC tournament scheduled for St. Louis in March 2021 has not yet been cancelled. A cancellation would incur a loss of more than \$1 million. If the NABC is cancelled it is likely that regionals scheduled for several ensuing months would be cancelled as well. The Office of the National Recorder has been swamped with player memos. The total will probably exceed 1,000 by year's end. Despite the ongoing pandemic ACBL's financial status is good. Membership in ACBL is declining at a rate of 4% per year. Georgia Heth was re-elected to a second term as ACBL President. Doug Couchman was elected to serve a two-year term as Chair of the ACBL Board of Governors. Jennifer O'Neill inquired about whether Denver would be required to reapply for authorization to host the 2021 Rocky Mountain Regional. Cindy stated that she would obtain an answer from Georgia Heth.

NEW BUSINESS**2021 D17 Proposed Budget**

Jennifer O'Neill

Rocky Mountain Regional (Denver) planners are looking to hold the tournament in May 2021. They are working on renegotiating the contract with the hotel. In the proposed budget the amount allocated for the tournament has been reduced by 50%. Jennifer expects a well-attended destination tournament in Las Vegas so she budgeted it at 100%. After some discussion about the prospects of regional tournaments being held in the first half of 2021, Jennifer proposed that the amount budgeted for the Denver tournament be reduced to zero. JoAnne Lowe suggested that the budgeted amount for the 2021 Desert Empire Regional (Scottsdale, AZ) could be reduced as well. \$3,000 has been allocated for completion of work on the website rebuild.

California 99er Nite Club Participation

John Grossmann and Cindy Shoemaker

Felix Moore moved that District 17 participate in this event. Seconded by Jennifer O'Neill. Motion amended by Cindy Shoemaker to read as follows: Motion that *District 17 become a sponsor of the 99er Nite Club and contribute \$500 as a good faith gesture, cooperating with Districts 21, 22, and 23 on an equal footing.* Felix accepted the amendment. Carried unanimously. Jennifer O'Neill moved that Sharon Smith be nominated to coordinate with the event organizers. Seconded by Liz Hamilton. Carried unanimously.

Election of Western Conference Representative

John Grossmann

At the present time the Western Conference's sole function is to coordinate STaC games, which are currently in limbo because of the pandemic. Cindy Shoemaker is one of the representatives. John Grossmann is currently the President of the Western Conference. Bill Phillips nominated John to serve as District 17 representative to the Western Conference for 2021. Seconded by Jennifer O'Neill. Cindy spoke in favor of the motion. Carried unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS**Election of Officers**

Bill Phillips

President: JoAnne Lowe nominated John Grossman to serve as President for the calendar year 2021. Steve Reynolds nominated Liz Hamilton. Each candidate made a brief presentation. Votes were sent to Bill via private Zoom chat. Liz Hamilton was elected by a vote of 6 to 3.

Vice President: Steve Reynolds nominated himself for Vice President. Elected by acclamation.

Recording Secretary: Bill Phillips nominated himself for Recording Secretary. Elected by acclamation.

Treasurer: Jennifer O'Neill nominated herself for Treasurer. Elected by acclamation.

Election Secretary: Cindy Shoemaker nominated Lakin Hines. Elected by acclamation.

Bylaws Update

Steve Reynolds and Jennifer O’Neill

An ad hoc committee consisting of Steve Reynolds, Jennifer O’Neill, and Bill Phillips revised and edited the Bylaws. The proposed changes were distributed to Board members for review and comment, and suggestions were incorporated. Revisions take effect immediately upon approval by the Board. Motion to approve the revised Bylaws by Jennifer O’Neill. Seconded by Liz Hamilton. Carried unanimously. Jennifer will send the Board members the latest revision. The ad hoc committee will now begin work on the Policy Manual.

ScoreCard Update

John Grossmann

The last edition of ScoreCard was published this month. John proposed a monetary “thank you” gift to the Coopers for their decade of work in editing ScoreCard. Several people commented that a monetary gift is inappropriate. A donation in the Coopers’ names to a foodbank or to the ACBL Education Foundation would be a better gesture, along with a commemorative plaque. Motion by John Grossmann to prepare an engraved plaque and make a donation to the ACBL Education Foundation in the Coopers’ name. Felix Moore offered to have a plaque prepared. Felix also proposed a donation of \$500. John accepted the amendments to his motion. Revised motion seconded by Felix Moore. Carried unanimously.

SESSION ADJOURNED AT 11:00 AM

Wednesday, December 9th Session

Present: John Grossmann (President), Cindy Shoemaker (National Board), Liz Hamilton, Lakin Hines, JoAnne Lowe, Felix Moore, Jennifer O’Neill, Steve Nordberg, Bill Phillips, Steve Reynolds, Rod Southworth

Also attending: Sharon Smith; Doug Couchman, ACBL Board of Governors Chair; JoEllen Lowry, Vice President of Operations of GSM (a website development company)

THE PRESIDENT CALLED THE SESSION TO ORDER AT 9:05 AM.

Doug Couchman gave a brief report on the ACBL Board of Governors’ upcoming plans.

NEW BUSINESS (CONTINUED)

Membership Building

John Grossmann

A task force consisting of John Grossmann, Cindy Shoemaker, and Sharon Smith has been formed. John proposed changes in the grant program such that any Unit can apply for funds (not just Units that do not sponsor regional tournaments) and proposed that grant funding be restricted to membership building and outreach. Grant applications for equipment, books, supplies, etc, would not be funded.

Motion to support the Denver Metro Kids Bridge Program with a grant of \$1,000 by John Grossmann. Seconded by Jennifer O'Neill. Carried unanimously.

ACBL workshops for online certification were discussed. These workshops teach prospective online instructors how to use tools such as Zoom and Shark, how to set up a website, etc.

Motion to allocate \$10,000 for membership building and outreach by John Grossmann. Allocation to include \$5,000 for grants and \$5,000 for other activities. Motion tabled.

OLD BUSINESS (CONTINUED)

Website Update

Cindy Shoemaker and JoEllen Lowry

JoEllen and Cindy demonstrated the new website. Various options for displaying content, calendar, etc, were described. Development is now waiting on content. Obtaining quality photos is a particularly challenging problem. The website is ready for launch once sufficient appropriate content has been obtained. An abundance of praise for the project was expressed. Cindy and JoEllen have given some thought to designing a new D17 logo.

Membership Building (Continued)

John Grossmann

John withdrew his tabled motion, and offered a replacement: Motion that *District 17 adapt the concept of a more extensive in membership building and outreach, that a new committee be created, and that the committee have a budget of \$5,000 for grants and \$5,000 for other items, with the proviso that proposed expenditures over \$300 be presented to the Board for approval.* Seconded by Jennifer O'Neill. Carried unanimously.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

District 17 Recorder

ACBL National Recorder's office is being inundated with player memos and has called for assistance from District recorders. Larry Bertholf, District 17 Recorder, will participate. Handling of player memos is prioritized such that the most suspicious and/or egregious cases are addressed first. There was a discussion concerning a particular pair whose accomplishments in online play seem highly improbable. Doug Couchman cautioned against

taking any actions against suspected cheaters unless and until they have been disciplined by the National Recorder's office.

Grants**Steve Nordberg**

No grant requests received. Cindy requested information from Steve on grant request history for inclusion on the website.

Tournament Supplies

John Grossmann stated that aging bidding boxes are replaced when the hinges or latches break. We have now replaced all the boxes that needed to be taken out of service.

GNT**Rod Southworth**

In light of the pandemic, Rod has eased his solicitation of payment from clubs that still owe money for GNT participation. He is owed \$1,300, more than half of which is owed by Denver. Rod will prepare material to help his successor learn the process, and will offer assistance to that individual. Cindy stated that BBO is able to host team games. Felix stated that BBO is currently able to handle knockouts and round robin events, but that Swiss movements are a problem at the moment. Other districts are running online GNTs. There is strong sentiment among Board members to carry out GNT events online. The Shark platform uses both audio and video, which makes cheating much more difficult.

NAP**Lakin Hines**

NAP has problems similar to GNT. Next NAP is scheduled for the NABC in March, however it is currently unknown whether that tournament will be held. If the NABC is not held, NAP will be run online.

Regional Tournaments**Liz Hamilton**

Need to wait until more is known about the status of the pandemic. Waiting for the go-ahead for face-to-face tournaments from ACBL.

Contract Review**Steve Reynolds**

Nothing to review at this point.

Tournament Coordination**JoAnne Lowe**

Not much happening.

Website**Rod Southworth**

Rod has reorganized the current website to facilitate moving information to the new website. Rod will continue to post news and information to the current website.

Communications

Cindy Shoemaker

ScoreCard has been retired. Bridge Buzz will continue to be published bimonthly. The next issue will appear in January 2021. Response to Bridge Buzz is above 50%, well above industry standards. Constant Contact will continue to be used to communicate breaking news.

Special Administrative

Felix Moore

Carlsbad Unit 376 may shrink to a few as 20 members by the time face-to-face bridge resumes. (Official ACBL membership count for Unit 376 was 26 as of November 2020.)

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn by Liz Hamilton. Seconded by JoAnne Lowe. Carried unanimously.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, January 12, 2021, 9:00 AM to 10:30 AM, via video conference

Respectfully submitted,

William D. Phillips

Scribe