

WESTERN CONFERENCE
Online Meeting of the Board of Directors
February 18, 2018

The meeting was called to order at 10:01 a.m. The meeting was conducted online with a Zoom program whereby all participants except David Lodge were visible to each other and able to be heard. Due to technical problems, David Lodge was not visible to other participants, but he was able to hear and be heard by the others. The following board members participated: President Ron Lien, David Lodge, Marion Robertson, Jackie Zayac, Bonnie Bagley, John Grossmann. Secretary-Treasurer Tom Shulman, also participated.

Minutes of Previous Meeting

Upon motion and second the minutes of the 2017 San Diego annual meeting were approved.

Treasurer's Report

The FY 2017 Treasurer's report, copies of which had previously been emailed to the Board, was not discussed.

Structure of Western Conference

David Lodge presented, and the Board discussed, several issues about the future of the Conference that had arisen in the wake of the notices of withdrawal from WC that had been tendered by D17 and D22. After much discussion, the following motion was made (Lodge) and seconded (Bagley):

Effective April 1, 2018, the sole objective of the Western Conference shall be to run WC STAC games, and the WC bylaws shall be amended to reflect this change.

Motion CARRIED unanimously.

After additional discussion, the following motion was made (Lodge) and seconded (Grossmann):

Effective February 18, 2018, the obligation of D17, D21, and D22 to pay regional tournament sanction fees to Western Conference shall cease.

Motion CARRIED unanimously.

The President requested that the Board review the bylaws and recommend changes that might be required in light of these passed motions.

[Not as part of any motion, but as part of the discussion, the Board confirmed that the March issue of the Forum would be printed and mailed as usual to all three member-districts, and payments to the publisher and printer would be made as usual. The April

issue will be printed and mailed only to D21 and D22—there will be no April issue for D17. WC will pay for the printing and publishing of the April issue in some amount yet to be determined. The April 2018 issue will be the last issue to be published and paid for by WC.]

There were discussions about the future distribution of the WC treasury back to the member-districts and the distribution of future STAC profits, but those topics were ultimately tabled for future determination.

Next Meeting

The Board agreed that the next meeting would be sometime around May 20, 2018, on a day and time TBD.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:46 a.m.

WESTERN CONFERENCE
Online Meeting of the Board of Directors
May 19, 2018

The meeting was conducted online with a Zoom program whereby all participants were visible to each other and able to be heard. The following board members participated: President Ron Lien, David Lodge, Marion Robertson, Jackie Zayac, Bonnie Bagley, John Grossmann. Secretary-Treasurer Tom Shulman, also participated.

The meeting was called to order at 9:03 a.m. The President commented that all districts had done a good job transitioning from a hard-copy printed paper to online digital distribution.

Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the February 18, 2018 online meeting had previously been distributed to the board, but were not addressed at this meeting.

Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer reported on P&L for the first five months of FY2018, December 2017 through April 2018. During that period, WC experienced a loss of -\$3,343. That reporting period coincides with the end of the printing and mailing of the Forum. The December 2017 STAC profit was \$20,045, down from \$24,294 the year before.

Going forward, the WC will be almost exclusively operating STACs, and the only non-STAC expenses will be corporate and administrative expenses (approx. \$1500/yr), webpage maintenance expenses (est. approx. \$1500/yr), plus any Secretary-Treasurer's fee. It is anticipated that the profit from the recently concluded May 2018 STAC will be about \$18,000.

Profits from future STACs are expected to be approximately \$60,000/yr, but the Treasurer asked the Board to note that table counts for all STACs are declining, so WC might want to look into what could be done to increase those numbers for the future.

The Treasurer reported that WC net worth as of 4/30/18 was \$33,141, down -\$8,191 from 4/30/17.

Because the Secretary-Treasurer's tasks will now be greatly reduced without ongoing Forum income and expenses to deal with, the fee of the Secretary-Treasurer was reduced to \$100/mo beginning April 1, 2018, but he will continue to be paid the STAC collection fee of \$750 per STAC.

Future STACs

The Board discussed various steps that might be taken to increase STAC table count, including advertising and other promotions and lobbying ACBL for changes in the masterpoint award structure.

The Board discussed various ways the profits from future STACs ought to be shared among the member districts. After much discussion, a motion was made and CARRIED that beginning with the May 2018 STAC, STAC profits would be allocated as follows: (a) net profits attributable to all WC tables in play (D17/21/22) shall be divided pro rata by district table count; (b) net profits attributable to all non-WC tables in play shall be divided equally among the member districts.

Decisions about the timing of the actual distribution of STAC profits, and the timing of any distribution of the current WC treasury were tabled for future determination.

April Forum

After much discussion, a motion was made and CARRIED to pay Ken Monzingo the standard monthly fee for production of the April Forum, and the Treasurer was directed to pay Ken \$2,862.66 to accomplish that.¹

Website

A motion was made and CARRIED that authorized Ken Monzingo to continue to maintain the WC website at his current rate (\$120/mo) and to allow him to post ads and collect ad revenue from the travel companies to offset his labor through September 30, 2018, at which time the issue would be revisited.

Next Meeting

The Board agreed that the next meeting would be sometime around mid-August, 2018, on a day and time TBD. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:56 a.m.

¹ It was reported in the February 2018 minutes, as follows: “*The April issue [of the Forum] will be printed and mailed only to D21 and D22—there will be no April issue for D17. WC will pay for the printing and publishing of the April issue in some amount yet to be determined....*”

WESTERN CONFERENCE
Online Meeting of the Board of Directors
August 25, 2018

The meeting was conducted online with a Zoom program whereby all participants were visible to each other and able to be heard. The following board members participated: President Ron Lien, David Lodge, Marion Robertson, Jackie Zayac, Bonnie Bagley, John Grossmann. Secretary-Treasurer Tom Shulman, also participated.

The meeting was called to order at 9:25 a.m. The President commented that all districts' online newsletters seem to be doing well. The President noted that ACBL had not yet provided a digital "check-box" for members to opt to accept emails from districts (and comments indicated that option would likely not be available for some time).

Minutes of Previous Meeting

Upon motion and second the minutes of the February 18, 2018, and May 19, 2018 online meetings of the BoD were approved. The Treasurer was asked to send the minutes to Ken and Sergio for posting on the WC website.

Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer reported that the net profit from the May 2018 STAC was \$19,994 (down about \$4,000 from the May 2017 STAC). The WC formula for allocation of the profit resulted in the following allocation and distribution (17/21/22): \$7,176/\$7,299/\$5,518.

The Treasurer reported that WC net worth as of 8/24/18 was \$28,980.

Future STACs

The Board discussed what could be done about the problem reported by the Treasurer that every STAC, some clubs were very slow to pay the sanction fee. After extended discussion a motion was made, amended and passed that starting with the December 2018 STAC, all registering clubs would be notified by the DIC that if the club does not pay the sanction fee within 45 days, a late fee of \$20/session would be assessed. [After the meeting, to avoid the possibility that some clubs might delay a prompt payment if they were notified in effect that a late payment up to 45 days would not be a problem, the President decided that for the December STAC, after clubs were 30 days late, WC would notify them that if they don't pay by 45 days, a \$20/session late fee would be added.]

The Board discussed the need to explore options to increase STAC participation by building attendance in clubs that currently run STACs and/or getting more clubs to participate. The Board identified club participation information that was currently available on the WC website and planned to identify and pursue attendance building options derived from that data.

Website

The Board discussed available options for maintenance and improvement of the WC website.

Next Meeting

The Board agreed that the next meeting would be sometime around late October, 2018, on a day and time TBD (target date 10/27). There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:49 a.m.

WESTERN CONFERENCE
Online Meeting of the Board of Directors
November 17, 2018

The meeting was conducted online with a Zoom program whereby all participants were visible to each other and able to be heard. The following board members participated: President Ron Lien, David Lodge, Marion Robertson, Jackie Zayac, Bonnie Bagley, John Grossmann. Secretary-Treasurer Tom Shulman, also participated.

The meeting was called to order at 9:14 a.m. The President stated the topics to be covered, then called for a motion re approval of the minutes of the last meeting.

Minutes of Previous Meeting

Upon motion and second the minutes of the August 25, 2018 online meeting of the WC Board of Directors were approved.

Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer reported that the net profit from the August 2018 STAC was \$18,571 (down about \$400 from the August 2017 STAC). The WC formula for allocation of the profit resulted in the following allocation and distribution (11/21/18): \$6,189/\$7,284/\$5,098.

The Treasurer reported that WC net worth as of 11/16/18 was \$28,427.

Future STACs

The Board discussed what could be done about the problem reported by Bonnie Bagley that certain districts were withdrawing from participation in WC STACs. After discussion about what might be done to bring the withdrawing districts back, it was decided that the WC President would call the presidents of the withdrawing districts to identify their concerns, and to see how their concerns might be addressed.

The Board had a discussion about the potential conflict in December 2019 between the WC STAC and the D22 Palm Springs (Rancho Mirage) Regional. The following motion was made, seconded, and CARRIED: That WC maintain its traditional STAC dates (following the NABC) in December 2019 (12/9-15).

Website

The Board deferred to the January meeting the discussion of available options for maintenance and improvement of the WC website. Jackie Zayac was appointed chair of a committee (w/John Grossmann & Ron Lien) to review WC's needs for a website and to recommend plans for the future.

Next Meeting

It was announced that in 2019, Cornelia Gould would be replacing Marion Robertson as the D21 appointed member on the WC Board. The Board agreed that the next meeting would be sometime in mid-January 2019, on a day and time TBD. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:24 a.m.

WESTERN CONFERENCE
Online Meeting of the Board of Directors
March 9, 2019

The meeting was conducted online with a Zoom program whereby all participants were visible to each other and able to be heard. The following board members participated: President Ron Lien, David Lodge, Jackie Zayac, Cornelia Gould, Bonnie Bagley, John Grossmann. Secretary-Treasurer Tom Shulman, also participated.

The meeting was called to order at 9:06 a.m. (Grossmann temporarily absent). The President stated the topics to be covered, then called for a motion re approval of the minutes of the last meeting.

Minutes of Previous Meeting

Upon motion and second the minutes of the November 17, 2018 online meeting of the WC Board of Directors were approved. (There were no minutes of the Board's 2/16/19 Executive session). (Grossmann joined the meeting at 9:09 a.m.)

Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer reported that the net profit from the December 2018 STAC was \$18,294 (down about \$1,700 from the December 2017 STAC). The WC formula for allocation of the profit resulted in the following allocation and distribution (17/21/22): \$7,644/\$6,226/\$4,424.

Future STACs

The Board agreed that the WC STACs were successful and that it was beneficial to all three member districts that they continue in one form or another. The Board discussed that it would be worthwhile to consider what the role of the WC itself should be in connection with the future operation of the STACs. In that regard, the issue considered was what, if anything, can WC do more effectively than another entity (or the individual districts themselves)? Is there any need for the WC? It was discussed that for the June meeting, the primary agenda item should be determination of the strategic direction for WC upon the conclusion of the December 2019 STAC.

Other STAC items discussed: What financial arrangements should be made with non-WC clubs/districts; how to increase participation; how to handle DIC emergency back-up; how to handle WC website.

Election of Officers

Ron Lien was nominated to be president. No further nominations. Ron Lien elected. Tom Shulman was nominated to be Secretary/Treasurer. No further nominations. Tom Shulman elected.

Next Meeting

The president set June 8, 2019 as the tentative date for the next meeting. Cornelia Gould suggested that Board members might informally get together in person at the Las Vegas NABC in July (and thereafter proposed 7/26/19 @ 10am).

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:11 a.m.

WESTERN CONFERENCE
Online Meeting of the Board of Directors
December 18, 2019

The meeting was conducted online with a Zoom program whereby all board members were visible to each other and able to be heard. Secretary-Treasurer Tom Shulman participated audibly, but was not able to be seen by other participants due to his non-functioning video camera. The following board members participated: President Ron Lien, David Lodge, Jackie Zayac, Cornelia Gould, Bonnie Bagley, John Grossmann.

The meeting was called to order at 5:09 p.m. The President stated the topics to be covered, then called for a motion re approval of the minutes of the last meeting.

Minutes of Previous Meeting

Upon motion and second the minutes of the March 9, 2019 online meeting of the WC Board of Directors were approved.

Bonnie Bagley Retirement

The President noted that Bonnie Bagley was retiring after many years of outstanding service as National Board Member and Western Conference Board Member. The Board thanked Bonnie for her service and wished her a happy retirement. Bonnie reported that Cindy Shoemaker would be her replacement on the WC Board.

But it turned out that full retirement isn't in the cards. Later in the meeting Bonnie agreed to continue to serve as WC STAC Coordinator

Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer briefly reviewed matters contained in the written Treasurer's Report that had been distributed to the Board on December 16, 2019, noting that the three FY2019 STACs had earned a total of about \$51,000 (Dec18 STAC: \$18,294; May19: \$15,919; Summer19: \$16,917), and that non-STAC expenses for the year totaled about \$3,200. Thus, WC activities actually produced about \$48,000 in net receipts. However, because all the STAC profits were distributed to the three member districts, WC reported a loss for FY2019.

FY2019 STAC distributions to the member districts totaled \$51,130: (17/21/22) \$19,305/\$18,269/\$13,556).

Future of WC and WC STACs

The Board discussed the future of the WC and the WC STACs, including the possible dissolution of the WC. The Board agreed that the WC STACs were successful and that it was beneficial to all three member districts that they continue in one form or another. The Board decided to maintain the WC and to maintain the WC STACs, at least for now. The Board discussed that it was important to try to boost STAC participation within the WC and also to try to encourage other districts to participate in the WC STACs.

The Board discussed whether there was any benefit to be gained by continuing to maintain the WC website, and it was then MOVED and CARRIED unanimously that the WC website be eliminated effective January 1, 2020.

The Board agreed that it would be beneficial if the website of each member district were to post a link to the WC STAC registration information and game results that are posted on the ACBL website. The

posting of WC Board meeting minutes and treasurer's reports on each member district's website was also discussed. The question of the amount of STAC sanction fees to be charged to participating clubs was tabled until the next meeting.

After discussion, it was MOVED and CARRIED unanimously that S/T Tom Shulman should determine how much money is reasonably needed to cover ongoing operating expenses and report that amount to the Board. The remaining cash balance in the WC bank account shall then be distributed to the member districts equally.

Bylaws

A committee was formed to review the Bylaws and recommend revisions given that the primary activity of the WC is no longer the publication of the Contract Bridge Forum. The committee consists of John Grossmann, Cornelia Gould, and Ron Lien.

Election of Officers

John Grossmann was nominated to be president effective January 1, 2020. No further nominations. John Grossmann elected. Tom Shulman was nominated to be Secretary/Treasurer. No further nominations. Tom Shulman elected.

Next Meeting

No date was set for the next meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:09 p.m.

WESTERN CONFERENCE
Online Meeting of the Board of Directors
April 4, 2020

The meeting was conducted online with a Zoom program whereby all board members were visible to each other and able to be heard. The following board members participated: President John Grossmann, Ron Lien, David Lodge, Jackie Zayac, Cornelia Gould, Cindy Shoemaker. Secretary-Treasurer Tom Shulman also participated.

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. PDT. The President stated the topics to be covered, then called for the Treasurer's report.

Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer briefly reviewed the results of the December 2019 STAC (\$13,107 distributed to districts), as well as the matters contained in the written report that had been distributed to the Board. As of March 31, 2020, Western Conference had a net worth and cash on hand of about \$28,000. With ongoing WC administrative expenses of about \$2,100/yr., the Treasurer recommended that WC keep about \$7,000 in the account and distribute \$7,000 per district. After discussion, it was MOVED and CARRIED unanimously to distribute the funds in accordance with the recommendation.

Board members are aware that because WC will have ongoing expenses, but no income, at some point WC will need to retain money from STAC revenues rather than distribute all profits.

New Board Member

The President introduced, and the Board welcomed, Cindy Shoemaker, who is D17's new National Board member and now a member of the WC Board of Directors.

May STAC

The Board discussed the feasibility of moving forward with the upcoming STACs, particularly the May STAC, given that bridge clubs are closed in most (likely all) cities. After some discussion, including consideration of online bridge possibilities and/or changing the STAC dates, it was MOVED and CARRIED unanimously to cancel the May STAC. The club owners will be emailed notice of the cancellation, and STAC Coordinator Bonnie Bagley will notify ACBL of the cancellation. The Board hopes to hold the August STAC as scheduled.

Website

The WC discontinued paying for maintenance of its website effective January 31, 2020, and WC no longer has any interest in thewesternconference.com name. Member districts should post on their district websites links to the ACBL website pages that contain WC STAC registration information and WC STAC game results.

Future STACs

The President stated that due to time constraints, extended discussion of the following items would be deferred until the next meeting: (1) possibility of a 'bare bones' STAC to support

clubs; (2) continuation of two-tiered STAC sanction fees; (3) creation of financial incentives for non-WC districts to participate in WC STACs; (4) STAC marketing.

Bylaws

A committee was formed to review the Bylaws and recommend revisions now that the primary activity of the WC is no longer the publication of the Contract Bridge Forum. The committee consists of John Grossmann and Cornelia Gould.

Procedure Manual

For purposes of continuity of WC board functions, it is necessary and helpful that a Procedure Manual be prepared detailing significant board jobs and procedures, and Jackie Zayac will spearhead preparation of the Manual.

Next Meeting

Saturday June 6, 2020 was tentatively set as the date of the next meeting. It was decided that for now, WC would not buy its own Zoom account but would continue to use the D22 account offered by Ron Lien.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:46 a.m.