

District 21
American Contract Bridge League
Meeting of the District 21 Board of Directors
June 1, 2019

The Annual Meeting of the Board of Directors of District 21 was called to order by President Tom Pajak at 10:03 A.M.

1. **ROLL CALL:** The following Unit Representatives and Presidents were in attendance: Unit #473 Diane Todd, Unit #497 Mark Kornmann, Unit #498 Janelle Van Rensselaer, Jackie Lowenberg, Unit #499 Lyn Sacco, Unit #500 Carla Francis, Unit #501 Art Mirin, Unit #502 Doug Couchman, Marcia Wasserman, Unit #503 Prue Saunders, Unit #505 Katherine Ewing, Jim Coke, Unit #506 Thomas Stillman, Unit #507 Stu Goodgold, #508 Tracey Bauer, Bill Yeast, Unit #509 Jackie Ortiz, Unit #510 Marilyn Minden, Unit #512 Sigrid Price, Unit #522 Richard Meffley, Unit #530 Richard Papst, and Unit #550 Laura McCabe. Also in attendance were President Tom Pajak, Vice President Ray Yuenger, Secretary Sandi Davis, Treasurer Jean Barry, District Director Jackie Zayac, Tournament Manager Pam Hughes, 2019 NABC Chairman Jim Leuker, Web Master Grant Robinson, *Diamond in the Ruff* Editor Rich Luttrell, and Caddy Master Doug Hong. Honored Guests: Anne Hollingsworth, Bruce Blakely, Bob Robyns, Donna Jett, and Virginia Gazely.
2. **MINUTES OF THE 1/5/19 ANNUAL MEETING:** The minutes of the 1/5/19 meeting were presented. On motion made and seconded, it was:
**MOVED: The minutes of the 1/5/19 meeting are approved as written.
MOTION CARRIED
3. **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND PRESIDENT'S REPORT:** President Tom Pajak noted that the Executive Committee met last night and the items discussed will be covered in today's meeting.
4. **TREASURER'S REPORT:** Treasurer Jean Barry noted that as the report distributed by email showed, the Monterey Regional made about \$25,000. She is taking over the *Diamond in the Ruff* billing from Rich Luttrell for Unit advertising. There was an issue in the past where a Unit refused to pay for an advertisement that ran in the *DIR*. If an advertisement is published, the Unit will be responsible for payment of the cost of \$100 per full page; billing will be via email unless a paper bill is requested.
**MOVED: The Treasurer's Report is approved as submitted.
MOTION CARRIED
5. **VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT:** Ray Yuenger reported that one problem with members not receiving the *DIR* from the Pianola email distribution is that it is marked as spam by the member's ISP server. He will post a notice on the D21 website on how to correct this. When James Ward, Pianola manager, is notified

by the member's server that the email is blocked, he simply removes the member from the distribution.

6. **TOURNAMENT MANAGER'S REPORT:** Pam Hughes reported that we will have about 2,000 table count at this tournament. She is satisfied with that as much of the country has shown a drop of 40 – 50% attendance. We do not yet have a contract in Sacramento for the 2020 tournament but Pam hopes they offer that once the new hotel management sees how well this tournament ran and sees our long history here. She has been working on five flyers for upcoming events. One flyer is for the special August 30th event in Santa Clara for I/N players with reduced prices (\$10 for one session/\$15 for two), gifts and trophies so please take some flyers and encourage your players to come. Pam also mentioned that the Reno Regional is holding the main events at 10 and 3. Pam also said the Santa Clara Hyatt has agreed to waive the parking fee for us for the next three Regionals. Katherine Ewing asked if we can encourage our host hotels to recycle the large amount of paper discarded at our events. Pam said we can ask but it is up to the hotels if they provided this service. Pam said we could put out our own boxes for recyclables. Marcia Wasserman noted that the hotels do have recycling containers for their employees so you can give them your recyclable items; if they get flooded with that it may encourage them to provide bins for public use.

7. **2019 SAN FRANCISCO NABC:** Chairman Jim Leuker reminded us that the NABC will be in SF from November 28 – December 8, 2019. The logo has been selected but needs a couple of changes. We will again be at the Marriott Marquis at 4th and Mission where it has been held since the hotel opened in 1985. The room reservation desk opened on May 15 with a room rate of \$165 per night; reservations at the bridge rate are made through On Peak. The schedule of events is now online and copies are available. There will be further changes to the I/N schedule. Naming of events can be done through the NABC Treasurer Jean Barry. Parking is not included so he recommends that you not bring a car. Table fees have increased due to recent losses at other NABCs. Per session event fees are now \$15 I/N, \$20 Regional, \$22 NABC, and \$30 NABC Platinum effective starting in Las Vegas. Steve Bates, our scheduled Tournament Director in Charge for SF, retired yesterday so our new DIC is Ken Horwedel. Jim yielded the floor to the SF NABC Volunteer Chair Sigrid Price. Sigrid distributed packets including instructions for volunteers at each Unit's Volunteer Day. She paired larger units with smaller units for volunteers to staff four desks – Registration, Prize, I/N, and Information. With the help of the webmaster, a sign-up sheet is now on the D21 website so Unit members can choose the days and times which are convenient for them to volunteer. Sigrid needs 12 volunteers four times a day and no volunteer will be turned away. We need to work together to make this a success. Jim thanked Sigrid for her hard work on putting this package together and thanked Cheryl Haines and Janelle Van Rensselaer for their exceptional work on establishing the I/N schedule and events. They are having a youth day, a separate party, and it will be like having a tournament

within a tournament. Jim also mentioned that *Beach Blanket Babylon* will be ending its run after 45 years and that, although we are not organizing a group excursion during the NABC, it would be a wonderful time to see this show before it ends.

8. **DISTRICT DIRECTOR REPORT:** Jackie Zayac stated she needs interested people to contact her about volunteering to mentor at the August 30th I/N event in Santa Clara mentioned by Pam. Jackie said there are changes to the child care policy at NABCs. In Memphis there were only two children in the program so the child care courtesy will no longer be offered. Instead ACBL is asking the local site to recommend suitable local child care options. Also, at the Goodwill reception, there will no longer be a hosted bar at the event. ACBL also reduced the benefits for the Goodwill Chair as they were getting much more than any other Volunteer Chair. The capital budget this year is \$157,000 which will be used to replace the roof at the Horn Lake offices. Jackie also mentioned the changes to the masterpoint awards for 4 session Swiss team events. The awards will increase by 60% next year. Jackie said that the policy for the second place team in Flights B and C in the GNTs was clarified to read that it must actually be the team that placed second in the event. Collusive cheaters at any NABC Plus or equivalent level events will be expelled. Readmission for cheaters is still allowed after five years if the cheater admits to the crime before it goes to a hearing, and if no admission, they can be reinstated in ten years. The one change is that both the Anti-Cheating Commission and the Ethical Oversight Committee will be notified and be allowed to speak to the board about any concerns before a vote. Also, players who won a tournament with players convicted of cheating can relinquish past titles if they wish. Jackie said she has contacted Nancy Boyd about adding Mid-Flight events on every day of the SF NABC. Jackie was asked if she was at liberty to discuss recently settled lawsuits against the ACBL. Sigrid clarified that she wants to know how ACBL is handling the lawsuits and how much of the payouts come from insurance and how much from our pockets. Jackie said that information was not released. Jackie said the grand total was about \$990,000. Thomas Stillman commented that since we have to pay a fortune to play at the NABCs due in part to the lawsuit payments, we should have the right to know how much came out of our pockets versus insurance. Pam said interested parties can go to Bridge Winners and follow the threads to get some specifics. Diane Todd asked for more information on what the lawsuits involved. Ray said there are at least three lawsuits of which two have been resolved. One involved the termination of ACBL CEO Bahar Gidwani and you can see details of that on Bridge Winners where Gidwani wrote an article entitled *My Turn to Speak*. The second involved former District Director Bruce Blakely and was settled earlier this year. Bruce said he is available to discuss details with any interested parties. Jackie said it was settled for \$550,000 and Bruce's agreement to attend an ACBL approved sexual harassment class by December 31, 2019, at which time he will be removed from a probationary status and reinstated as a member in good standing effective January 1, 2020. Ray said there is a third lawsuit which is ongoing involving part-time tournament directors'

status as employees instead of independent contractors. Stu Goodgold added that part-time tournament directors claimed that they weren't paid wages on an hourly basis rather than the number of days or events. Doug Couchman added a comment to Jackie's masterpoint report. As a member of the seven member masterpoint committee, Doug stated that in addition to this year's changes, the committee is preparing to present additional changes to benefit the players at an upcoming meeting to be implemented in 2021. A question was raised regarding the wearing of Smart watches in the playing area as it could be used to cheat. Jackie responded that this should be addressed since cell phones and other electronic devices are regulated in playing areas already. Pam responded that D21 does enforce this but it is the tournament directors that monitor it. For example, if a td sees someone on their cell phone in the playing area, they will be penalized, but the director can't be everywhere. Tracey Bauer suggested that a reminder could be published in the Daily Bulletins about the policy regarding electronic devices.

9. **WESTERN CONFERENCE REPORT:** Tom announced that Cornelia Gould was unable to attend due to a scheduling conflict and her report is tabled until the meeting in Santa Clara.
10. **TOURNAMENT COORDINATOR:** Richard Meffley sent an email to all yesterday with the updated tournament calendar through 2020. It will also be on the D21 website. He asked that Representatives make sure their Unit Tournament Chair is given the information and that if the Unit Chair has any question they should feel free to contact him by either email or phone. Some people commented that they have difficulty with opening the download cleanly – it has missing lines and disoriented text. Tracey asked if Richard could try not to schedule the Firecracker Sectional opposite the Long Beach Regional as many players like to attend both. Sigrid noted that Richard always alerts the Sectional if they are opposite a larger event and it is the choice of the Unit if they want to reschedule.
11. **GOODWILL:** Tom stated that Ginny Wailes had a family emergency and asked that he give her report. The Goodwill review committee of Prue Saunders, Anne Hollingsworth, Sandi Davis and Tom Pajak have agreed to continue and invited anyone else that would like to be on the nomination review committee to contact her. She will distribute nomination materials at the September 1, 2019, Board of Directors meeting. The nomination deadline is November 1. Awards will be given on January 11, 2020, at the Monterey Regional.
12. **NAP:** Stu Goodgold said the NAP finals were moved around a bit following the discussions at the January board meeting. Flight B finals will be held on November 23, 2019. Flight A will be a 2 day event held on January 4 and 5, 2020. Flight C finals will be held on January 5. Club qualifiers will be held in June, July and August with the Unit qualifiers in September, October and before November 23. The schedule is tight because the Unit finals cannot be held

opposite Regionals and there are two Regionals in September/October. Units need to send him the dates for their finals because they must have his approval to apply for a sanction. Stu noted that you only need to qualify in one Club qualifier but Clubs can hold many qualifiers; however, each Unit can only hold one qualifier and if you don't qualify you are eliminated because you may not play in more than one Unit qualifying game. Art Mirin asked why all qualifiers are not held in January if possible and Stu responded that January is only two months before the Spring NABC and it is not sufficient time to make plans for attending and securing rooms and flights.

13. **CHARITY:** Jeff Hack was unable to attend today but will be in Santa Clara. Tom reported that this is one of the years when D21 is selected to choose charities to receive \$30,000 distributed by the ACBL. Jeff has received eleven nominations from our Units and Jeff has narrowed the recipients to six that will receive \$5,000 each. Jeff will provide details at the Santa Clara Regional meeting. Art asked if nominations were closed as he had not seen any announcement of a May 1 deadline; others agreed. Sigrid said she heard July 1 was the deadline for nominations; others agreed. Jackie Ortiz asked why the money could not be distributed to more than six charities. Jackie Z. responded that the guidelines specify the division can be to no more than seven charities. Because of the confusion regarding the deadline a motion was made by Stu. Art asked for the guidelines to be distributed by the Secretary this week. Jeff will be notified of the extended deadline and consider all additional nominees.

*MOVED: Nominations for the \$30,000 charity grants be extended to July 1
MOTION CARRIED

14. **YOUTH BRIDGE:** Chairman Ray Yuenger thanked his committee of Katherine Ewing and Marion Robertson for their help in reviewed the grant nominations. They received 40 applications – 18 first time and 22 returning applicants interested in attending the Summer Youth NABC in Las Vegas. Nineteen applications are from Silicon Valley Youth Bridge, fifteen are from The Center for Bridge Education in San Francisco, two are from Reno Youth Bridge, and two are from the Marin Unit. They will again favor first time applicants with \$280 and repeat applicants will receive \$225. This is very close to the \$10,000 and is a good investment in our future. The question was raised about verifying that the recipients actually attended. Ray said there is a list of attendees and last year all recipients were verified as attending except one youth from San Francisco who got sick and did not attend but returned the grant money. Ray will again send a follow up questionnaire to the attending youth directly following the event to get feedback about their experience. Ray said this year we had a couple of 7 year olds attending the event. Thomas Stillman asked if an effort could be made to encourage these youth to better support the local club games. Pam agreed that it is good to encourage the youth to play in games that involve not just other youth players.

15. **D21 WEBSITE**: Grant Robinson reported that everything is the same. A question was asked about his comment at the last meeting about the ability for units to find composite lists of event winners by specific unit. Grant clarified that there is interest in that but no availability yet. Ray said he has information on how to do this through Jay Whipple's company who developed software to sort players by District, Unit, etc. Ray said there is also a guy in Santa Rosa who has developed software to search for winners. Ray uses both of these programs as Executive Editor of *Diamond in the Ruff*. The Whipple program is available through a link on Bridge Winners.
16. **SOCIAL MEDIA**: Tracey Bauer said she just posted the Volunteer sign-up information for the SF NABC on Facebook and reminded everyone to please continue to send her stories and especially photos. People can take their own photos on their phones and just text them to her with info about what they won, their names (from left to right), and any fun content. You can text to her at (415) 828-0655 or email to tlcinsf@hotmail.com. Jackie Z also sends her milestones she receives from Jay Whipple.
17. **NEW BUSINESS**: Tom said the new rules were recently passed by ACBL allowing second place finishers in Flight B and C GNT competitions to attend the Spring NABC. We give a \$2,000 per team stipend to the first place finishers in each bracket. It has been suggested that we should give a stipend of \$1,000 to the second place team attending the finals at the Spring NABC. A motion was made to grant \$1,000/team to the second place finishers in Flights B and C; discussion followed. Jackie Z. said the reason why this is being offered to only B and C is that those players make up the bulk of membership and ACBL wants to encourage them to come to NABCs. Doug asked that the motion be amended to reflect a \$1200 stipend. Question was raised about procedure if the second place team cannot attend and if it then goes to the third place team. That was confirmed as the procedure. But the question was raised about how far this goes – if the third place team cannot attend does the award go to fourth, etc. The amendment to increase the stipend from \$1,000 to \$1,200 was voted on by show of hands and approved by a vote of 16 – 6. Tracey referenced an issue that arose in Southern California about event finishes where the Flight A winners beat the competing teams, left the event and the event scoring was changed to Victory Points which reversed the winners. Tracey asked that the Conditions of Contest for the D21 GNTs be carefully reviewed for clarity. Jackie Ortiz noted that Chairman Grant Vance has to submit the D21 Conditions of Contest to the ACBL each year.
- *MOVED: A stipend of \$1200/team will be awarded to second team to attend the Spring NABC finals in Flights B and C of the GNTs, effective in 2020
- MOTION CARRIED**
- Richard Meffley noted that the finals award first, second and third place but since there are four teams in the final, what if there is a tie for third and the second place team cannot attend. It was agreed that this must be clearly spelled out in the Conditions of Contest. This issue will be tabled and Grant Vance will be

asked to clarify this in the Conditions of Contest for discussion and approval at the Board of Directors meeting in Santa Clara

*MOVED: The process for awarding second place to a team should either first or second place finishers in the event be unable to attend the Spring NABC be tabled to the Board meeting in Santa Clara in September.

MOTION CARRIED

18. **NEW BUSINESS:** Pam addressed the fact that the new Electronic Daily Bulletin has been implemented at this Regional. The first notification goes to anyone who played at the Regional last year and subsequent notifications come the first time you enter an event (except the first session of the KOs). This will reduce the number of paper Bulletins we need to print. Tracey asked if a link to the Bulletin could be added to ACBL Live like at the NABC events. Pam said that ACBL Live won't do it for Regionals. Jackie Z said that right now everything at ACBL is "bandaided" together and hopefully this will change in the near future. It arrives via Fast Results which provides a link to the Daily Bulletin.

19. **OLD BUSINESS:** Tom stated that Dan Williams's health has been declining as has his work providing duplicated boards for our Regionals. It is time to bring our board duplication in house as has been discussed for several years. It would require the purchase of two duplicating machines, board sets, cards and any ancillary items needed to duplicate 150 – 200 board sets per Regional. Pam has secured a person who is willing to provide this service for each of our four Regionals. We currently pay Dan \$4,500+/tournament for his mediocre work and we could recapture the estimated set up cost of \$20,000 in under two years. We would ask Dan to complete his work at the Santa Clara Regional. We would have our program in place for the Reno Regional and beyond. A question was raised about the cost for the person Pam has in mind to duplicate the boards. She said that cost would be about \$1100/tournament. It was clarified that we would own the equipment. Katherine Ewing suggested that if the candidate Pam is hoping to hire for the job falls through, local units could assist until a permanent employee is hired. Stu said that the initial boards made for the tournaments will only last a couple of days so there will need to be a person at the tournament making boards. Pam said caddies can also assist. Tracey expressed concern that we need to make sure any volunteers are non-playing volunteers to avoid security issues. Tom explained that is the reason why Pam is going to hire another staff person to take on this task. Richard Papst addressed the fact there needs to be a motion addressing the financial cost of a staff person dedicated to the board making.
*MOVED: A motion was made and seconded that District purchase two dealing machines, boards, cards, etc. to bring board making in house for our four Regionals each year with a financial allocation of up to \$20,000.
MOTION CARRIED
**MOVED: A motion was made and seconded that the Tournament Manager secure a staff person at each Regional at the cost of up to \$1500/tournament
MOTION CARRIED

20. **ADJOURNMENT**: The meeting was adjourned at 11:58 A.M. The next meeting of the Board of Directors of District 21 will be held at 10:00 A.M. on Sunday, September 1, 2019, at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Santa Clara.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandi Davis, Secretary
District 21