

District 21

American Contract Bridge League Virtual Special Meeting of the District 21 Board of Directors April 4, 2023

1. Call to Order. President Anne Hollingsworth called the meeting of the Board of Directors of District 21 (“D21”) to order at 7:05 PM.

2. Roll Call. Secretary Ray Yuenger called the roll. In attendance were the following Directors from their Units: 465, Cornelia Gould; 473, Donna Neff, Sandra Haslem; 497, Mark Kornmann; 498, Janice Carter, Danna Sorenson; 499, Jackie Zayac, Anne Hollingsworth; 500, Andy Sass; 501, Don Garka; 502, Tom Pajak; 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, Anthony Toto, Laura Da Costa; 524, James Craig, Kenneth Johnson; and 550, Carol Avenmarg, Joanne Wicker. Also in attendance were District Director Stu Goodgold, tournament director Lynn Yokel, and Advisory Council member Bruce Blakely, and guest Milind Girkar.

3. Proposal for Non-Life Master Regional. David Merenbach of Unit 503 (“U503”) made a 12-minute PowerPoint presentation proposing that Unit 503 hold a Non-Life Master (“NLM”) Regional in partnership with D21 in conjunction with their Firecracker Sectional scheduled for July 5 through 9, 2023. The proposal is to split any regional profits between D21 and Unit 503, with the Unit bearing the sole risk of any losses. David noted that Districts are entitled to hold up to five NLM regionals annually, but none has been held for a long time. NLMs make up about 66% of D21, but they aren’t showing up proportionally at regionals, sectionals, or in club games. Winning gold points should be motivation. The Palo Alto Bridge Club site has the space available, with a hall adjacent to their regular club. The NLMs would play at the club. It is an experiment on both sides with no future commitment by either side. The proposed schedules for the regional and sectional were displayed. David credited Marc Cervellino of U503 for his effort in putting together the proposal.

Jim Coke proposed accepting the proposal. Several directors seconded the motion.

MOTION PASSED** The motion passed by a majority show of electronic and physical hands with no opposition.

4. Proof of Vaccination Requirement at Regionals. The President explained that, as of May 15, the ACBL has consigned the decision to require proof of vaccination at local

tournaments to the tournament sponsors. So it is up to the District to determine its requirements for its regionals beginning with the Sacramento Memorial Day regional. Jim Coke moved that the requirement of vaccination proof be removed from D21 Regionals for the time being, to be restored as required. Tournament Planning Chair Sigrid Price seconded the motion, noting that she had fielded several complaints when she was enforcing the policy.

30 minutes of discussion ensued, with a couple of attempts to hold a vote before the discussion was finally concluded. Several units and clubs reported having already decided to drop their own proof of vaccination requirements. Sigrid, Jim, Ray Yuenger, and Tom Pajak reported their surveys of their units' members.

It was noted that the ACBL requirement has been the two initial shots, but not a booster and that the ACBL is requiring vaccination at the summer NABC. Executive Committee Officer Cornelia Gould mentioned that the ExCom had unanimously recommended continuing requiring proof of vaccination in part because the ACBL is still requiring it.

A motion to amend the original motion was made and seconded to require masking if requested by one opponent. It was noted that the ACBL requires masking if requested by both opponents. After substantial discussion of masking, as D21 Parliamentarian, Ray pointed out that a new topic cannot be addressed at a special meeting that was not in the original notice of the meeting. Whether to require masking without proof of vaccination was determined to be out of order. Another proposal to relax the vaccination requirement only if masking was mandatory on request was also deemed by Ray to be out of order, over the objection of Max Schireson.

Because voting by a show of hands wasn't clear enough, a weighted roll call vote was conducted by the Secretary. The motion to immediately relax the vaccination requirement was defeated, with 26.5 weighted votes in favor of the motion and 31.5 opposed. This vote was interpreted as a majority favoring the continuation of requiring proof of vaccination at our next regional. The President noted that the issue can be reconsidered at the next regular Board meeting in June.

5. Review of New Events at Upcoming Regionals. The flyers for the upcoming Sacramento and Santa Clara regionals were distributed in advance to the Board of Directors.

Sigrid explained the nature and strategy of the new events, a Board-a-Match team event in Sacramento and IMP Pairs in Santa Clara. Ray pointed out that the IMP Pairs is currently scheduled to replace the two-day Open Pairs event. Mixed pairs is also

scheduled for Santa Clara. The events will also be explained in Sigrid's column in the newsletter.

Vice-President Jeff Hack asked about the Board's role in approving event schedules. Ray explained that while the Board has delegated scheduling events to the Tournament Planning Committee, the Board should be informed and approve when significant changes are contemplated. Jeff and Max opposed replacing the premier event of the All-Western Regional with IMP pairs, though they favored adding it elsewhere to the schedule. Max noted that experts consider the event to be too random. Sigrid said the schedule could be changed, but she noted that there is pressure on the Tournament Planning Committee to put together a schedule to promote regionals as early as possible.

Sigrid mentioned that D21 is on the verge of signing a letter of intent with the Table Mountain Casino near Fresno for a fall regional and that she will have to talk to the Executive Committee soon about a curve ball the Sacramento Doubletree had recently thrown at D21.

After the President summarized the consensus of the discussion about the new events, the meeting was adjourned at about 8:30 PM.