

District 21
American Contract Bridge League
Virtual Regular Meeting of the District 21 Board of Directors
September 18, 2021

1. Call to Order. President Sigrid Price called the meeting of the Board of Directors to order at 10:05 AM.

2. Roll call. Secretary Ray Yuenger called the roll. In attendance were the following Directors of their Units: 465, Paul Pugsley as alternate for Ed Gould, Cornelia Gould; 473, Diane Todd; 497, Mark Kornmann; 498, Danna Sorenson; 499, Jackie Zayac, Sam Earnhardt; 500, Shailesh Shah; 501, Art Mirin; 502, Tom Pajak; 503, Kip Kado; 505, Jim Coke, Barbara Somervill; 506, Thomas Stillman, Gail Gabiati; 507, Lynn Bartz, Ray Yuenger; 508, Melanie Haddad; 509, Jackie Ortiz; 512, Sigrid Price; 522, Laura Da Costa; 524, Patricia Stone; 529, Libby Longstreth, Roger Smith; 530, Susan Mazzei; 550, Joanne Wicker. Also present were District Director Stu Goodgold; Executive Committee members Jean Barry, Anne Hollingsworth, and Nancy Boyd; and guests Lynn Yokel, Grant Robinson, Jeff Hack, Grant Vance, and Pam Hughes.

3. Approval of Minutes. The minutes of the meeting of June 29, 2021 were approved as submitted.

4. Officers' and Committee Reports. The **President** reported on her attendance at the Sacramento sectional and its Covid protocols.

Anne Hollingsworth spoke as **Vice-President, "Ombuddy,"** and **Sectional Coordinator**. She asked Units to notify her of their sectional applications.

Treasurer Lynn Bartz referred the Board to the report she had submitted.

District Director Stu Goodgold reported on how the ACBL Board has been trying to encourage the return to face-to-face play while accommodating the new Delta variant by not reducing the masterpoint bonus available in online play. The BoD is also booking future nationals. On a monthly basis the BoD is approving or disapproving sectionals and regionals based on Covid concerns. The Unit 507 was approved. The final decision on the Nationals in Austin is still pending.

Reno NABC Chair Jackie Zayac reported that the NABC is still scheduled and an on-site meeting was scheduled for the following week. Proof of vaccination and masking are pursuant to ACBL requirements. The District will need to provide a safety officer.

Tournament Planning Chair Nancy Boyd reviewed a displayed document showing the regional Tournament Planning Team and a task checklist. We are working on a

consistent D21 brand. We hope to find local volunteers for our regionals. Wristbands will be provided to those who have provided proof of vaccination. Player will receive a daily electronic bulletin. A draft schedule for the Monterey Regional was also displayed and discussed. Due to expected lower turnout, it is a 10 and 3 schedule only and fewer knockouts will be held.

Communications Chair Melanie Haddad discussed the first new version of the Diamond in the Ruff newsletter being distributed through Constant Contact. Open rates and click-through rates were high for membership organizations. Next issue is scheduled for mid-October, after which it will be published bi-monthly. She reported the number of visits to the new D21 website. Grant Robinson has returned as webmaster. She explained that Gmail tends to trap messages from Constant Contact in the Promotions folder, so members need to look there for it or deactivate that folder or identify such messages as not a promotion.

NAP Coordinator Susan Mazzei explained that 11 of 21 Units have scheduled NAP qualifiers, leaving out about 1,900 people who qualified at the club level. Two of those are in doubt.

Susan moved to “[a]llow club members who qualified at the Club level to move on to the District 21 Final. NAP Unit games become non-qualifiers.” She explained that ACBL Conditions of Contest allow for bypassing Unit qualifiers in this way. It was seconded by Anne Hollingsworth. Stu pointed out that pre-pandemic, 16 Units held qualifiers. Ray pointed out that the District hasn’t held a Unit qualifier for a GNT for a long time.

****MOTION CARRIED** by a show of electronic and physical hands. A majority in favor. One opposed.

Susan also moved to “[h]old the District 21 Final online.” She explained that, while the former Tournament Planning Committee (before all resigning) agreed to hold the D21 finals face-to-face before and during the Monterey Regional, this information was not given to the new Tournament Planning Committee. Pam Hughes explained that the original plan was partly motivated by the concern about meeting the hotel room commitment. The motion was seconded by Anne. There was discussion about the feasibility of holding the qualifiers in person during the Monterey Regional and what days or nights the events would be held. Concern was expressed about the motivation for cheating if playing online.

****MOTION CARRIED** by roll call vote. 40 weighted votes “aye,” 27 “nay.”

GNT Coordinator Grant Vance called attention to the conditions of contest that were previously circulated to the Board, including Covid protocols if they will be held face-to-face. No stipend was given out when the event was online, otherwise \$2,000 per team.

Ray Yuenger reported that the **99er NiteClub** had generated payments of \$6,069 in table fees to D21 virtual clubs for the last three months. Lynn Bartz is helping out as accountant for the club. As **Bylaws Committee Chair**, Ray conducted four nonbinding polls. 10 Board members were appointed by Unit President, 2 were appointed by the Unit Board, 2 elected by the Unit Board, 2 were elected by the Unit membership, and 6 are simply volunteers. 15 people favored all virtual board meetings, 6 favored at least one meeting a year face-to-face, 5 favored all face-to-face when it is safe to do so. 8 favored Board meetings during regionals, 10 say to offset meetings from regionals, and 8 have no preference. As far as the size of the board, 9 favor up to 2 representatives, 12 favor having one representative.

Ray Yuenger proposed that the Board adopt a policy on how it delegates its powers. Libby moved that the Board accept the policy that was circulated to the Board and displayed on the screen. Jim Coke seconded the motion. Lynn Bartz moved to amend the motion to itemize the Board's powers that are subject to delegation. Roger Smith seconded the motion to amend. Jackie Zayac made a motion to table the motions. It was seconded by Cornelia.

****MOTION CARRIED** to table the motions regarding a delegation policy.

Goodwill Chair Barbara Somervill presented a PowerPoint slide proposing a new structure for the Goodwill Committee and making Goodwill awards. It would increase the size of the Committee, the number of nominations per Unit, the number of awards given per year, eliminate Presidential awards, and create a new awards event at the Sacramento Regional. It was noted that customarily awards have been made at the January meeting. There was discussion of these proposals. The President suggested that Barbara form a committee to formulate proposals to present to the Board.

Cornelia moved that for this year, presentation of awards will be postponed until Sacramento, allowing time to develop clear proposals at a future meeting. Roger Smith seconded the motion.

****MOTION CARRIED** by electronic show of hands.

Western Conference Representative Cornelia Gould reported that District 17 has pulled out of the Western Conference, leaving only our District and 22. Cornelia has been

elected President of the Western Conference. STAC in August was 25% of normal. The continuation of the Western Conference will be discussed at its next meeting.

Jackie Zayac moved to remove the previously tabled **Vanguard proposal** from the table. Susan Mazzei seconded it.

****MOTION CARRIED** without opposition.

Tom Pajak, **Finance Committee Chair**, explained the written proposal for the District to open a broker account at Vanguard for holding its funds. The motion with five supporting reasons was displayed on the screen. Don Levine moved to accept this motion by acclamation. Ray explained the motion was already before the Board for a vote.

****MOTION CARRIED** in the absence of opposition.

Nominations Chair Jackie Ortiz asked for nominations for the offices of President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer in January.

Youth Bridge Chair Ray Yuenger explained his proposal to expand the Youth Bridge Program as circulated to the Board in advance and displayed on the screen. Grants would no longer be limited to facilitating attendance at the summer Youth NABCs. Youth Bridge organizations can also apply directly for grants. Libby moved to adopt the proposal. It was seconded by Jackie Ortiz. Roger proposed that grants could apply to any nationals. Lynn questioned the restriction of payments to \$300 per applicant.

****MOTION CARRIED** by show of electronic hands. 17 “ayes.”

Discussion of the governance attorney in executive session was postponed.

There was discussion about whether the January meeting should be scheduled during the Monterey regional or later.

Lynn Bartz mentioned that before the Monterey regional, the Board will need to make decisions about a 2022 budget, the hiring of staff for the regional, and a travel policy.

The President suggested we will need a meeting in November and Board members concurred.

The meeting adjourned by unanimous consent at 12:45 PM.