

**Board of Directors' Report**

Ray Yuenger, D21 Secretary

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Contact Ray: [rayyuenger@gmail.com](mailto:rayyuenger@gmail.com)**Summary of the Regular Meeting of the Board  
of Directors of District 21 on September 11, 2024**

On Wednesday, September 11, 2024, the Board of Directors of District 21 ("D21") held a regular meeting that lasted almost two hours twenty minutes. Due to the prompt appearance of a quorum, President Anne Hollingsworth called the meeting to order at 6:33 PM. Directors and alternates showed up from 15 of the District's 21 Units. The **minutes** of the previous meeting on June 12, 2024 were approved as circulated.

Jefri Donovan moved to bring the agenda's **new business** forward before continuing business. The motion was seconded and passed without opposition.

Lynn Bartz said the **Travel Policy amendments** that had been circulated to the Board had already been approved by the Executive Committee so we are now asking the Board to ratify them. Ray moved to amend the motion to call the Tournament Planning "Managers" the "Chairs." The motion to amend was seconded. As amended, the motion passed with 17 of 20 in favor.

The Charity Committee recommended that the Board **nominate five charities** to each receive \$2,000 grants from the ACBL Charity Foundation. Charity Chair Jeff Hack explained that the Committee had identified four charities and three more were nominated by units. A fourth was nominated too late after the nomination period had closed. The Committee selected five of the seven. As Parliamentarian, Ray explained that a report from a committee that includes two Board members is effectively a motion. In discussion, Stu Goodgold, a Foundation Trustee, pointed out that the Charity Foundation as of July became an independent organization. The grant process may change in the future. The motion to approve the Committee's recommendations passed with 17 votes. Jeff said he'd forward the Board's nominations by the end of the week.

The meeting returned to the continuing business of **officer and committee reports**. As **President**, Anne Hollingsworth noted that the recent Santa Clara regional had good attendance. As tournament coordinator, she encouraged units to apply for sectional sanctions, noting that some months, like April, are quite full. **Treasurer** Lynn Bartz had distributed a preliminary financial report on the regional the morning of the meeting to supplement the previously distributed financial report. She said D21 is financially healthy. There were no other questions.

As **Regional Director**, Jackie Zayac noted that postpandemic tournament attendance is about 60% of what it was before. ACBL is financially well with income from BBO. The ACBL is monitoring online cheating with EDGAR software. About 2% of online players are cheating. The Board is focusing on membership recruitment and retention and bringing social bridge into clubs. The stratifications for the North American Pairs and Grand National Teams have been aligned, with one strat added to the NAP. Because Entry Express isn't working, it isn't available for regionals.

**Tournament planning co-chairs** Anne Wilson and Brenda Hatton reported on the Santa Clara regional. Attendance was up about 5% till the last day. The speaker series was popular. Hotel staff helped set up and tear down. It is uncertain if D21 will owe a financial penalty for missing our room block commitment, with some registrants bailing out at the last minute. Otherwise, we netted \$10-15,000. In surveys, people want free snacks and coffee. At the Sparks regional, there will be concessions. There are



still room reservations available. A tournament planning subcommittee will be discussing whether to add a fifth regional. There was some discussion of what to offer in the evenings of regionals. The idea of a program game was favorably received.

Regarding the **Palo Alto nonLife Master regional**, Liz Koh presented slides showing that it was not as well attended as last year. The table count was 37% lower, with fewer players playing fewer days. Possible reasons for lower attendance were tournament fatigue from more tournaments, the proximity to the Nationals later in the month, and the lower masterpoint payout available at a limited regional. In response to a question, Liz noted that the tournament wasn't advertised in the D21 newsletter.

Regarding the **Reno nonlife Master regional**, there was no formal report, but Lynn Yokel, the tournament director, said there was a good turnout that added to their concurrent sectional. Reno has a good teaching program. Lynn Bartz said there were 97.5 tables which netted around \$5,400.

The President said there will be another meeting of the **nonlife Master regional Committee** to discuss what we learned. She asked units to notify her by October 15 about their interest in running a NLMR in 2025.

As to other committees and officers, Melanie Haddad, the **Communications Committee Chair**, reported that the open rate of the newsletter is over 60% with the Heart of the District articles being popular.

Regarding **Grand National Teams**, Grant Vance noted that the point levels have been raised for the two lower stratifications. In order to economize due to the event's decreasing popularity, he has arranged to have all flights competing on the same weekend. While this prevents players from playing in more than one event, not many have tried lately. The dates and times have been published and there will be electronic registration again. There was discussion about how to better publicize the events. Jackie Z. suggested that the Board members should be carrying the message back to their units. Anne H. noted our teams did well at the Nationals.

As Chair of the Bylaws Committee, Ray Yuenger reported that the California Secretary of State ("Sos") had rejected the **Certificate of Amendment of Articles of Incorporation** approved by the Board in June, so, after talking to an SoS reviewer, Ray had revised the Certificate, obtained Anne's signature, and mailed in the new document.

As liaison to the **All-Western 99er NiteClub**, Ray reported that the ongoing online game for beginners four nights a week in six western districts had moved, at the beginning of September, to the ACBL's online Clubhouse for beginner games. The NiteClub was originally formed by three Districts, including D21, to offer games for 99ers in their Districts. It began operating in October 2020 and later expanded to include a separate game for 199ers, as some players were graduating from the lower group.

Chair of the **Growth Committee** Max Schireson reported that D21 gave grants to two youth bridge organizations to enable young players to attend the Youth NABC. There was a writeup about them in the last newsletter. The Committee is exploring holding more training programs for directors and teachers as it did in February for teachers. Max said the committee would appreciate having more volunteer members.

On behalf of Joanne Wicker, Jackie Zayac reported that the **Western Conference** had voted to disband by the end of 2024. Historically when more Districts belonged, the Conference had published a newspaper in addition to organizing STAC games. But Districts have dropped out over time and the ACBL is getting more involved in operating STACs. The Conference will divide up approximately \$10,000 after paying outstanding expenses. Districts will need to decide whether to operate STACs or delegate them to



units. Stu pointed out that clubs have to register to participate. Sigrid Price said that STACS are popular in her area and she volunteered to serve on a planning committee. Anne H. said she'd talk to her.

At around 7:50 PM, the discussion turned to the topic of the two written proposals by the Bylaws Committee for **reorganizing the Board of Directors of D21**. For seven minutes, Art Mirin reviewed the two proposals for downsizing the Board. He explained that one reason for reorganizing is to eliminate our current weighted voting scheme, which seems to be prohibited by California law.

Under one plan, each unit would have one representative and units would have additional directors for every 400 unit members, resulting in 29 directors. Under the other plan, the 21 units would be organized into five contiguous areas, and each area would select three directors, yielding a total of 15 directors, but leaving some units without their own representative. The proposed areas are geographically connected and their total member populations are roughly equal. In a document distributed to the Board and displayed on the screen during Art's presentation, the areas were color-coded. Art said this would require Bylaws changes and also possibly adoption of some rules and regulations.

In response to questions, Art explained that the tentative plan is to prohibit all an area's directors from belonging to the same unit. Jackie Ortiz and Sigrid pointed out that their proposed area has several active directors representing four units, one of whom would be eliminated. Melanie (from the same new area) also agreed and questioned if this is what California law requires.

Stu proposed as a solution that each area could elect two directors, and there could some directors at large elected. In response to a question by the President, Art said there doesn't appear to be a clear consensus. While we weren't planning to hold a vote, the Committee needs more guidance, and it may circulate an email to the Board in a couple of weeks seeking guidance.

After 25 minutes of discussion, the President asked if the Board can't **eliminate directors for nonattendance**. Ray said that it could. Jackie Ortiz and Anthony Toto agreed with this proposal.

Returning to the board reduction proposals, Art said we will need two-thirds approval of any Bylaws changes. The Committee will send an email with specific questions. Art would like prompt responses. Don Garka echoed Stu's proposal about having areas elect two directors and select five more at large. Art suggested the original 10 directors could select the at-large directors.

At around 8:25 PM, Sigrid made a **motion to remove the absentee directors**. Melanie asked if Unit Presidents should be notified. Ray read from the Bylaws the provisions for removing directors who missed three meetings without "good cause." He pointed out that there would need to be "good cause" determinations before removing each director. Sigrid withdrew her motion and proposed that D21 ask Unit representatives why they haven't been attending and notify them the Unit President should appoint a new representative if they had no good cause. Ray asked if the District was going to be holding nine good cause hearings at the next meeting. Sigrid withdrew her new proposal. After further discussion, it was agreed that Ray, as Secretary, would write to the Unit Presidents and absentee directors to provide good cause for their nonattendance.

At 8:36 PM, the President redirected the discussion to the Bylaws Committee's next step. Art said representatives will be receiving questions by email. The President suggested allowing them time to consult with their Unit Boards.

The removal of directors was discussed further for five minutes. At 8:42 PM Ray proposed tabling this unanticipated motion which had derailed the board reorganization discussion. Art had left the meeting. Ray said he would work with Anne and send out a letter immediately about absent directors.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:48 PM.