

District 21

American Contract Bridge League
Virtual Regular Meeting of the District 21 Board of Directors
June 18, 2022

1. Call to Order. President Sigrid Price called the meeting of the Board of Directors to order at 10:05 AM. She encouraged members to be patient with each speaker as there is a lot of ground to cover.

2. Roll Call. Secretary Ray Yuenger called the roll. In attendance were the following Directors of their Units: 497, Mark Kornmann; 498, Bob Gleason, Danna Sorenson; 499, Jackie Zayac, Anne Hollingsworth; 501, Art Mirin; 502, Tom Pajak; 503 Kip Kado, Max Schireson; 506, Gail Gabiati, Lauren Friedman; 507, Lynn Bartz, Ray Yuenger; 508, Melanie Haddad; 509, Jackie Ortiz; 512, Sigrid Price, Helen Bohl; 522, Laura Da Costa; 524, James Craig; 530, Susan Mazzei; 550, Joanne Wicker; and District Director Stu Goodgold. 497, Joyce Burks and 505, Katherine Ewing arrived after the roll call. Also in attendance were Webmaster Grant Robinson, Tournament Planning Chair Nancy Boyd, Lynn Yokel, and Charity Chair Jeff Hack. Unrepresented were Units 465, 473, 500, 510, and 529.

3. Minutes. The draft minutes of the regular Board meeting of January 15, 2022 and the special Board meeting of February 23 were approved unanimously as circulated.

4. Officer and Committee Reports. The **President** had no report and reserved her comments. **Vice-President and Sectional Coordinator** Anne Hollingsworth noted that she had received applications for sectional sanctions and encouraged Units to continue to submit them.

District Director Stu Goodgold reported recent activity by the ACBL Board of Directors. There is a new "Entry Express" form for purchasing regional entries in advance online. The "guest policy" for online clubs has been changed to allow more guests in small club games. Units are no longer required to hold a sectional every two years.

Regarding opportunities for masterpoints, all tournaments beginning with the Sacramento Regional have a 20% masterpoint increase in overall awards for the following year. Club awards will be based on the number of boards played with higher masterpoints available for more boards. VACB games have been limited to awarding 2.50 masterpoints per game, which reduces the incentive to play in large alliance games. There will be future Royal STaC events. There are other incentives intended to encourage face-to-face games. There are only two more online regionals in 2022.

Stu explained that beginning in August will be voted by Unit Boards for a new Regional District, with Districts 20 and 21 being combined so that the Board of Directors will be reduced from 25 to 13 members.

Regarding the **Western Conference**, Stu announced that a face-to-face STaC event is scheduled in August.

Treasurer Lynn Bartz displayed a preliminary financial report for the Sacramento Regional. Attendance was 48% of the pre-COVID regional. The net revenue was over \$12,000. There would be no profit had we paid a tournament manager and staff as we did in the past. We saved by not giving away fancy prizes and snacks. A table fee increase from \$14 to \$15 would have added \$4,000 in income. Credit card payments were about 99% of gross receipts. The ACBL is absorbing the cost of credit card fees. Some employees aren't claiming the reimbursements they are due. ACBL fees continue to increase. ACBL paid D21 its share of the proceeds within two or three days. Stu pointed out that we are fortunate to have some local directors for whom we don't pay airfare.

NABC Chair for Reno 2022 Jackie Zayac ac thanked all the volunteers at the Reno Nationals, particularly Anne Wilson in partnership. 6,204 tables attended. D21 made money from event-naming rights and the ACBL also gave the local committee \$7,500. Of these amounts, \$4,500 is left over for our next nationals.

Tournament Planning Committee Chair Nancy Boyd said that the Sacramento Regional got a D grade from players who answered a survey, primarily based on the hotel's condition and the difficulty of getting around the hotel grounds, even though players had been warned that the hotel was under renovation. We may try to negotiate a discount next year for players who attended this year. This is only our second tournament without a professional tournament staff and we are learning. The upcoming Santa Clara Regional won't present the same problems. An interim schedule for Santa Clara is online on the District and ACBL websites. How to solicit volunteers was discussed. While the Tournament Committee looks to local Units for volunteers, we also use SignupGenius to find volunteers from all over. Sigrid pointed out that our efforts to find local volunteers in Monterey fell flat. Nancy asked for any volunteers to train to be Tournament Chair.

Communications Committee Chair Melanie Haddad said we are getting positive feedback about the Diamond in the Ruff newsletter. We are looking for a new webmaster as Grant Robinson is leaving the area. He will remain in the position for a while.

North American Pairs Coordinator Susan Mazzei said that club qualifiers are underway and can be either face-to-face or online. The District finals still need to be scheduled. There was a bigger turnout online last year, but some high-level players refused to play online due to concern about cheating. We schedule more events than some Districts, which requires four days of space at a greater cost. The Treasurer explained that the District made money on the NAP finals and lost money on the GNT finals. Max Schireson and Stu Goodgold volunteered to work with Susan to find a location for the District 2022-2023 NAP finals.

Ray Yuenger reported that the online **99er NiteClub** averages about 20 tables a night with some decline during the summer. A 199er section was added in the spring for Club graduates. Since the beginning of the year, the Club has passed \$10,692 in table fees back to home clubs in D21. The Club also sponsored two 99er games at the Reno Nationals, which had 10.5 tables total. A Board member complained that “home” club owners weren’t given an opportunity to opt in or out of the new 199er section. Ray said he was disappointed about how that occurred, but he was told that it was too difficult to reconfigure the software to allow for separate opt-outs. The Board member says the 199er section is too attractive to people who might otherwise play in local 499er events.

Growth Committee Chair Max Schireson reported some work on updating the website to list lessons for beginners. There will be a youth grant proposal later in the meeting. The person who had been promoting bridge competitions among tech companies has gotten burned out on the project, so we need a passionate replacement.

Charity Chair Jeff Hack said there has been no charity money available the last couple of years due to the District’s limited income. Jeff has proposed identifying five permanent charities across the District. He intends to get involved next year with the Longest Day donations for Alzheimer’s.

5. New Business

Ray Yuenger presented a **Sectional Supply Policy** drafted by Anne Hollingsworth, Lynn Bartz, and Ray Yuenger that had been circulated to the Board. Under the policy, D21 will remain committed to providing its tournament equipment for its Units to hold sectionals. The payment structure will be changed to be fairer to Calvin Harper, our supplies deliverer. Under the old scheme, Calvin’s pay depended partly on the turnout at each tournament, not either the time he spent on the road delivering supplies nor his time and effort in unloading and reloading the District van at the sectional sites. Due to lower pandemic turnouts, Calvin has effectively gotten a pay cut this year. The proposal

is to charge \$4 per table ordered by a Unit, plus \$1 a mile for his traveling to and from sectional sites, plus a percentage representing the employer tax D21 will owe.

Another new procedure will be that when Units schedule sectionals with the District Sectional Coordinator, they should estimate how many tables they will need and will get an estimate from the Coordinator of the total cost of the delivery. Deliveries will be scheduled through the Sectional Coordinator and not Calvin.

The Treasurer displayed and reviewed a comparison of the costs of the first three sectionals held this year under the existing and the proposed payment schemes.

The policy proposal was discussed for 40 minutes. A proposed requirement for Units to pre-pay a deposit of the estimated charges was dropped. A provision for adjusting payments was modified. The percentage tax rate in the original proposal was corrected to the legal amount.

Because it was difficult to determine the vote by a show of electronic hands, a roll call vote was conducted on a motion to adopt the proposed policy and procedures as amended.

****MOTION CARRIED** by a weighted vote of 43 ayes to 2 nays.¹ The approved Sectional Supply Policy is attached to these minutes and incorporated by reference.

There was a motion to authorize the President to **employ Calvin Harper** as the sectional supply deliverer.

****MOTION CARRIED** without opposition.

Nancy Boyd informed the Board about an opportunity to **acquire the BridgeMates** that it has been renting from Dave White for years. Dave is also offering four cases for the BridgeMates and four servers. He is also offering stanchion caps and laminated table markers. He will also service the BridgeMates for five years, including installing software updates, and will repair our stanchions. The total cost of the goods and services is discounted to \$9,000, with a cost of \$65 per BridgeMate. A list of Dave's offerings was displayed during Nancy's presentation. Nancy advised that if the District doesn't make a decision, then Dave may look for another buyer. Separately, she advised that our regional tournament directors would like the District to acquire a

¹ During the meeting, the ayes were counted as 36.5 because the Secretary did not credit some individual representatives per the Bylaws with casting all the votes of their Unit in the absence of the other representative. Assigning the proper credit for absent representatives increased the weighted ayes to 43.

duplexing printer at a cost of under \$500 for their use. After discussion, there was a motion to accept this combined proposal.

****MOTION CARRIED** by a show of 15 hands (without weighting) with three abstentions and one opposed.²

Susan Mazzei proposed that D21 **remove a requirement of holding unit qualifiers** for the 2022-2023 NAP competition, the same as it voted last year because fewer than half of the Units were able to schedule face-to-face qualifiers. After 10 minutes of discussion, her motion was seconded.

****MOTION CARRIED** by a majority show of hands.

The President announced that while we are looking for a new webmaster, Gail Gabiati has been appointed the **D21 Goodwill Chair**.

Ray referred to a written overview that had been distributed to the Board of annual payments made by District 21 to GNT and NAP winners, charity, and youth bridge. Ray explained that one of the District's youth bridge organizations has asked for funding for players to attend the Youth NABC in Providence this summer. He noted that no money has been budgeted for youth grants for 2022, but he asked that the Board **authorize a nonbudgeted expenditure of \$5,000** to encourage young players during the rest of the year. The motion was seconded.

****MOTION CARRIED** unanimously by a show of hands.

Max explained that some of this money may be used to avoid a room shortfall at the Santa Clara regional by inviting young players out of the area to attend with a commitment to pay half of their room costs.

The President announced she would like to form a five-member **Regional Task Force** to focus on the future of regional tournaments in D21. This would be different than the Tournament Planning Committee. If you are interested in serving on this task force with Nancy Boyd, let Sigrid Price know.

² While this motion was under discussion, as the meeting had lasted past noon, the President asked if a quorum still existed. Per the Bylaws (Article VI.C) a quorum consists of Directors from no less than one-half of the 21 Units of the District. For every one of the last votes, the Secretary counted representatives from 12 Units still attending.

The President thanked the representatives who stayed through the whole meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 1:00 PM without a date being set for the next regular Board meeting.

DRAFT