

District 21
American Contract Bridge League
Annual Meeting of the District 21 Board of Directors
January 11, 2020

The Annual Meeting of the Board of Directors of District 21 was called to order by President Tom Pajak at 10:02 A.M.

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, Sue Papilion; Unit #499 Lyn Sacco; Unit #500 Carla Francis; Unit #501 Art Mirin; Unit #502 Marcia Wasserman; Unit #503 Kip Kado, Prue Saunders; Unit #505 Dave Willmott; Unit #506 Marion Robertson; Unit #507 Stu Goodgold; Unit #508 Bill Yeast, Stan Green; Unit #509 Jackie Ortiz; Unit #510 Marilyn Minden; Unit #512 Sigrid Price; Unit #522 Richard Meffley; Unit #524 Linda King, Patty Stone; Unit #529 Libby Longstreth; Unit #530 Richard Papst; Unit #550 Laura McCabe, Carol Avenmarg. 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 SF NABC Chair Jim Leuker, Web Master Grant Robinson, and Caddy Master Doug Hong. Honored Guests: Cathy Johnson, Ginny Wailes, Anne Hollingsworth, Bruce Blakely, Lynn Baert, Will Watson, Jeanie Kwong, Nancy Kehl and Paul Davis.
2. **GOODWILL:** Chairman Ginny Wailes explained the qualities recognized by individual Units in nominating members for consideration and thanked the members of her committee - Tom Pajak, Sandi Davis, Anne Hollingsworth and Prue Saunders - for helping her select the recipients of the 2019 Awards. Ginny presented Goodwill Awards to Paul Davis of Unit #503 Palo Alto, Patty Stone of Unit #524 Gilroy/Hollister/Morgan Hill and Bill Yeast of Unit #508 Marin. Also receiving the award but not in attendance were Andy Fine of Unit #499 Diablo Valley and Cecilia Zachar of Unit #509 Santa Rosa /Petaluma. Tom Pajak presented the Special Presidential Goodwill Award to Jeanie Kwong of Unit #498 San Mateo and Will Watson of Unit #507 Silicon Valley.
3. **MINUTES OF THE 9/1/19 MEETING:** The minutes of the 9/1/19 meeting were presented. On motion made and seconded, it was:

**MOVED: The minutes of the 9/1/19 minutes are approved as written.
MOTION CARRIED
4. **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND PRESIDENT'S REPORT:** Tom Pajak reported that Committee and Officer reports from last night's ExCom meeting will be presented today.
5. **TREASURER'S REPORT:** Jean Barry reported that with two years under her belt she feels confident that our finances are in good order. While Regional

tournament table count is down, revenue is only down about 2%. She discussed cash flow for 2020. The tournaments make enough money to cover our fixed expenses such as the stipends for the NAP and GNT events, Youth Bridge, and the van. Last year we spent \$22,000 for boxes, boards, dealing machines, and in spite of that, because we had interest income and STaC funds, we are positive \$11,000 for the year. We made about \$4,500 on the 2019 SF NABC and interest income continues to increase due to better investment. In 2016/17 interest income was \$200; this year it was \$7,000. She also mentioned that the Tournament bank account was hacked late last year but the money was recovered. Ed Gould noted that the Reno Regional attendance was lower than last year; Jean confirmed it was down 22% in revenue. Jean also noted that the advertising revenue for *Diamond in the Ruff* is down 70%. She asked that Units be encouraged to advertise their Sectionals.

****MOVED:** The Treasurer's Report is approved as submitted.
MOTION CARRIED

6. **VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT:** Ray Yuenger said it has been a pleasure to serve as Tom's Vice President and to observe his calm and reasonable approach to District matters. As Disciplinary Chair Ray feels he needs to step down from this post; he has asked for anyone interested in this post to notify him. The role has expanded somewhat since the ACBL eliminated Unit Disciplinary Chairs and Recorders so all complaints now come to the District Chair. As Youth Bridge Chair he feels the application process is in order and will be sent to the Youth Bridge Organizations and Units in March. There originally was language about matching grants by the Units/YBOs. This was eliminated in the current program. As Executive Editor of *Diamond in the Ruff* he would like to investigate a new distribution service to use rather than Pianola. Ray also noted that distribution of a newsletter is in the D21 By-Laws. Stu added that Pianola is no longer supported by the ACBL since it originally was a free service so as of February 2020 Ray is not sure what the options are. Suggestions included Google Group and MailChimp.

****MOVED:** Ray is authorized to research and select a new distribution service for *Diamond in the Ruff*
MOTION CARRIED

****MOVED:** The cap shall be raised from up to \$10,000 to up to \$20,000 for the Youth Bridge grant program to represent D21 at the Summer Youth NABC.

*****AMENDMENT:** The maximum individual award shall not exceed \$500.
MOTION CARRIED

7. **TOURNAMENT MANAGER'S REPORT:** Pam Hughes reported that attendance has been down this year and that players are coming for fewer days instead of the whole week. She feels it was also greatly impacted by having two NABCs on the West Coast this year. She asked Representatives to talk to their Unit members about the 80% rule for hotel rooms and how it impacts the numbers if

they cancel days – the impact of not meeting the 80% can result in charges of hundreds of thousands of dollars. Pam said our current table count in Monterey is down about 10%. It was suggested that giving away incentive gifts might encourage people to stay an extra day or so. Ed Gould asked that a public notice about the Board of Directors meeting be announced so that interested bridge players could attend. Pam will put an announcement in the *Daily Bulletin* the day before the meeting.

8. **2019 SF NABC REPORT:** Chairman Jim Leuker announced that the 2019 SF NABC was a great success. He praised his committee members for their hard work to make this a great tournament. Unofficial numbers show a profit of about \$110,000 for ACBL. The one complaint we heard every day was “where are the stickers?” and Jim clarified that this was an ACBL error, not the local committee. Jim announced that San Francisco and Reno are both on a six year cycle for the NABCs; the next Reno NABC is in 2022 and the next SF NABC is 2025. He said it is a lot of work but the 400 volunteers were wonderful. The question was raised about the fees being so high that more people did not attend and is there any chance, following this success, the fees might drop. Jim said the ACBL sets the fees and he has no control over that. He thanked everyone for their help and support. Tom announced that the Reno NABC will be held in March 2022 and there is no Chairman yet so any interested parties should contact Ray if interested.
9. **REPORT OF THE DISTRICT DIRECTOR:** Jackie Zayac asked that everyone read her report online due to the pending elections and limited her report to two items of interest. First, GNT and NAP rules now provide funds to second place teams to attend the Finals held at NABC's. Jackie asked that the motion be changed to add "at the discretion of the District, funds may be used to prepare and promote participation by players in Flights B and C at the club level". She hopes that clubs in our District request funds to teach newer players how to play Swiss Team Games and that the District approves their requests. Second, Jackie voted against the latest ACBL Board Reorganization motion because she did not think it was ready to move forward until some committees are moved off the ACBL Board. The most recent motion keeps all 25 Districts, but reduces the number of District Directors from 25 to 13. The change to District 21 is to share a Regional Director (formerly District Director) with District 20. She plans to vote in favor of it at the next meeting and she believes this motion will pass. A question was asked if this would result in more management and less oversight. Jackie responded that 12 of the current directors are new to the board and many of the committees currently managed by the 25 directors will be turned over to ACBL Management.
10. **WESTERN CONFERENCE:** Cornelia Gould had a teleconference meeting on December 18, 2019, attended by all six members. Bonnie Bagley retired as the

longest sitting member of the Western Conference and has agreed to continue as the STaC coordinator. As of the fiscal year ending in November 2019 District 21 had received \$18,269 from the STaCs. There are concerns about the drop in participation and will try advertising the events more. There is no longer a Western Conference website and the STaC results are posted on the ACBL website. The committee discussed whether the extra charges to outside districts should be eliminated to increase participation. A decision was tabled until their next meeting. The funds remaining in the WC will be distributed to the three WC Districts within the next few months. There is also a committee working to revise their By-Laws to reflect changes to the WC role. John Grossman from D17 is the newly elected President.

11. **ELECTIONS**: Elections Chair Jackie Ortiz noticed that the Secretary mistakenly left the Unit numbers on the ballots and instructed the Representatives to tear it off the ballot. She explained that this is a weighted vote and there should be no indicator of what Unit voted for which candidate. Jean Barry is running for Treasurer. There were no nominations from the floor. Jean Barry was elected by proclamation. Sandi Davis is running for Secretary. There were no nominations from the floor. Sandi Davis was elected by proclamation. There are two candidates running for Vice President – Anne Hollingsworth and Sigrid Price. There were no further nominations from the floor. Each candidate was given five minutes to present her qualifications. Following the Board of Directors voting, Sigrid Price was elected Vice President. Ray Yuenger is running for President. There were no nominations from the floor. Ray Yuenger was elected by proclamation. Jackie explained that Doug Couchman was the 2nd Alternate to the District Director but has moved out of the District so a new 2nd Alternate needs to fulfill the term ending in 2022. Anne Hollingsworth is running for this position. Bruce Blakeley was nominated from the floor. Each candidate was given five minutes to present his/her qualifications. Following a vote by the Board, Bruce Blakely was elected as 2nd Alternate to the District Director.
12. **TOURNAMENT COORDINATOR**: Richard Meffley distributed the Tournament schedule via email last week. There has been a change since then. The Monterey Sectionals in May and October have been sanctioned. Make sure your Unit Sectional coordinators go to Tourney Trax to get sanctions. Libby asked that Sectionals not be scheduled opposite each other within a certain distance. Ray said the conflict with Modesto and Santa Clara was due to extenuating circumstances when Santa Clara lost their site for a year for their preferred weekend. Richard tries very hard to accommodate everyone by not scheduling Sectionals within a certain distance.
13. **GNT/NAP/ COORDINATORS AND REGIONAL PLANNING**: NAP Chair Stu Goodgold is working on the NAP schedule for 2021 and hopes to keep the same timeline as last year. Stu asked for some guidelines on an issue that arose. The top three pairs in Flight A and the top four Flight B pairs are eligible to go to the 2020 Spring NABC. In Flight B the winners decided they are not going to go. ACBL offered the opportunity to the 2nd through 8th place finishers and were

turned down. Stu would like to know how far down it should go. Following discussion it was decided that there should be no limit on how far down the list the highest contenders are. For Regional Planning Stu works with Pam to ensure that events are being offered that bring in players. He welcomes any suggestions based on popular events at other tournaments and other input into any changes our members would like to see. Cornelia mentioned that the NAP finals for District 17 are held at a Regional to prevent players from having to make multiple trips from remote areas. This was discussed as a possible option. Pam added that the other input they receive is from the Directors in Charge (DIC) of the tournaments and their travel around the country to observe what events work or don't work. Stu said that we continue to have the lowest event fees in the country for our Regional tournaments and he believes that if we are not losing money there is no reason to raise entry fees. However, the Sectionals are struggling and would like to raise their fees but feel they should not charge more for a Sectional than a Regional. Discussion followed.

****MOVED:** Discussion of raising entry fees shall be tabled
MOTION CARRIED:

14. **D21 WEBSITE:** Grant Robinson said all of the information is in place for links to hotel rooms for the upcoming Regionals. Also, the tournament calendars, *Diamond in the Ruff*, and GNT/NAP information are there as well as results.
15. **NEW BUSINESS:** Stu Goodgold has been doing the tax exemption filings for the IRS since the units were added under an umbrella in 2009. He would like to assign this task to the individual units. Tom Pajak's offer to take over this task of filing for the CA units under this group exemption was accepted.
- 16: **NEW BUSINESS:** Tom said he needs some volunteers to explore a couple of things. First, the District van is on a three year lease expiring in November 2020 and decisions must be made on how to continue. We need to decide if we want to purchase it, renew the lease, turn the van in, or find other options. Tom is looking for someone to explore the options, including financial implications, prepare a report and bring it and any recommendations to the board for discussion in Sacramento. Bruce Blakely volunteered to take on this task and Jean offered to assist, as did Marion.
17. **NEW BUSINESS:** Second, Tom reported we have not had the D21 By-Laws reviewed and updated since 2009. Many items in the By-Laws are no longer reflective of current conditions. Ray said he will be asking Marion to chair the By-Laws Committee and she will work with Stu, Jackie, Sigrid and Ray to have recommendations ready for Sacramento.

Grant asked if items on the D21 website that are policies can also be reviewed. Ray stated that as President he will be reviewing many policies and looking into policies that are somewhat opaque. He will be asking officers and committee

chairs to clarify jobs and policies. Tournament policies can be reviewed at that time.

18. **THANK YOU**: Secretary Sandi Davis presented a thank you gift to outgoing President Tom Pajak. Tom was given gift cards to the Lake Chalet at Lake Merritt as a thank you for his hard work over the past two years.
19. **ADJOURNMENT**: The meeting was adjourned at 12:16 P.M. The next meeting of the Board of Directors of District 21 will be held at 10:00 A.M. on Saturday, May 30, 2020, at the Doubletree Hotel in Sacramento.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandi Davis, Secretary
District 21