

District 21

American Contract Bridge League Virtual Regular Meeting of the District 21 Board of Directors February 1, 2023

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: 497, Mark Kornmann; 498, Janice Carter, Danna Sorenson; 499, Jackie Zayac, Anne Hollingsworth; 500, Andy Sass; 501, Don Garka; 502, Tom Pajak, Grant Vance; 503, David Merenbach, Max Schireson; 505, Jim Coke, Katherine Ewing; 506, Tom Stillman; Lauren Friedman; 507, Lynn Bartz, Ray Yuenger; 508, Melanie Haddad; 509, Jackie Ortiz; 512, Sigrid Price, Helen Bohl; 522, Don Austin; 524, James Craig; 529, Libby Longstreth, Roger Smith; 530, Trulee Rickets; and 550, Joanne Wicker. Also in attendance were District Director Stu Goodgold, Charity Chair Jeff Hack, NAP Coordinator Susan Mazzei, and tournament director Lynn Yokel.

3. Minutes. The minutes of the special meeting of December 10, 2022 were approved as distributed with no changes.

5. New business (out of order). Elections. Five officers, President Anne Hollingsworth, Vice-President Jeff Hack, Treasurer Lynn Bartz, Secretary Ray Yuenger, and Executive Committee Officer Cornelia Gould were elected by acclamation without opposition.

Four candidates, Cornelia Gould and incumbents Bruce Blakely, Anne Hollingsworth, and Joanne Wicker were running for three Advisory Council positions. Anne and Joanne made presentations to the Board. Because he was traveling, Bruce had a prerecorded statement displayed via Zoom. Cornelia was on a cruise but had submitted a written candidate's statement. Ray explained that because there were three positions to be filled, each voter was allowed to cast up to three votes. The incumbents were re-elected by weighted vote with secret ballots (actually Zoom chat messages) counted by Secretary Ray Yuenger and verified by Communications Chair Melanie Haddad during the meeting. Ray announced the outcome during the New Business part of the meeting.

4. Officer and Committee Reports. The **President** had no President's Report. **Sectional Coordinator** Anne Hollingsworth reported that units are signing up for more sectionals. She asked for a volunteer to take over the Sectional Coordinator position. There were no questions for **Treasurer** Lynn Bartz about the financial report that had been circulated to the Board.

District Director Stu Goodgold said that he assumed Board members had read his latest Diamond in the Ruff column, so he was just going to report on more recent developments. Since the December resignation of the ACBL's Executive Director, a Board committee was conducting a search for a replacement. Paul Cuneo, a Board member, was serving as interim Director. Following the Director's resignation, three senior managers also resigned, those in IT, tournament operations, and publicity/sales. The CFO has resigned more recently.

The Board recently approved the multi-2 Diamond convention in some top level NABC events. Online regionals were approved for the week following the spring and summer NABCs. Districts are now allowed more Non-Life Master regionals than before. It is a popular event to combine with sectionals. Dave Merenbach renewed Unit 503's offer to hold such an event.

Regional Director Jackie Zayac reported that the national Board has approved a 0-6,000 event for the last weekend of the fall NABC. Jackie is on several committees including New Membership Task Force. She invites all ideas for building the membership. The "Double Dummy" movie is now available for streaming. Jeff Hack suggested that the younger players are more likely to play online. Stu said the median age of ACBL members is 76. Andy Sass recommended teaching bridge. Don Austin's unit is offering a lot of classes. He thinks we need to reach out to the recently retired.

Communications Chair Melanie Haddad reported that our webmaster had resigned to take a full-time job but she found a replacement who has the appropriate skills. The next District newsletter will be published in two weeks.

NAP Coordinator Susan Mazzei reported that there were 14.5 tables in the top flight of the District finals at the Monterey regional. B and C flights competed online, with 18 tables of Bs and 11 of Cs. Another District had complained that D21 didn't follow the rules for online NAP finals, but that District had misread the COVID exceptions to the rules. Both F2F and online were profitable. She will report the winners in the newsletter. **GNT Coordinator** Grant Vance said there's a nice web page almost ready to be published for GN team signups. Grant encouraged clubs to participate in Grass Roots month in May, which raises funds for NAP and GNT competitors. He recommended the District encourage participation. Lynn Bartz said that there's a complicated formula used by the ACBL to filter grass roots money back to districts. Grant explained that some of the money is kept for stipends for NAP district winners and entries to the national events.

All Western 99er NiteClub liaison Ray Yuenger reported that the online game had raised \$20,782 dollars that was passed back to local D21 clubs. District 20 recently joined the other five districts in the association. The association obtained an exemption from a new ACBL requirement of online clubs paying more sanctions.

Growth Chair Max Schireson said the ACBL Education Foundation was planning some bridge leagues so we are going to see about collaborating. Max mentioned that the Growth committee would need to meet soon to discuss awarding youth grants. Lynn Bartz said there was nothing budgeted for 2023 for youth grants. Ray suggested that the topic can be introduced as new business.

5. New Business.

Max proposed giving away \$5,000 for **youth grants** in 2023, the same as 2022. The motion was seconded. Lynn pointed out that the motion was really approval of an additional expenditure and not a budget amendment.

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

As **Tournament Planning Chair**, Sigrid Price said there is no contract yet with Sacramento for the Memorial Day regional. She has been looking at alternate sites. One in Sacramento looked good but belatedly mentioned they are commencing renovations. One in Santa Rosa is too pricey. One in Fresno is asking for space commitments. Sigrid has been talking to Table Mountain Casino outside of Fresno. Sacramento is saying they'll have the restaurant available again. Don said there are some good options in Fresno. It would hurt the club to have a regional there, but it's also an opportunity for their newer players to get gold points. Sigrid asked to hear if representatives thought their unit members might be interested in a Fresno regional. Table Mountain has plenty of restaurants onsite. Anne pointed out it's a smoke-free casino. Some felt it would require too much driving from their locations.

The Treasurer proposed **setting regional fees** at the first board meeting of the year. Ray proposed making the topic an item on every agenda to look a year ahead. Jackie Zayac mentioned that District 20 recently increased its table fees to \$20.

Katherine Ewing moved to **increase the rates** for 2024 to \$17. Jim Coke seconded the motion.

****MOTION PASSED** The motion passed by majority voice vote with one opposed.

The Treasurer moved to schedule table fee reconsideration at the first Board meeting of every year. Max seconded the motion. After discussion, the Treasurer suggested

amending her motion to make the topic a standing agenda item. Dave Merenbach proposed as an amendment that reviewing table fees be a standing agenda item as part of the financial reports for each regular Board meeting.

****MOTION PASSED** The amended motion passed by majority voice vote with one opposed.

Sigrid invited any proposals to **set the Board meeting schedule** for the remainder of 2023. Anne proposed having midweek meetings about two weeks after our regionals. Some favored midweek meetings. Some favored meetings starting at 7 PM. There were no specific proposals outside of discussion of general guidelines.

Anne Hollingsworth congratulated Sigrid Price for her 18 months of service as President, noting she was thrust into the role by the unexpected resignation of the prior President. Sigrid has accomplished a lot in the hotel negotiations to avoid worse attrition charges. She was presented with a gift certificate.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 PM.