

District 21
American Contract Bridge League
Zoom Meeting of the District 21 Board of Directors
May 30, 2020

The Zoom Meeting of the Board of Directors of District 21 was called to order by President Ray Yuenger at 10:09 A.M.

1. **ROLL CALL:** The following Unit Representatives and Presidents were in attendance: Unit #465 Cornelia Gould; Unit #473 Diane Todd; Unit #497 Mark Kornmann; Unit #498 Janelle Van Rensselaer; Unit #499 Lyn Sacco; Unit #500 Carla Francis; Unit #501 Art Mirin; Unit #502 Tom Pajak; Unit #503 Prue Saunders; Unit #505 Jim Coke; Unit #506 Marion Robertson; Unit #507 Stu Goodgold; Unit #508 Bill Yeast; Unit #509 Jackie Ortiz; Unit #512 Sigrid Price; Unit #522 Richard Meffley; Unit #524 Linda King, Patty Stone; Unit #529 Libby Longstreth; Unit #530 Susan Massei; 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, 2022 Reno NABC Chair Bob Garret, Webmaster Grant Robinson, Charity Chair Jeff Hack, Social Media Chair Tracey Bauer, Goodwill Chair Ginny Wailes, Unit Presidents Jill Wallace and Tony Jackson, and ExCom members Bruce Blakely and Jim Leuker.
2. **MINUTES OF THE 1/11/20 MEETING:** The minutes of the 1/11/20 meeting were presented. On motion made and seconded, it was:

**MOVED: The minutes of the 1/11/20 meeting are approved as written with one correction.
MOTION CARRIED
3. **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND PRESIDENT'S REPORT:** Ray Yuenger reported that last night's ExCom meeting was extremely productive and that those recommendations will be presented today. Ray reported that with the cancellation of the Youth NABC due to the pandemic, no funds will be allocated this year. The updated forms were distributed and Ray received a couple of requests before the event was cancelled. As Executive Editor of the *Diamond in the Ruff* newsletter he is still receiving interesting columns from the Units but the cost to the Publisher raises questions about continuing on a monthly basis. Webmaster Grant said there is a way to count the number of times the *DIR* is accessed on our D21 website. He will send Ray the information. Ray noted that it is in our D21 By-Laws that we are to publish a periodical, but we may want to discuss changing it to bimonthly during this pandemic to economize. As President, Ray appointed Disciplinary Co-Chairs – Gene Simpson and Laura Kenney.
4. **TREASURER'S REPORT:** Jean Barry reported that we made money at the Monterey Regional, which is probably enough to cover our expenses through the

end of the year. Our monthly hard costs are about \$3800. 35% of that is expenses for the *DIR* and 40% is for the Van and storage unit. The rest is miscellaneous expenses. We are in good shape for a while. A question was raised about why the STaC distribution was so high this quarter. Jean responded that we received about \$7,000 from Western Conference in asset distribution with the dissolution of the *Forum*. This will be addressed later in this meeting.

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

5. **VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT:** Sigrid Price has nothing to say right now.
6. **TOURNAMENT MANAGER'S REPORT:** Pam Hughes reported that the bulk of her time is being spent trying to manage cancellation of future Regionals without incurring penalties. Ray added that her skills in avoiding the \$106,000 penalty for cancelling the Sacramento were amazing to watch. Pam mentioned that following the cancellation she heard from the Doubletree staff that they will miss seeing us this year because they really like our group. Regarding the Santa Clara Regional, Pam is following the Public Health orders for the county and will start negotiating about two months before the September event.
7. **REPORT OF THE DISTRICT DIRECTOR:** Jackie Zayac reported the ACBL is struggling with losses of about \$450,000/month in sanction fees. They had reduced staff and cut employee salaries by 20%. The "Regional" they held raised about \$230,000 and the Silver Points week is going like gangbusters, and they will raise more than \$100,000 from that. The National board has been meeting online every two weeks and they held a special meeting on Friday. She said one issue is online cheating on BBO. She said that there have been three cases heard regarding cheating so far and the perpetrators are being suspended or placed on probation. An online Disciplinary Committee has been appointed to hear these cases. A 0 – 2500 mp event has previously only been held at the Summer NABC; a Spring 0-2500 will now be added for Spring NABC beginning in 2021. The reorganization of the National Board continues to change but our Districts 20 and 21 combination remains the same. It passed on first vote, and a second vote will be at the virtual meeting at the cancelled Montreal NABC. If it passes, the geographical representation will consist of thirteen Regional Directors. At the special meeting held on Friday, a vote was taken on the letter sent to many in the area by District 25 regarding allowing Districts and Units to hold Regionals and Sectionals online. BBO does not have the bandwidth to provide this service. It was rejected by a vote of 5 yes and 20 no. Bruce raised a question about the projected loss/reduction to ACBL for the year 2020. Jackie noted that the projected loss, if ACBL continues with some Regionals and Silver Linings games, is expected to be about \$990,000. She suggested that the financials from the meetings are accessible and yes, they will be able to weather this loss with the steps taken. Jill asked for further clarification on cheating.

Jackie said BBO has algorithms to flag cheating. She gave an example of an unlikely double on a hand that probably would not happen without information from another source. Ray added that at the virtual games, if you see something that is an unusual or highly suspicious play, report it to the Director. They can then make a note of it. As a player you have an option of filing a player memo on an issue. Bill asked about the ACBL policy on guests and on "pooling". Grant said there is a policy that was recently updated at the bi-weekly Zoom meetings hosted by Jay Whipple. The updated policy is posted on the ACBL website. Susan asked about playing Directors. She said there are virtual playing directors in games. They log in with their personal BBO name and have the Directors screen so they can see all four hands; it is unethical. Jackie will make sure ACBL is aware of this issue. Jim asked if ACBL will be continuing to run tournaments and why Districts/Units cannot. The reason this was voted down is if all 25 Districts were allowed to run Regionals/Sectionals, BBO would be unable to function with the numbers. This is through the end of 2020. It will be reconsidered in 2021 if the pandemic continues. Ray noted that Jackie had contacted him and Jean asking if the District needed to run Regionals this year to survive, and she was told we do not, prior to her vote. Grant noted they should have not called their event a Regional as it confused everyone. Ray posted links to the Pooling documents and the Guest player policy.

8. **WESTERN CONFERENCE**: Cornelia Gould had a Zoom meeting on April 4, 2020, and voted that the funds remaining in the WC be distributed to the three WC Districts - \$7,000 to each and \$7,000 remaining to cover ongoing expenses. Bonnie Bagley retired and was replaced by Cindy Shumaker in District 17. They voted to cancel the May STaC games and the ACBL has cancelled all STaCs through the remainder of 2020. She is on the committee working to update the Western Conference By-Laws. Jackie Zayac is in charge of writing a Procedure Manual.
9. **TOURNAMENT COORDINATOR**: Richard Meffley distributed the Tournament schedule via email last night. All Sectionals through February 2021 are sanctioned. If you need to cancel your event please contact both him and ACBL.
10. **GOODWILL**: Ginny Wailes reported that her committee this year consists of Anne Hollingsworth, Sandi Davis, Prue Saunders and Tom Pajak. We are going to recognize those that contribute to their bridge community so start thinking about your nominees. She will be distributing documents in September.
11. **GNT/NAP/ COORDINATORS AND REGIONAL PLANNING**: For Regional Planning, Stu mentioned that the Intermediate Regional event scheduled for March was cancelled but he wanted to commend James Stuart-Smith for his hard work on getting players pre-registered for the event. With accommodation for 50 tables there was a waiting list for an additional 20 tables so it looked like it was going to be very successful. As NAP Chair, Stu reported that ACBL has cancelled this year's competition. The winners of the 2020 NAP competition will represent D21 next year at the 2021 Spring NABC. He also gave Grant Vance's

GNT report. ACBL has left it to each District to determine the handling of the event that was in progress before the cancellation. The Open and Flight B winners had been determined but the Flight A and Flight C were not. Grant was able to schedule play of these two events online on BBO so our teams have been completed. However, the 2020 Summer NABC in Montreal was cancelled. Grant has asked for approval of a plan to allow this year's winners to represent us next year instead.

****MOVED:** GNT winners of the events in 2020 shall be our representatives in the 2021 Summer NABC

MOTION CARRIED

Stu also noted that Andrew Chen from our District now holds the record for youngest player to achieve Life Master. Ray said an article on Andrew will be in next month's *DIR*.

12. **CHARITY:** Chairman Jeff Hack reported that nominations are submitted from January 1 through July 4 and so far he has had no nominations. He would recommend that we support giving our \$5,000 allocation to food banks. He named several and would like anyone who has a nomination to submit it. He also asked if we should actually make our donations this year. Jean said we can afford to make the donations if the Board approves. Jeff recommended that the Second Harvest Food Bank of Santa Clara and San Mateo Counties, the Food Bank of Contra Costa and the Food Bank of Northern Nevada be our selected charities this year. Additional charities will be accepted. Jackie Z also mentioned that she has an additional \$3,000 to donate from her position. She is concerned that Second Harvest gets a donation every time while there are others that are also in need. She and Jeff will make sure she is not donating to the same organization. Art mentioned that we need to follow our normal procedures of going through the Unit nominations. Pam mentioned that the Regionals bring in about \$1200 for charities from the first games. Jill mentioned we need to bring in a more regional/global view. Sigrid asked that we contribute an additional \$1,000 to the distribution.

****MOVED:** The charity contribution for this year only shall raise our charity fund from \$5,000 to \$6,000 distribution.

MOTION CARRIED.

13. **D21 WEBSITE:** Grant Robinson said there is now a function where you can see results from just your Unit if you choose. If you go to the home page and click on "by Unit", it will show the top 30 places. All agreed this is extremely useful.
14. **SOCIAL MEDIA:** Tracey Bauer posted the news about Andrew Chen. Jackie Z shares info. Please send her anything of interest.
15. **NEW BUSINESS:** Marion Robertson is By-Laws chair and worked to present technical amendments to the District By-Laws as step one of updating them.

These were distributed to the Board of Directors one month ago for review. Ray noted they are basically “clean-up” issues to the 2009 version. He also mentioned there have been changes to the ACBL procedures which contradicted our 2009 version.

MOVED: Technical changes to the 2009 By-Laws as proposed by the By-Laws Committee be approved

MOTION CARRIED BY 2/3 MAJORITY PER WEIGHTED VOTE

17. **NEW BUSINESS:** Jean stated that our lease on the van expires in November. She is recommending that we terminate the lease on the van now. It will save us about \$1000/month for the next 6 months. In addition, she recommends that we downsize our current storage unit which is currently filled with unusable items instead store our equipment in a POD. This can be delivered from tournament to tournament and when not in use it is safely stored on the POD site. It will be delivered to where we need it for our Regionals and Sectionals. Our cost for the new storage POD will go from \$560 to \$175 by doing this. All of your stuff fits into this, and it eliminates insurance costs, labor costs, and other miscellaneous costs. The details of how to empty out the current storage space and other related issues are to be determined. Tony has concerns about conflicting tournaments on the same weekend. Jean said the plan is for delivery to the Regionals and noted we are the only District to provide supplies to Sectionals. She said we got the van solely to keep Calvin delivering to the Sectionals. With the POD we would no longer be providing his services. We could investigate getting a second POD for Sectionals but the issue of whether your Sectional site will accept a POD for the weekend arises. Tony said this could have a large effect on our District as a whole. Ray noted that right now we are just looking at converting from storage units to PODS and eliminating the truck. Jean added that we currently spend \$1400 per month for a van and storage unit. Stu said that everyone should go back to their units and start a discussion of the costs if the District no longer provides service to their Sectionals. Jim asked for clarification on how the PODS work for negotiating local sites, such as around a bend and up a hill. This would present problems for their Sectional site if a POD is unable to do that, whereas Calvin is able to accommodate this. Art expressed concerns about the Sectionals being able to function without the help of the District. Pam added that this would involve additional purchases for a second POD for Sectionals because we require all those same materials for the Regionals. This would be a huge cost. The additional issue is how much the costs for Regionals are. Jean responded that a 16 X 8 X 8 POD is calculated by distance so a local delivery would be \$129. She also mentioned that another service Calvin provides is making sure all of the supplies get put back in the van and wonders how this could be ensured without him. The same is true if Units “borrow” equipment for their Sectional. Who will be responsible for return of those supplies? Ray believes for right now the issue is whether the Units are in favor of economizing in this way and discussion of how the Sectionals will be handled will be a later discussion.

****MOTION:** Accept the van committee's recommendation that we end the lease on the van now and change from the storage unit to a POD.

MOTION CARRIED BY WEIGHTED VOTE

18. **NEW BUSINESS:** Ray announced that Bob Garret and Katherine Ewing are being recommended to Co-Chair the 2022 Reno NABC
- 19: **NEW BUSINESS:** Ray spoke to the District's appreciation of the services Pam provides as our Regional Coordinator. She is compensated by the District for each Regional in the amount of \$6500. With the cancellation of our Sacramento Regional and possible cancellation of both Santa Clara and Reno, she will have lost the bulk of her annual compensation. Ray noted that the bulk of her work occurs before and after the Regionals rather than during.

****MOTION:** The Executive Committee recommendation that Pam receive compensation of 90% of her stipend for her work on the Sacramento Regional.

MOTION CARRIED

20. **NEW BUSINESS:** Ray wants to form a committee to study the effect of CA legislation regarding AB5 and classification of employees. District 21 has some officers and workers that receive stipends. Some currently receive 1099 forms and with the new legislation it is important that we are compliant. Ray has studied it and wants to make sure his understanding is correct. Cornelia and Sigrid volunteered to work on a report for the next meeting. Tracey mentioned that her company had to be restructured and she believes that Pam, at least, will need to be an employee.
21. **ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting was adjourned at 12:43 P.M. The next meeting of the Board of Directors of District 21 will be held at 10:00 A.M. on Sunday, September 6, 2020 either at the Hyatt Regency, Santa Clara or on Zoom.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandi Davis, Secretary
District 21