

District 21
American Contract Bridge League
Virtual Regular Meeting of the District 21 Board of Directors
January 15, 2022

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, Cornelia Gould; 473, Jill Wallace; 497, Mark Kornmann; 498, Bob Gleason, Danna Sorenson; 499, Jackie Zayac, Anne Hollingsworth; 500, Carla Francis; 501, Art Mirin; 502, Tom Pajak, Grant Vance; 503, Kip Kado; 505, Jim Coke, Katherine Ewing; 506, Thomas Stillman, Gail Gabiati; 507, Lynn Bartz, Ray Yuenger; 508, Melanie Haddad; 509, Jackie Ortiz; 512, Sigrid Price; 522, Laura Da Costa; 524, James Craig; 529, Libby Longstreth, Roger Smith; 530, Susan Mazzei; 550, Carol Avenmarg, Joanne Wicker. Also present were District Director Stu Goodgold, Nancy Boyd, Jeff Hack, and Marion Robertson.

3. Minutes. The draft minutes of the regular meeting of September 18, 2021 and the special meeting of November 18, 2021 were presented for approval. With one correction noted by Cornelia Gould, the minutes for September 18 were approved. The minutes for November 18 were approved with three corrections, including the addition of a highlighted policy that was adopted on November 18.

4. Elections. The President took some new business out of order with the consent of the Board. Nominating Chair Jackie Ortiz announced that the incumbent President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer were running for their positions for a year. In the absence of nominations from the floor, the candidates, Sigrid Price, Anne Hollingsworth, Ray Yuenger, and Lynn Bartz were elected by acclamation.

There was a **contested election** for the new position of Executive Committee Officer. There was some discussion about conducting a secret ballot by using the polling feature of Zoom. Ray said that it had been tried without success at an earlier meeting. Jackie Zayac proposed that Melanie Haddad count the secret chat ballots as well as the Secretary. Stu Goodgold and Cornelia Gould each addressed the Board in the absence of the other candidate. Ray told Board members to send private chat with their votes to both himself and Melanie. Ray sent Melanie a weighted voting chart. Jim Coke suggested that Ray send Melanie a copy of the weighted voting chart after he tabulated the vote. The meeting proceeded while votes were submitted.

5. Officer and Committee Reports. The **President** reported on the Monterey 2022 Regional. The final turnout was 36% of the pre-Covid tournament. The Executive Committee had discussed a room attrition claim for \$87,100 from the Monterey Hyatt for the 2022 regional without making any decision. Room reservations declined from a surplus as a result of Omicron. Negotiations are ongoing.

Anne Hollingsworth encouraged Units to notify her about their scheduling of sectionals. She invited members to ask questions of her as the District **Ombuddy**.

District Director Stu Goodgold referred to his latest column in the District newsletter. He mentioned there is a new ACBL Convention Card. There will be descriptions of it in the ACBL Bulletin. Roger Smith is the Goodwill Chair of the ACBL. The ACBL Board will be considered changing the schedule for Nationals. Stu conducted a straw poll to see who preferred at 10 and 3 schedule as opposed to a 1 and 7 schedule. Three-quarters favored the earlier schedule.

Treasurer Lynn Bartz reviewed the preliminary report that was previously circulated to the Board.

Reno NABC Chair Jackie Zayac reported that planning was ongoing despite Covid numbers being high in the Reno area. Volunteers are needed. They can volunteer through SignUp Genius.

Communications Chair Melanie Haddad reported a 52% open rate for the December Diamond in the Ruff, which is high for our type of organization. She also reported what newsletter columns and what pages on the District website are most popular.

NAP Chair Susan Mazzei referred members to her newsletter article. The online turnout was higher than in prior years, but some people said they wouldn't play out of concern about cheating. The District made about \$6,000.

GNT Chair Grant Vance said the first flight competition was only 10 days away and registration is down so far. He discussed the usual turnouts pre-Covid.

99er NiteClub liaison Ray Yuenger reported that the five-district program in 2021 passed \$28,683 in table fees through to District 21 home clubs that have registered their players to play. He mentioned that the program was also sponsoring two face-to-face games for 99ers at the Reno Nationals.

Tournament Planning Chair Nancy Boyd appeared and reported on aspects of the Monterey 2022 Regional. Some volunteers were drafted at the Regional. The Monterey schedule was reduced in anticipation of lower attendance. The 199er game was less

popular than expected. The District did not have a projector at the tournament. Ray will be looking into options. The daily Bulletin was moved online. Jill Wallace reported on the success of her remote Zoom lessons for 199ers. Nancy individually thanked a number of volunteers. Only one person was penalized for disobeying the mask requirement. Nancy said that planning for Sacramento is underway.

Western Conference Representative Cornelia Gould explained that attendance was down for the December STaC and there was a new director. She recommended that District 21 continue to belong to the Western Conference.

Charity Chair Jeff Hack announced that he is making a proposal for a new approach to charitable donations. Jeff asked for volunteers to form a committee to discuss possible approaches. Katherine Ewing volunteered.

Before moving to new business, the President asked the Secretary to announce the results of the election. Ray congratulated Cornelia Gould on her election as the **Executive Committee Officer**.

6. New Business.

The possibility of withdrawing from the **Western Conference** was discussed. Stu explained that the Western Conference at one point included six Districts that banded together to produce a monthly newsletter and to operate S(ectional) T(ournaments) a(t) C(lubs). Over time other Districts have dropped out and now only D21 and D22 from southern California remain. The Conference no longer produces a monthly newsletter. Instead D21 does its own. The remaining function is to run STaCs. They give players a chance to earn silver masterpoints without attending a sectional. Placing high overall creates a multiplier for the masterpoints earned. It is strictly face-to-face. STaCs attract extra players to local clubs. The cost of the event decreases after a certain number of tables. The revenue is distributed among the participating Districts. When the Conference runs a STaC, the District doesn't have to provide a Director in Charge, a Treasurer, or a Coordinator. Stu also mentioned that the new Royal STaC is not a Western Conference production.

There was a question what kind of savings are generated from higher table counts. It was suggested that question be referred to the Finance Committee.

Stu and Cornelia, the current Western Conference President, recommended remaining in the Conference.

MOTION CARRIED.**On motion by Stu, seconded by Jackie Zayac, the Board voted unanimously by voice vote to remain in the Western Conference.

The Treasurer asked the Board to authorize the Executive Committee to **approve the tax returns and financial statement** once they are prepared. A motion was made by Libby and seconded by Anne. After discussion, Libby's motion was amended by her and seconded.

The Finance Committee will circulate the tax returns to the Board for review and an opportunity to comment. Then the Finance Committee will submit the returns to the Executive Committee for approval.

MOTION CARRIED**The motion was approved by acclamation without opposition.

The Treasurer reviewed some features of the **2022 Budget** as previously circulated to the Board. She mentioned that some documents from 2000 has recently been uncovered showing that the District had a five-year budget at that time.

MOTION CARRIED**The motion to approve the budget made by Lynn and seconded by Jim Coke was approved by voice vote without opposition.

A written **policy for reporting Executive Committee meetings** was proposed, moved, and seconded. Several amendments were proposed and discussed seconded in a half-hour discussion. Ray displayed the changing language during the discussion. Jackie Zayac made a motion to amend the original motion in the form displayed on the screen. Roger Smith seconded the motion.

MOTION CARRIED.**By a show of hands, the following motion passed by a vote of 18 to 1.

"The Board of District 21 directs the District Secretary to provide written minutes of Executive Committee meetings to the District Board promptly and no later than 14 days after the meeting."

The President solicited input about having the next Board meeting in Sacramento being face-to-face.

Jackie Zayac proposed that the Board be given an updated directory of Board members.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:43 PM.

--Ray Yuenger

D21 Secretary