

District 21

American Contract Bridge League

Meeting of the District 21 Board of Directors

September 1, 2019

The Meeting of the Board of Directors of District 21 was called to order by President Tom Pajak at 9:59 A.M. in Santa Clara.

1. **ROLL CALL:** The following Unit Representatives and Presidents were in attendance: Unit #465 Ed Gould, Cornelia Gould; Unit #473 Diane Todd; Unit #497 Mark Kornmann; Unit #498 Janelle Van Rensselaer, Jackie Lowenberg; Unit #499 Lyn Sacco; Unit #500 Shailesh Shah; Unit #501 Art Mirin; Unit #502 Doug Couchman; Unit #503 Kip Kado, Prue Saunders; Unit #505 Jim Coke, Dave Wilmot; Unit #506 Marion Robertson, Thomas Stillman; Unit #507 Stu Goodgold; Unit #508 Tracey Bauer, Bill Yeast; Unit #509 Jackie Ortiz; Unit #510 Marilyn Minden; Unit #512 Sigrid Price; Unit #522 Richard Meffley; Unit #524 Linda King, Patricia Stone; Unit #529 Roger Smith; Unit #530 Richard Papst; Unit #550 Laura McCabe. Also in attendance were Charity Chairman Jeff Hack, Goodwill Chairwoman Ginny Wailes, President Tom Pajak, Vice President Ray Yuenger, Secretary Sandi Davis, Treasurer Jean Barry, District Director Jackie Zayac, Tournament Manager Pam Hughes, 2019 SF NABC Chairman Jim Leuker, and Honored Guests: Anne Hollingsworth and Mike Sailor.
2. **MINUTES OF THE 6/1/19 MEETING:** The minutes of the 6/1/19 meeting were presented. On motion made and seconded, it was:

**MOVED: The minutes of the 6/1/19 meeting are approved as written.
MOTION CARRIED
3. **PRESIDENT:** President Tom Pajak reported that there was a meeting last night of the Executive Committee. Most items discussed will be presented today.
4. **TREASURER:** Treasurer Jean Barry reported that we made about \$20,000 at the Sacramento Regional and \$25,000 at the Monterey Regional. We are solvent and everything is fine. The Reno/Sparks Regional was compressed on Jean's report as that was in 2018. It was detailed on earlier Treasurer's reports. Ray added that the net was about \$23,000.

**MOVED: The Treasurer's Report is approved as submitted.
MOTION CARRIED
5. **VICE PRESIDENT:** Ray Yuenger reported that the *Diamond in the Ruff (DIR)* newsletter has not yet been distributed but will be sent out in the next day or so due to some delays. Some members still are not receiving the notifications due to

Pianola problems. In last month's column he detailed ways to correct the blocked distribution but members can always find the newsletter on the D21 website. Youth Bridge distributed forty grants for applicants to attend the Youth NABC in Las Vegas of which thirty-nine were able to attend. The youth have six sessions they can play and most of them played at least two-thirds of that and many played additional events. A survey was distributed for feedback on the program via MailChimp where you can track opened emails more easily. It may be an option for the District for distribution of *DIR* but he needs to learn more about it first. As Disciplinary Chairman, Ray reported changes to Unit Disciplinary Chairs and Recorders made at the last National meeting. They are eliminating both positions and all incidents will be reported directly to the District after the first of the year. Kate Hill (kate.hill@sbcglobal.net) is the District Recorder. Jackie Zayac added that this decision was made to streamline the disciplinary process. Ray agreed that if a complaint is made and it is a serious infraction it would eventually be referred to the District anyway.

6. **TOURNAMENT MANAGER:** Pam Hughes reported that the special 299er day held at this tournament on Friday was extremely successful. She was hoping for thirty tables and they had forty-two and in the evening they had eighteen; last year they had four in the evening. Jackie Z. provided surveys and many participants had never attended a Regional event. We can't do it in Monterey because the flyers are already out but she would like to see this done at every tournament beginning in Sacramento. She thanked Jackie Z. for all of her hard work to help make this a success as well as Cheryl Haines and Ray Yuenger for their help with targeted email blasts. The pair that won the morning event was a pickup pair comprised of a seven year old and a seventy year old. Tracey reminded the group that photos should be taken and sent to her. Tom Stillwell suggested that a special flyer be made listing just the tournament dates for the Regional 299er event. Pam said she could do that and compensate Kevin for the extra flyer. Patty Stone noted that she could get five tables to Monterey just from her Unit in Gilroy. It was agreed that the special game should be held in Monterey on Saturday.

****MOVED:** Every Saturday Regional has a 99er/299er game with special options for those players such as free or reduced fees, food, or free stuff to celebrate the I/N players.

MOTION CARRIED

Pam continued her report with reminders that the Reno Sparks Regional is happening soon and to take flyers advertising the 10 and 3 schedule. Reno is the first tournament where we will be making our own boards in house. We have a new staff member who will be making the boards and be sure to thank Dan Williams for his many years of service if you see him. We purchased two dealing machines and eighty sets of boards. Pam reminded the Board that these new machines are not available for Sectional use and are limited to Regionals only. When asked about the table count at this tournament Pam estimated that we will

come in around two thousand tables. Jackie Ortiz said two players from her Unit left the tournament because it was too cold. Pam advised that they needed to complain to the Director or her and she would notify the hotel. This is a problem with regulating heat to everyone's expectation. She also asked people to contact her if they know anyone eighteen or older interested in caddying at the SF NABC. They make \$15 per hour plus \$60/day per diem. Pam updated our hotel contracts: Monterey is booked through 2022, Sacramento is doing a year by year evaluation but is booked for this year, Santa Clara is through 2021, and Reno/Sparks through 2023.

7. **DISTRICT DIRECTOR:** Jackie Zayac reported that in Sacramento the four session Swiss team Regional event will generate better masterpoints (not to exceed 50). Club Appreciation team games and upgraded Club Championship games can now receive twenty-five percent gold or up to one gold mp. The Super Senior age has been raised to seventy-five and the senior age is being raised to sixty-two next year and being raised incrementally to sixty-five. ACBL guest memberships are free but you can only collect black points unless you buy a membership. Cheating was again addressed and titles will be relinquished going back to 2015. There is a movement to reduce the size of the ACBL Board in a manner Jackie thought to be a power struggle. She voted no on all motions.
8. **WESTERN CONFERENCE:** Representative Cornelia Gould reminded the members again of the reasons the WC was created – to fund the publication of the newsletter and to run STaC games. We now publish our own newsletter so the WC only runs the STaC games. She reported they are discussing whether the Western Conference should still exist as each of the three Districts could run their own STaC games. This would benefit the players because the ACBL limits the total number of points awarded to sixty tables so individual District run games would reap higher awards. They continue to have problems getting all six members to agree on meeting times to discuss the issues. Doug Couchman asked if it would be beneficial for our District to withdraw from the WC. Cornelia responded that the problem with that is there is money that is being held from distribution to the three districts (about \$40,000) due to issues related to the *Forum*. She discussed this issue with the Executive Committee last night and they suggested that they table discussion until the \$40,000 issue is resolved. Jackie Z. clarified that the STaC funds are distributed per table for the three WC districts and outside participants are divided equally between the WC members.
9. **2019 SAN FRANCISCO NABC:** Chairman Jim Leuker noted that we are fast approaching our SFNABC from November 29 through December 8, 2019 at the Marriott Marquis. Things are going well and we have sold out several nights and have overflow rooms available at the St. Francis Westin hotel for \$161/night. Parking is still not encouraged but Stu has done a great job of presenting many options. We had a meeting this week and will have a thirty-day-out meeting in a couple of weeks. Jean has done a great job on increasing our budget by selling naming of events. The entire committee is working hard to make this a great

event. The I/N team has created a one page flyer for ease of use for newer players. Jim yielded the floor over to Sigrid Price to speak about volunteers and she is happy with the response. She noted that volunteers will be released from their post in plenty of time to play.

10. **CHARITY:** Chairman Jeff Hack reported that he has been the charity chair since 2006. At that time he instituted the policy that charity nominations would open on January 1 and close on July 4 of each year. There are two kinds of grants given. Most years the District allocates \$5,000 to be distributed, and every three years we receive \$30,000 from ACBL to be distributed to charities we choose. This year is an ACBL distribution and the deadline was set as May 1 but the information was not clearly disseminated to the Board so the deadline was extended to July 4th.at the meeting in Sacramento. By May 1st there were eleven nominees for the six charities to be chosen. By July 4th there were seventeen worthy candidates nominated. At the Executive Committee meeting last night it was decided that the nomination period will be set as January 1 through July 4th each year effective in 2020 and Jeff was asked to prepare a report on how nominees are selected and send a copy to the Units and put a notice in the *DIR*. In addition, no more nominees will be accepted unless submitted by a Unit. Previously nominees could be submitted by an individual. Each Unit may submit one nominee per year. The selected charities for this year's allocations are the Community Services Agency of Mountain View, Los Altos and Los Altos Hills, Pets Lifeline (Sonoma), The Salt Mine (Lincoln), 10,000 Degrees in Marin County, Call Primrose in San Mateo, and Walnut Avenue Family and Women's Center in Santa Cruz. The overriding theme this year in this booming economy was people in need. Jackie Ortiz asked if the Board has the right to approve each individual charity. Jeff responded that if you had information on something going on in a court of law or of fraudulent activity that no one else knew, then yes. But the nominees are vetted by the Units and thoroughly by Jeff prior to selection. Jackie questioned the selection of the pet charity and a religion based charity. Jeff responded that about ten percent of past selections have been faith based charities that provide services to all. Richard Papst suggested that a clear line of delineation be noted that funds should go only to the services and not to support any religious function. Jeff noted that this year there is additional oversight because we send the list to the ACBL and they also vet the list. Diane Todd asked that the Board receive an inventory of the past ten years. Tom Stillwell asked if the nominated charity must be within the submitting Unit. Jeff said that the charity needs to provide services within our District. Prue Saunders asked if there could be a committee to review nominations such as the Goodwill committee does. Jeff said anyone interested in working on this with him is welcome to contact him.

****MOVED:** The charities chosen by Chairman Jeff Hack shall be approved for submission to the ACBL for the \$30,000 grant.

MOTION CARRIED

11. **ELECTIONS:** Jackie Ortiz said the election of officers to the four offices on the Board is held every year and that to run for office you must have been on the District Board for two years. There are two candidates interested in the office of Vice President – Anne Hollingsworth and Doug Couchman. If anyone else is interested in any of the other offices, please contact Jackie. Nominations can also be made from the floor at the time of the elections at the Monterey Regional.

12. **NAP/REGIONAL TOURNAMENT PLANNING:** Stu Goodgold said the NLM Regional will be held in Palo Alto on March 14 -15, 2020 so please take some of the flyers to distribute. There are forty-eight tables and reservations are recommended. If this is successful the District may decide to run a NLM Regional in conjunction with a Sectional. He also had a complaint that yesterday when we ran the All Western Open Pairs two-day event we also ran a two session one and seven pair's game. Pam noted that there were so few tables in that event that the Tournament DIC recommended eliminating that. Grant Vance, GNT Chair, asked Stu to report that the Conditions of Contest for the GNTs are being updated to more clearly reflect the parameters for second place finishers in Flights B & C now that a second place team can qualify to go to the Spring NABC. Stu said that NAP Club qualifiers are complete and that the Unit qualifiers are posted on the website and in *DIR*. He noted that players can only play in one Unit final. District finals will be held for Flight B on November 23 and all other flights on January 4 and 5, 2020.

13. **TOURNAMENT COORDINATOR:** Richard Meffley sent the updated calendar to the Board prior to the meeting. Unit tournament coordinators should contact him if they have not received a reminder to renew their Sectional dates and sanctions. Marion Robertson asked if they had to go through Richard to do this and Richard said yes, but that the notices are sent to the Unit tournament chair. Marion asked if anyone was ensuring that our Regionals are not being held opposite other Regionals at nearby Districts. Pam said she makes sure there is no conflict.

14. **GOODWILL:** Ginny Wailes said the purpose of the Goodwill Awards is to recognize players for their outstanding contributions and qualities at the Unit level in promoting bridge. She distributed packets which clearly explain what each Unit needs to do to nominate a candidate. The people that will be reviewing the nominations this year are Sandi Davis, Anne Hollingsworth, Tom Pajak and Prue Saunders. The nominations are due on November 1. Ginny suggested that the Units appoint a person to coordinate the nomination. Awards will be given on January 11, 2020, at the Monterey Regional. Ginny also noted that her Unit 498 is not included in the nomination process but they can send a request for any good nominee to the President for a special Presidential Goodwill award. Sigrid asked if there was a limit to the number of Goodwill awards given. Ginny

responded that there is not and that it varies from year to year. Tom thanked Ginny for her work to make this so successful.

15. **WEBSITE**: Grant Robinson was unable to attend today but told Tom that everything is running smoothly.

16. **SOCIAL MEDIA**: Tracey Bauer said she has done several different posts for Sigrid about volunteering at the 2019 SF NABC and that anyone with flyers, information, stories, and such should send them to her. A .pdf file works the best but she can work with other formats. Take photos and send them to her at tlcinc@hotmail.com or text her at (415) 828-0655. Make sure your Sectional chairs have this information.

17. **OLD BUSINESS**: Tom raised an issue that had been tabled at the Sacramento meeting regarding paying a stipend to GNT Fights B and C second place finishers now allowed to participate in the Spring NABC. Parliamentarian Ray Yuenger said a motion was made and seconded to award the second place finishers \$1,000. An amendment to the motion was made to change the stipend to \$1,200. The revised Conditions of Contest now identifies the two teams that are eligible to receive stipends. Robert's Rules of Order allows an amendment to an amendment. Jackie O. noted that there are four flights where the first place finishers are each awarded \$2,000 per team.
**MOVED: In Sacramento a motion was made and seconded to award a stipend of \$1,000 to the team that placed second in GNT Fights B and C who attend the finals at the Spring NABC
*** The motion was amended to increase the total stipend to each Flight B and C second place finishing team to \$1200.
MOTION TABLED
****MOVED: It is moved that the amendment to the amendment based on the clarification of the new Conditions of Contest be accepted.
MOTION CARRIED

**MOVED: A motion is made and seconded that a stipend to each team identified in the Conditions of Contest as the second place finisher and attending the Spring NABC in Flights B and C be awarded \$1,200.
MOTION CARRIED

18. **OTHER**: Doug Couchman wanted to clarify a comment regarding the use of caddies at the 2019 SF NABC. He heard murmurs when Pam said that caddies needed to be 18 or older and that they use younger caddies at their Sectionals. He urged caution if you pay caddies under 18 to work at your Sectionals; in his opinion, it is not in accord with California or Nevada laws.

19. **ADJOURNMENT**: The meeting was adjourned at 11:52 A.M. The next Board of Directors meeting of District 21 will be held at 10:00 A.M. on Saturday, January 11, 2020, at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Monterey.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandi Davis, Secretary

District 21