

**Board of Directors' Report**

Summary of September 2022 District 21 Board of Directors Meeting  
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On Monday evening, September 12, 2022, the Board of Directors of District 21 ("D21") held a regular meeting via Zoom. This article will summarize what was discussed and decided.

The President called the meeting to order at 6:35 PM. The Secretary conducted a roll call. The minutes of the Board meeting of June 18, 2022 were approved with two corrections.

**Reports by Officers and Committee Chairs**

The **President** Sigrid Price noted that at the recent All-Western Regional, the District had to rely on members from other Districts to volunteer at the partnership desk and to check for proof of vaccinations. D21 members, except for the same few people, are not volunteering at the level we need to continue holding affordable tournaments. She said we are going to lose money at the All-Western Regional due to our pre-COVID hotel attendance commitments and lower tournament turnouts, but the amount is still being negotiated. She is reviewing a list of players who attended to identify those who are likely have stayed at the hotel. The lack of evening games makes it easier for players to drive home. The hotel staff were appreciative to have customers.

The **Vice-President and Sectional Coordinator** Anne Hollingsworth encouraged units to continue scheduling their sectionals through her.

The **Treasurer** Lynn Bartz called attention to parts of the previously distributed financial report that show what we have gained and lost on our recent regionals. GNT isn't paying for itself, while NAP is. Overall we are down \$15,000 so far. Santa Clara and Sparks are expected to be losses. The Santa Clara table count was 47% of pre-COVID attendance. There was some discussion about promoting more Grass Roots events in local clubs to raise money.

**District Director** Stu Goodgold reported on the large number of NAP qualifications across the country. The new ACBL educational program identifying good teachers has named Jill Wallace as one. More masterpoints are now available in live tournaments. Masterpoints have been reduced in virtual club games. Clubs have been authorized to hold more live championships. Club directors reported different experiences about whether extra masterpoints motivate players to play in their clubs.

**Tournament Planning Chair** Nancy Boyd heard that many people at the All-Western Regional had a good time and wanted to return. We had the right level of staff. A little volunteering will help a lot of people. We can expect people who play in Seaside to come to Sparks. We expect a small turnout in Sparks. We are offering fewer events because the tournament turnout is smaller. We are still offering distinctive events at each regional. Nancy said she is retiring, so we will need a new planning chair.

**Communications Chair** Melanie Haddad reported that D21 has hired a new webmaster, Cecilia Muaddi, to replace Grant Robinson. The most read columns in the last newsletter were the Heart of the District and the Providence report. It was



suggested that the Heart of the District be more prominently featured in the newsletter.

**North American Pairs Coordinator** Susan Mazzei said there are more NAP qualifiers this year than last. She learned that eight other districts are having their district finals online, six or seven are having them at their regionals, and six are holding them at clubs. She discussed the potential costs of holding the finals at a club, online, or at the Monterey regional. A lively 20-minute discussion considered different times and places. A consensus emerged without a formal vote that the A flight finals should be held during the last two days of the Monterey regional, and the B and C flight finals would be held online the following weekend.

**Grand National Teams Coordinator** Grant Vance explained that the GNT loss resulted from the District giving first place teams the traditional stipends of \$2,000. One way to raise some money is offering Grass Roots events at clubs and tournaments. Grant will schedule the D21 finals events to minimize the number of sessions in a location. Grant has advised potential competitors that D21 may not be able to give the same stipends in the future.

**Growth Committee Chair** Max Schireson reported that D21 only paid for part of one young player's room at the All-Western Regional. There was a junior night with three tables and a pizza party with some celebrity junior sponsors. Will Watson directed.

The President announced that Unit Presidents should have received directions about making **Goodwill** nominations to the Goodwill Committee by November 1.

**All-Western 99er NiteClub Coordinator** Ray Yuenger reported that the online club is still operating. Attendance has declined over the summer. The association was recently recognized by the IRS as a 501(c)(7) exempt organization.

### **Unfinished Business**

Ray explained that over time D21 has assumed a variety of annual commitments to finance GNT and NAP stipends, youth bridge grants, and charity grants. Some of the original Board decisions cannot be documented. Charity grants have already been suspended recently. Jim Coke moved that the Board rescind its prior financial commitments in favor of determining future grants and stipends through the new budget process. Katherine seconded the motion. Jackie Ortiz suggested that the existing amounts should be reduced, not eliminated. Ray responded that the amounts would be determined in the budget process. The motion carried by majority voice vote.

### **New Business**

The President reported that the terms of the hotel contract for **Santa Clara 2024** are still being negotiated. She discussed aspects of the negotiations. One proposal is to use smaller rooms rather than the Grand Ballroom. Controlling the Ballroom temperature is impossible. The President solicited opinions about the possibility of having shorter tournaments.

Ray moved to amend the recently adopted **sectional supply policy** to compensate Calvin per table "unloaded," not per table "ordered." Anne seconded it. The motion passed by majority voice vote with no opposition.

Lynn proposed that D21 should not continue to subsidize Units by providing



consumables like convention cards and pencils for their sectionals. During the discussion, it was noted that some remote Units already supply their own sectionals, while other Units that don't operate clubs don't have pencils and convention cards. It was also pointed out that it would take a lot of paperwork for minimal recovery to start charging Units for pencils and convention cards. The topic was tabled until we can determine what actual costs are involved.

Ray proposed that **regional table fees** should be increased to \$15 per table like every other nearby District after the Monterey Regional, which is already being advertised at \$14. Susan moved to increase the fees. Jackie O. second the motion. The motion passed by majority voice vote with no opposition.

**Nomination Chair** Jackie Ortiz solicited nominations for President, Vice-President, Treasurer, Secretary, and Executive Committee Officer by December 15 for elections in January. Also there are three positions on the Advisory Council. Ray mentioned that incumbents Bruce Blakely and Joanne Wicker are interested in running again.

**Finance Committee Chair** Tom Pajak explained that the Financial Accounting Manual requires an annual budget to be prepared at the end of the year. Members of the Finance Committee will work with individual committee heads in October to prepare budgets for their departments that will be compiled in November into a D21 budget. A special meeting primarily focusing on the 2023 budget will be scheduled to be held after the Nationals end on December 4.

The meeting was adjourned a little over two hours after it started.