

Summary of Regular Meeting of D21 Board of Directors on June 28, 2023 via Zoom

By Ray Yuenger, D21 Secretary

1. **Call to Order.** President Anne Hollingsworth called the meeting 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, Donna Neff, Sandra Haslem; 497, Joyce Burks; 498, Janice Carter, Danna Sorenson; 499, Jackie Zayac, Anne Hollingsworth; 501, Don Garka; 502, Tom Pajak, Grant Vance; 503, David Merenbach, Max Schireson (able to attend only at the beginning); 505, Jim Coke, Katherine Ewing; 506, Tom Stillman; Gail Gabiati; 507, Lynn Bartz, Ray Yuenger; 508, Melanie Haddad; 509, Neill Ray; 512, Sigrid Price, Helen Bohl; 522, Don Austin; 524, James Craig; 529, Roger Smith; 530, Trulee Ricketts; and 550, Joanne Wicker. Also in attendance were District Director Stu Goodgold, Vice-President Jeff Hack, tournament director Lynn Yokel, Advisory Council member Bruce Blakely, and guest Shirley Shi. Jackie Ortiz of 509 arrived at 7:23 after solving a wifi problem.

3. **Minutes.** The Board approved the minutes of the regular meeting on February 1, 2023, and the special meeting on April 4, 2023, as circulated without changes. The President noted that the Board had also been sent minutes of a May 3, 2023 Executive Committee meeting.

4. **Officer and Committee Reports.** The **President** thanked the Tournament Committee and Chair for a successful Sacramento Regional. She announced her appointments of Ed Nagy as the D21 Recorder and Jim Coke as the NAP Coordinator. As **Sectional Coordinator**, Anne noted that Units have been active in scheduling sectionals and should contact her if they intend to do so.

Treasurer Lynn Bartz invited questions about the financial report that had been circulated to the Board. She highlighted that D21 had netted \$44,000 from the first two tournaments of the year. The table count in Sacramento was less than anticipated due to the ongoing construction. Lynn proposed that the Board should consider what to do with its new income, such as hiring staff for tournaments again and encouraging teachers and directors to find new players. In response to a question, D21 hasn't set financial reserves. Sigrid acknowledged that the Monterey 2024 flyer did not mention the table fees increase \$17 due to the urgency of putting out a flyer. The Secretary noted that the Board had approved the increase in February to apply to 2024.

Regional Director Jackie Zayac described the ACBL's Cooperative Advertising Program to assist in promoting bridge. Also, the Charity Foundation will be giving D21 \$10,000 in grant money in 2024. Don Austin noted that \$500 won't go very far towards running radio ads. Jackie explained that the ACBL will be looking for feedback about how new programs are working. Don Garka suggested social media advertising like

Next Door. One idea is holding social games at your club. Katherine Ewing suggested gaming magazines. Janice Carter suggested advertising on BBO.

District Director Stu Goodgold mentioned that a regional can now offer online games concurrent with or in addition to face-to-face games. Local sectionals are being considered which could be run by local directors, not ACBL TDs. Stu sought guidance on some topics for imminent Board meetings and obtained 13 minutes of feedback. One topic was putting restrictions on the Unit's share of membership dues. Another was doubling the club sanction fee. Another was increasing membership dues. Another was making silver and gold points available at clubs. Jackie Zayac suggested that if dues are going to increase next year, it would be a good idea to renew membership before then.

Tournament Planning Chair Sigrid Price said that players seemed to heed her advice about the ongoing construction at the Sacramento Regional hotel and either stayed away or didn't complain much about the construction. She received constructive criticism from a survey of players and would be sharing it at a Tournament Committee meeting the following day. We should be spending more money on the players, such as gifts. The Santa Clara Regional will be a different room this time. Professional players are planning to attend the regional at Table Mountain in Fresno.

Communications Chair Melanie Haddad said we are getting good readership rates on our newsletter and our new webmaster is responsive.

All Western 99er Game Coordinator Ray Yuenger reported that six District have now coordinated to offer online games to players with under 200 masterpoints. In 2023, \$4,920 from the table fees has been distributed to the players' home clubs in D21. The ACBL has recently announced an interest in offering online games to the same players.

On behalf of the **Growth Committee**, Ray reported that the local Youth Bridge Organizations did not respond to D21's announcement of available grants, so just this morning emails were sent directly seeking youth applicants interested in attending the Chicago YNABC. There had already been six applications.

Technical difficulties prevented new **NAP Coordinator** Jim Coke from initially sharing documents for his presentation. The Secretary was unable to share them without his computer crashing. Jim also had difficulty sharing the documents. Another member's screen was inadvertently shared. Ray sent Jim's documents to Dave Merenbach. Jin began his remarks after Ray's reports. In draft conditions of contest ("CoC"), Jim has a proposal to not hold Unit qualifiers. He wants to include ACBL CoC in the District CoC. The plan is to hold all three District qualifiers during the Monterey regional. Partway into Jim's presentation, Dave was able to share Jim's documents. The entry fees were set at \$15. A financial forecast was displaying estimating a profit of over \$3,800 based on the previous year's turnout. Jim also proposed including in the 2024 budget stipends of \$200 per player for the 3rd place pairs in each flight.

Western Conference Coordinator Cornelia Gould announced a traditional STAC will be held the week of August 21. The flyer is in the District newsletter. Clubs, not individuals, must sign up. Cornelia also announced that she is relocating out of the District and so must resign as Coordinator. Anne thanked her for her service as Coordinator and also as an Executive Committee member.

5. **New Business.**

Sigrid moved to discontinue requiring **proof of vaccination** at regionals. The motion was seconded. Dave asked on behalf of his unit whether a player could still require opponents to wear a mask at the player's table. Anne said that this was still an ACBL requirement. Melanie's unit had the same concern as Dave. Ray pointed out that the ACBL masking requirement appears to apply to NABCs, not regionals. Sigrid amended her motion to provide that D21 will require masking upon a player's request but will not require proof of vaccination. The amendment was seconded by Ray. After further discussion, Ray proposed that the amendment include that D21 will apply the ACBL's masking rules to its regionals, which subjects noncompliance to zero tolerance penalties. Jim seconded Ray's amendment. Anne clarified that one player can require opponents to wear masks.

****MOTION PASSED** The motion passed by a majority show of hands, with 19 in favor and four opposed.

The President announced the Executive Committee's decision to make the District's subscription to **SignUpGenius** software available to Units and local clubs that are interested. It can be used to sign up to play in a club game or for volunteers at a tournament. Anne Wilson will help Units who are interested and will draft documentation. If enough Units are interested, D21 will upgrade its subscription to the next level.

Sigrid encouraged players to attend the new regional at **Table Mountain Casino**.

Jim Coke made a motion that D21 no longer hold **Unit NAP qualifiers**. Sigrid seconded the motion. Units can still hold special nonqualifying unit finals. There was discussion about the history of holding unit qualifiers before and after Covid.

****MOTION PASSED** The motion passed by a majority show of hands, with 16 in favor, one opposed, and two abstentions.

The next board meeting is September 13. The meeting adjourned shortly before 9:00 PM.