

## **District 21**

### **American Contract Bridge League Virtual Regular Meeting of the District 21 Board of Directors September 12, 2022**

**1. Call to Order.** President Sigrid Price called the meeting of the Board of Directors to order at 6:35 PM.

**2. Roll Call.** Secretary Ray Yuenger called the roll. In attendance were the following Directors from their Units: 465, Cornelia Gould; 473, Jill Wallace; 497, Mark Kornmann; 498, Danna Sorenson; 499, Jackie Zayac, Anne Hollingsworth; 500, Carla Francis; 501, Art Mirin; 502, Tom Pajak, Grant Vance; 505, Jim Coke, Katherine Ewing; 506, Tom Stillman; 507, Lynn Bartz, Ray Yuenger; 508, Melanie Haddad; 509, Jackie Ortiz; 512, Sigrid Price; 522, Laura Da Costa; 524, James Craig; 530, Susan Mazzei; and 550, Carol Avenmarg. Max Schireson of 503 arrived after the roll call. Also in attendance were District Director Stu Goodgold, Tournament Planning Chair Nancy Boyd, Charity Chair Jeff Hack, and Advisory Council Members Marion Robertson and Bruce Blakely (for the start).

**3. Minutes.** The draft minutes of the regular Board meeting of June 18, 2022 were approved unanimously with two corrections. Extra letters were omitted on page 2 and the incomplete sentence at the top of page 2 was changed to: "Stu explained that in August there will be an election for a new Region 12 Director. Unit Board members from District 20 and 21 will be voting for the purpose of electing one member to the Board of Directors. Ultimately, this will reduce the Board of Directors from 25 to 13 members."

**4. Officer and Committee Reports.** **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. The lack of evening games makes it easier for players to drive home. The hotel contracts require D21 to sell a number of room reservations. The hotel staff were appreciative of having customers. We need to find a way to hold tournaments without relying on the same small group of volunteers.

**Vice-President and Sectional Coordinator** Anne Hollingsworth noted that she had received applications for sectional sanctions and encouraged Units to continue to submit them. She is in the process of updating the online calendar.

**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 in 2022. Santa Clara and Sparks are expected to be losses. The Santa Clara table count was 47% of pre-COVID attendance. She explained why there is still so much in the District's bank accounts. There was discussion about raising money by promoting more Grass Roots events in local clubs, though it wasn't successful before COVID. The Board accepted Lynn's report.

**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 almost 50% in virtual club games. More masterpoints will be available for playing more than 18 boards. 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 Committee Chair** Nancy Boyd heard that many people at the All-Western Regional had a good time and want 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 Oregon to come to Sparks. We expect a small turnout in Sparks. We are offering fewer events because the tournament turnout is smaller while keeping the more popular events. We are still offering distinctive events at each regional. The Sparks flyer is on the ACBL website. Nancy is retiring, so we will need a new planning chair.

**Communications Chair** Melanie Haddad reported that D21 has hired a new webmaster, Cecelia 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, January 14 and 15.

**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 district finals events to minimize the number of sessions in a location, while still allowing players to compete in more than one event. Grant has advised potential competitors that D21 may not be able to give the same stipends in the future. Flight A players are likely to attend NABCs anyway.

**Growth Committee Chair** Max Schireson reported that D21 gave a room discount to only one young player at the All-Western Regional. There was a junior night with three tables and a pizza party with some celebrity junior mentors. Will Watson directed. Some juniors played in day games as well.

The **President** announced that Unit Presidents should have received directions about making Goodwill nominations to the Goodwill Committee by November 1. Sigrid was going to forward the instructions to Board members who didn't receive them.

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

**5. 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 due to lack of income.

Jim Coke moved that the Board rescind its prior fixed financial commitments in favor of determining future grants and stipends through the new budget process. Katherine seconded the motion. Grant Vance and Susan Mazzei said that no financial commitments would be made in GNT and NAP conditions of contest. Jackie Ortiz suggested that the existing amounts should be reduced, not eliminated. Ray responded that the amounts would be determined in the budget process.

**\*\*MOTION CARRIED** The motion carried by majority voice vote noting Jackie Ortiz's caveat.

**6. New Business. A. Santa Clara 2024.** 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.

There is a large upstairs room that would have accommodated the tournament. Controlling the Ballroom temperature is impossible. The President solicited opinions about the possibility of having shorter tournaments. She pointed out that such a change would eliminate the days with higher rates at Santa Clara.

**B. Sectional supply policy update.** Ray moved to amend the recently adopted sectional supply policy to compensate Calvin Harper per table “unloaded,” not per table “ordered.” Anne seconded it. This was called a drafting error in the original policy

**\*\*MOTION PASSED** 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 conventions 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.

**C. Regional table fee increase.** 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.

**\*\*MOTION PASSED** The motion passed by majority voice vote with no opposition.

**D. Nominations. Nominations 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 continuing.

**E. 2023 Budget. 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 after the Nationals end on December 4. Lynn promised to distribute updated financials.

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