



Board of Directors' Reports

Ray Yuenger, D21 Secretary

June 2026

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Draft Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the

Board of Directors of District 21 on June 23, 2026



1. Call to Order. President Jim Coke called the regular meeting of the District 21 Board of Directors to order at 6:30 p.m. The meeting was held via Zoom.

2. Roll Call. Secretary Ray Yuenger called the roll by Area. Fifteen of the seventeen Area Directors were present, constituting a quorum. Present by Area were: Gail Gabiati, Jackie Ortiz, and Sigrid Price (Northwest); Dana Shelley (West); Lynn Bartz, Stu Goodgold, and Anthony Toto (South); Anne Hollingsworth, Rob Johnson, and Jackie Zayac (East); and Jim Coke, Katherine Ewing, and Donna Neff (Northeast). Both Directors-at-large, Art Mirin and Ray Yuenger, were present.

In the West area, Kit Morse was not expected, and Max Schireson was absent but submitted a written ballot as authorized by the Bylaws. Also present were guests and committee members, including Grant Vance, Jeff Hack (Charity Committee), Milind Girkar, Tournament co-Chairs Anne Wilson and Brenda Hatton, and Tournament Director Lynn Yokel.

3. Minutes. President Coke called for comments or motions to amend the minutes of the February 3, 2026 annual meeting. Hearing none, the minutes were approved by voice vote without amendment.

4. Officers' and Committee Reports. President Coke noted that the written reports had been distributed in advance and asked whether any member wished to discuss a particular report, proposing that the reports be accepted as a group. (The written reports apart from the pending motions are incorporated by this reference.)

Tournament Committee report. Sigrid Price noted a correction: the report referred to "Monterey 2026" where it should read "Monterey 2027."

STaC. Coordinator Don Garka was not present. Sigrid Price reported that, although the sign-up indicated members could register for both the August and November STaCs, she was unable to register for November, while August went through. She asked that this be noted and again observed, to Jackie Zayac, that the ACBL sign-up system is not user-friendly.

Treasurer's Financial Report. Ray Yuenger asked for highlights. Lynn Bartz reported that there was nothing special to highlight and that the report was largely self-explanatory and reminded members that the reports were circulated for them to read in advance.

Growth Committee. Lynn Bartz observed that the Growth Committee is allotted roughly \$25,000 per year, yet for about three years little growth activity has occurred; the youth grants administered through SiVY and a related San Francisco group (the Center for Bridge Education) do not, in her view, constitute genuine growth. She urged the Board to address the matter, whether by reconstituting or replacing the committee. Jackie Z. noted that District 20 has an I/N coordinator tied to its tournaments and suggested recruiting someone, such as Stephanie Youngquist or Janelle van Rensselaer, to develop events that move the district's 0-299 players toward tournaments. Ray agreed with both of the prior comments, recalling that the District once had an I/N coordinator (Cheryl Haines, since moved away) and that Max Schireson's report acknowledged he cannot give the role enough time; D21 has been looking, intermittently, for someone more available. Lynn B. suggested casting a wider net through an email blast to the district's



7,000–8,000 members rather than limiting the search to a small circle. Ray suggested soliciting volunteers through the upcoming newsletter, “Diamond in the Ruff.” President Coke, noting that the President serves on all committees, offered to add a section to his President’s message appealing for help and to coordinate with Laura Da Costa on the newsletter.

Stu moved to rename the Growth Committee as the Growth and Retention Committee, to align with ACBL usage. Jackie Z. offered an amendment to separate youth grants (leaving them with Max Schireson) from growth and retention, but withdrew it after discussion, the sense of the Board being to consult Max before altering his role. Lynn B. noted that, for accounting purposes, the area would remain a single department and budget regardless of how the committee is organized.

****MOTION PASSED.** Stu Goodgold’s motion to rename the committee the Growth and Retention Committee carried, with eleven in favor.

Regional Director. Ray Yuenger noted that no written report had been submitted. Jackie Z. explained that she had distributed her report to every Unit President after the February meeting and that it remained posted on the website. On Stu’s inquiry, she reported that membership is down about 5,000 year over year; that the ACBL Bridge Committee is revising the masterpoint formula; and that, beginning in the fall of 2028, the format of the NABCs will change. She expects to learn more in July and to report further at the next meeting.

Hearing no further discussion, the Board approved the officers’ and committee reports as submitted, subject to the noted correction to the Tournament Committee report.

****MOTION PASSED.** [The reports were approved.](#)

5. New Business.

5A. Approval of the Conditions of Contest for the North American Pairs. President Coke presented the Conditions of Contest, noting that they closely resemble last year’s except that the finals would move from Reno to Monterey. In response to Stu, he clarified that the B and C flights (single-day events) may be played twice, while the two-day A and Championship flights cannot. Ray relayed a typed question from Lynn Y. about whether holding the finals at a club had been considered; President Coke responded that doing so would be considerably more expensive and not financially sensible. Anne H. seconded the motion to approve.

Several members spoke. Sigrid and others favored keeping the finals at the regional, noting that many members on fixed incomes already attend the regional and that a separate Bay Area venue would be a financial hardship; Katherine added that Monterey hotel rates (near \$200 a night) limit attendance. Lynn B. observed that, accounting-wise, the NAP and the regional are kept separate, so the only savings from a club venue would be roughly \$800 in rent, which D21 can readily afford. Stu favored Monterey but cautioned that holding the NAP there draws Championship and Flight A players away from other regional events. Rob countered that the NAP at the regional is itself a draw that brings players who then enter other events. Grant and Dana emphasized that advertising and outreach—such as Unit 503’s promotion of the GNTs—have done more to grow Flight C turnout than venue alone. Jackie O. urged the Board to rely on Grant’s long experience.

****MOTION PASSED.** The Conditions of Contest for the North American Pairs were approved as written, including holding the finals in Monterey, with eleven in favor.

5B. Merger of Unit 497 into Unit 502; Impact on D21 Areas. President Coke explained that two units in the same area had merged, Unit 497 having become part of Unit 502. Rob of U502 reported that U497 had shown no gains for several years and was essentially inactive; after contacting its last board members, who were enthusiastic, the merger was carried out through the ACBL effective May 1, adding roughly 100 members to U502. Rob added that he has been attending bridge games on and near the Berkeley campus and is optimistic about reviving a game there, perhaps by fall.



Lynn B. reminded Rob to confirm that any required filings—final tax returns and dissolution paperwork with the IRS, the California Franchise Tax Board, and the Secretary of State—are handled, and President Coke suggested consulting Tom Pajak. Anne H. confirmed that U502 is the surviving unit and that U497 no longer exists. Ray noted that his own U507 had discovered it was never formally incorporated, and suggested Rob check with the Secretary of State, as U497 may never have been incorporated and thus have nothing to dissolve. Stu added that dissolution, if required, falls to the last corporate officers of U497.

Stu noted that D21's new bylaws require a review of the areas whenever a unit is incorporated, dissolved, or merged. He moved that the Board accept the current arrangement of units within areas now that U497 has been dissolved—effectively deleting U497 from the East area, with everything else remaining balanced. Anthony seconded. Ray noted that the chief practical effect is on the Election Committee's weighted-vote counting, as U502 gains some weight in its area, which the committee (of which he is a member) can readily manage.

****MOTION PASSED.** The Board accepted the current arrangement of units within areas, with about twelve in favor.

5C. Proposed Amendments to the Bylaws and Election Policy. Stu presented a single slide presentation covering two separate motions. He first addressed the Bylaws amendment. The essential change concerns the quorum: the prior language required that 50% or more of all Units in the district be represented, which the new Area structure made unworkable. The amendment adopts the standard rule that a majority of Board members present constitutes a quorum—nine of the current seventeen members. A second change clarifies the term limits for the President and Vice-President: the language now reads that neither may serve three or more consecutive terms, confirming the long-understood intent that a person may serve two terms, step away, and later run again. The remaining changes are cleanup, including removal of the President's authority to fill a vacancy on the former Board of Governors (now the Advisory Council), since those seats are elected and should be filled by the full Board.

Ray noted as Parliamentarian that, because the amendment came as a report from a committee of two or more Board members, it was effectively seconded and the Board could proceed directly to discussion; Stu noted that, under Article XIII the amendment required a two-thirds vote of those present and voting. Hearing no comments, the Board voted.

****MOTION PASSED.** With twelve electronic votes plus Max's written ballot in favor (as reported by the Secretary), the Bylaws amendment was adopted 13–0. [The new Bylaws are incorporated by this reference.](#)

Election Policy update. Stu then presented the corresponding update to the Election Policy. The principal changes provide that nominations for officers must be made a month before the Annual meeting rather than from the floor; that the election of At-large directors must follow the election of officers, since an officer may take one of the two At-large seats; and that nominations from the floor remain permitted for At-large directors. Where there are more candidates than At-large positions, Board members vote yes or no on each candidate, and the candidates receiving the most votes who also receive a majority of votes cast are elected. Material removed from the bylaws was relocated to the Election Policy, which requires only a simple majority to amend. Being a committee report, the motion was deemed seconded.

****MOTION PASSED.** The Election Policy update was adopted unanimously. [The New Election Policy is incorporated by this reference.](#)

Stu noted that Jackie Z. had proposed moving the Area Director elections a month earlier to avoid the December holiday season. She agreed to withhold her request pending consideration by the Bylaws Committee, which will take it up at the next meeting.

President Coke stated that the next Board meeting is tentatively scheduled for September 29, 2026, subject to confirmation of the executive committee's availability.



D I A M O N D I N T H E R U F F

Adjournment. Katherine of the Charity Committee asked why the district no longer budgets roughly \$5,000 a year for donations to local charities as it did before the pandemic. After discussion of whether the matter could be taken up under Robert's Rules without a motion on the table, President Coke asked Katherine and Charity Chair Jeff to prepare a proposal for the September meeting. On the motion of Jackie O., seconded by Stu and Dana, the meeting was adjourned by unanimous vote at around 8:20. An informal discussion of charitable giving continued afterward; members will send their views to Jeff and Katherine for inclusion in the September proposal.