

District 21
American Contract Bridge League
Zoom Meeting of the District 21 Board of Directors
September 6, 2020

The Zoom Meeting of the Board of Directors of District 21 was called to order by President Ray Yuenger at 10:02 A.M.

1. **ROLL CALL:** The following Unit Representatives and Presidents were in attendance: Unit #465 Cornelia Gould; Unit #473 Jill Wallace; Unit #497 Mark Kornmann; Unit #498 Bob Gleason; Unit #499 Lyn Sacco; Unit #500 Carla Francis; Unit #501 Art Mirin; Unit #502 Marcia Wasserman; Unit #503 Prue Saunders; Unit #506 Marion Robertson; Unit #507 Stu Goodgold; Unit #508 Bill Yeast; Unit #509 Harley Connor; Unit #512 Vice President Sigrid Price; Unit #524 Linda King; Unit #529 Roger Smith; Unit #530 Susan Massei; Unit #550 Laura McCabe. Also in attendance were President Ray Yuenger, Secretary Sandi Davis, Treasurer Jean Barry, District Director Jackie Zayac, Tournament Manager Pam Hughes, Webmaster Grant Robinson, Charity Chair Jeff Hack, Social Media Chair Tracey Bauer, Goodwill Chair Ginny Wailes, and ExCom members Bruce Blakely and Jackie Ortiz.

2. **MINUTES OF THE 5/30/20 MEETING:** The minutes of the 5/30/20 meeting were presented. On motion made and seconded, it was:

**MOVED: The minutes of the 5/30/20 meeting are approved as written
MOTION CARRIED

3. **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND PRESIDENT'S REPORT:** Ray Yuenger reported that most of the items discussed at last night's ExCom meeting will be addressed as agenda points. Ray apologized for the length of the last Board meeting and will keep in mind that some board members have commitments at noon so he will be changing the order of the meeting to ensure that everyone is here for items that require a vote.

4. **TREASURER'S REPORT:** Jean Barry was unable to attend today's meeting but board members received a copy of the Treasurer's report in the package emailed. Ray noted that basically we have little income during this pandemic. Ray asked if there were questions and there were none.

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

5. **VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT:** Sigrid Price has learned to cut her own hair.

6. **TOURNAMENT MANAGER'S REPORT:** Pam Hughes reported that the bulk of her time is being spent trying to manage cancellation of upcoming Regionals.

Since the last meeting she successfully cancelled the Reno Regional and is now working on cancelling Monterey. She is now working on future contracts. Ray mentioned that there was hope that we would be able to hold the Monterey Regional 2021 but ACBL has cancelled all tournaments through February 2021. Harley asked Pam about financial implications of cancellation. Pam responded that the biggest problem is receiving no money from holding the tournament but because of legitimate reasons for cancelling the Regionals we are receiving no penalties from the hotels. If there were no legitimate reasons for cancelling we would be charged approximately \$100,000 in damages from the hotels. If ACBL were cancelling tournaments but our local areas were not then we would have more trouble. Ray added that there is a force majeure clause in contracts that addresses this issue.

7. **REPORT OF THE NATIONAL DIRECTOR:** Jackie Zayac reported the ACBL has completed the reorganization of the National Board reducing the size from 25 members to 13. It will not impact Districts or Units but Districts 20 and 21 will be combined and represented by one Regional Director. Committee issues continue to be moved to management decisions to lessen the load for the much broader regions. The 0-2500 mp four session Swiss team Spring NABC event was approved and will begin in 2022, if there is a Spring NABC; otherwise it will begin at the 2022 Reno NABC. It passed unanimously. She also noted that a vote to hold the 2025 Memphis NABC failed because the board felt it was not responsible to contract while this pandemic continues. The ACBL Board of Directors has been meeting more frequently rather than the usual three times per year to address ongoing issues during the pandemic. Sigrid asked if the Board has discussed bridge bucks and how the ones that are expiring will be handled since they can only be redeemed at NABCs. Jackie suggested that Sigrid send an email to ACBL Customer Service. Jackie also said she would raise this question at next week's meeting. Pam clarified that bridge bucks can also be redeemed at Sectionals and Regionals but those also have been cancelled. Ray clarified that bridge bucks can be purchased with a credit card in larger amounts to pay for events instead of carrying cash. Jackie said she is quite sure that they will honor bridge bucks that expired in 2020 and that she is also addressing the issue of players that need platinum points within a certain period to get an extension due to the cancellation of in-person NABCs.
8. **WESTERN CONFERENCE:** Cornelia Gould has not had any meetings since her last report. The STaCs have been cancelled through the end of the year. The WC has a balance of about \$6,800 and the rest has been distributed to the three Districts.
9. **OLD BUSINESS:** Ray said that at the last Board of Directors meeting the issue of the van and the storage unit was presented for a vote. When he went back and reviewed the meeting recording he discovered that some of the information was not correct and some was not clear. He believes the vote taken was based on misinformation. His column in the July *Diamond in the Ruff* addressed this issue. The van lease is expiring in November and the Board voted to return the

van early to save money and a further discussion of how this would impact our Sectionals would be addressed later. When Ray investigated this further he discovered that we would only save less than \$800 with a penalty for ending the contract early, not the nearly \$2,400 as presented for vote. So despite the vote, Ray decided to overturn the vote due to the unclear information presented. The cost to purchase the van is about \$16,500. With the good shape and low mileage on the van it is worth about \$25,000 if we opt to sell it. The storage unit issue will be discussed separately. Cornelia asked if the plan was to buy the van and keep it or buy the van and sell it. Ray said this will be decided later because we need to decide if we will continue supplying the local Sectionals and Regionals or discontinue supplying the Sectionals and rent a vehicle to supply the Regionals. The committee reviewing this will present all of the recommendations including the services provided by Calvin Harper and true cost of supplying Sectionals. Bill asked if it is also being used for storage or would it be better to sell it immediately and purchase a new one when we are again having events. Ray said it currently has supplies in it but additional supplies are in a storage unit as will be addressed soon. Pam also said that selling it and buying a new one would be a difficult task because we probably would not be able to find one at such a low price. Also, they do not make this type of van anymore and Calvin really likes the ease of use in this one. Ray added that according to Kelly Blue Book this is the top rated van so congratulations to Marion Robertson on all her work on the choice of this particular van. Roger noted that we need to make sure that Calvin knows how much we appreciate what he does. A motion was made and seconded that we purchase this van.

****MOVED:** District 21 will purchase the van when the lease expires. A poll was taken and all voting members voted to approve the purchase.
MOTION CARRIED

OLD BUSINESS: Ray said that the storage unit issue was also part of the passed motion at the May meeting. We were paying almost \$580/month for the storage unit and a decision was made to move the equipment and supplies into PODS. When we voted on this one of the discussions was regarding the impact on Sectionals and it was stated that we could have a smaller pod for those. After passage of the motion, upon further investigation, it was discovered that POD does no pick-ups or deliveries on holidays or Sundays. In addition, they only give a 3 hour delivery//pick-up window. This presents serious issues for both the Regionals and Sectionals. And if we wanted to move around any supplies from the PODS we would need to give them 48 hours' notice for access. So instead, Ray negotiated a price of \$180/month for a smaller storage unit at the same facility. He hopes that you agree that this was a better way to resolve this. Jackie Z. thanked Ray for doing all of this and said that we need to figure the actual costs of the Sectional supplies before we make a decision on whether to sell the van. He will revamp the Sectional Supply committee started by Tom Pajak and make sure they hear from every Unit before any decisions are made.

OLD BUSINESS: The *Diamond in the Ruff* newsletter is currently being published every month with very little new information to be distributed. It is sent out via email each month and it is also posted on the D21 website. Ray posted a poll asking if people will go to the D21 website if they don't receive a link. Most prefer the email because they won't remember to go look each month. He then posted a poll about how frequently the newsletter should be published during this pandemic. The costs of publishing are: Publisher charges \$25/page, Pianola fee, and Rich Luttrell salary. The results show a slight preference for every 3 months versus every 2 months.

****MOVED:** The *Diamond in Ruff* will be published every 3 months during the pandemic. The next publication will be issued in December 2020.

MOTION CARRIED

10. **TOURNAMENT COORDINATOR:** Richard Meffley had some serious health issues this week following his pacemaker stopping and is unable to attend today's meeting. Jill asked if they should apply for sanctions for next year. Jackie Z. clarified that it is a good idea to apply to lock in your weekend. Ray added that masterpoints awarded are adjusted for application less than six months in advance so it is to your advantage to apply earlier.
11. **GOODWILL:** Ginny Wailes said that during these strange times it is still important to recognize and knowledge contributions made in each Unit by players that continually work to improve our players. She has contacted the Unit Presidents to send candidates that they feel deserve the Goodwill Award. She thanked her committee this year, which consists of Anne Hollingsworth, Sandi Davis, Prue Saunders and Tom Pajak, and asked anyone else interested in joining this committee to contact her. Nominations are due by November 1. Recipients of the award will be announced on January 9, 2021, at our virtual meeting. Marion asked if it was alright to nominate directors. Ginny responded yes.
12. **NAP/GNT/REGIONAL PLANNING:** Stu Goodgold reported that the winners of the NAP and GNTs from last year will be playing in the 2021 events. Regional Planning is currently on hold.
13. **CHARITY:** Chairman Jeff Hack reported that he received exactly 4 nominations for our \$6,000 allocation to food banks. \$1500 will be given to Richmond Emergency Food Pantry (Unit 497), Samaritan House – San Mateo (Unit 498), Alameda County Community Food Bank (Unit 501), and Community Service Agency of Mt. View, Los Altos and Los Altos Hills (Unit 503). He will send the contact information to Jean to write and mail the checks. Jackie Z. also has funds as National Director and she will choose different charities.

****MOVED:** The charities recommended by Jeff are approved as submitted
MOTION CARRIED.

Stu Goodgold reported that Unit 507 voted that D21 and ACBL should not be distributing any charitable funds while there is not income during this pandemic. Ray noted that he has formed a Practices and Policies Committee that would also address this issue at their next meeting.

14. **SOCIAL MEDIA**: Tracey Bauer has nothing new to add. Please send her anything of interest.
15. **D21 WEBMASTER**: Grant Robinson showed a page that listed players from each Unit who have performed well in the online BBO tournaments. This is something that units can do.
16. **OLD BUSINESS**: Ray said that more changes to the By-Laws will be coming before the next meeting in Monterey.
17. **OLD BUSINESS**: Ray is also still looking into the AB5 legislation and how it applies to those volunteers and elected officials who receive payment or stipends. He has not had enough time yet to thoroughly review the bill. He may have to prepare employment contracts.
18. **NEW BUSINESS**: Ray asked Pam to leave. Pam receives a payment of \$6500 per Regional but this year there has been only one Regional. She continues to do work on contracts, both negotiating new ones and negotiating out of cancelled ones. A poll was posted with a choice of issuing Pam a payment of either 50% or 60% of her payment for the Santa Clara and Reno Regionals. Following a vote by poll the result showed Pam should be paid 50% of her normal payment, or a total of \$6500 for Reno and Santa Clara combined.

**MOVED: It was moved and seconded
MOTION CARRIED.
19. **ADJOURNMENT**: The meeting was adjourned at 11:57 A.M. The next meeting of the Board of Directors of District 21 will be held at 10:00 A.M. on Saturday, January 9, 2021 on Zoom.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandi Davis, Secretary
District 21