



Minutes of the District 17 Board of Directors Meeting

July 6, 2021, via Zoom Video Conference
(subject to approval at the September 14, 2021 video conference meeting)

Present: Liz Hamilton (President), Cindy Shoemaker (National Board), Lakin Hines, JoAnne Lowe, Steve Nordberg, Jennifer O’Neill, Bill Phillips, Richard Rosenthal, Sharon Smith

Absent: John Grossmann, Steve Reynolds

THE PRESIDENT CALLED THE MEETING TO ORDER AT 8:03 AM, PDT

GENERAL

Opening Remarks

Liz Hamilton

John Grossmann made a presentation via video conference on April 9, 2021. Based on that presentation an email vote was conducted pursuant to the following motion regarding education: *BLAD (Bridge In A Day) demonstration, no direct cost; social media demonstration, \$1,950; teaching future BLAD presenters, no direct cost; BLAD site license, \$400. Carried unanimously.*

Liz is a member of a group of district presidents that meets periodically. These presidents are very concerned about ACBL’s current face-to-face bridge protocols that require wearing masks at ACBL tournaments.

Amendment and Approval of May 2021 Minutes

Bill Phillips

The preliminary May 2021 minutes state that Phoenix has applied for a Western Conference STaC. That is incorrect. Phoenix applied for a Unit 354 STaC. Per JoAnne Lowe’s recommendation, reference to this application will be removed from the May 2021 minutes. Steve Nordberg moved that the May 2021 Minutes be approved as amended. Seconded by Jennifer O’Neill. Carried unanimously.

Treasurer’s Report

Jennifer O’Neill

A decision needs to be made about CDs that are maturing in September/October. Heretofore, we have been purchasing three-year CDs because they offer a reasonable interest rate. Liz suggested that Jennifer make a recommendation to the D17 Board for discussion at the next meeting. Jennifer O’Neill moved that the Treasurer’s Report be accepted as submitted. Seconded by Steve Nordberg. Carried unanimously.

National Board Report

Cindy Shoemaker

More than 885 clubs have returned to face-to-face bridge. ACBL has decreased the online virtual club bridge masterpoint multiplier from 1.5 to 1.25 effective July 1. There are plans to eliminate the multiplier, but a date has not been announced. Virtual online club games will probably continue indefinitely. There are “welcome back” face-to-face games scheduled for the July-December timeframe, and also two weeks of “super welcome back” games. This is in addition to the customary special games. ACBL is considering running three online regional tournaments per year going forward, along with 160+ face-to-face regional tournaments annually. Topics to be discussed in the next week include pooling, and simultaneous online and face-to-face games. ACBL safety protocols are out of step with current CDC policy and recommendations. There is a widespread opinion that a mask mandate would kill face-to-face tournaments. Cindy believes that the current ACBL policy *will* be changed. Charity Foundation Week raised \$117,000. The Longest Day raised over \$500,000.

OLD BUSINESS

Bylaws and Policy Manual Revisions

Jennifer O’Neill

JoAnne Lowe moved that *the President is a full participant in meetings. As with all other board members, the president may make motions, second motions, participate in discussions, and vote on all motions and other matters requiring a vote.* Seconded by Cindy Shoemaker. Carried unanimously. JoAnne raised a concern about why an Executive Committee exists. Liz stated emphatically that an executive committee should not “run the district.” Although the Executive Committee may make recommendations to the board, the entire board will vote on all matters pertaining to District 17. Some wording changes in the Bylaws and/or Policy Manual may be required to make it clear that the Executive Committee cannot make definitive decisions without full board approval. Jennifer requested that each board member send her an email no later than August 1 giving her any suggested change. Liz acknowledged the time and effort invested by Jennifer and the committee (Liz Hamilton, Bill Phillips, Steve Reynolds).

Election Secretary Report

Lakin Hines

To date two candidates are running for the Unit 361 position: Jennifer O’Neill and Sheryl Siegel. Units 374, 381, and 383 are currently represented by Richard Rosenthal. Richard will not be standing for re-election. Richard will approach potential candidates. JoAnne Lowe agreed to stand for re-election to represent Unit 354. Units 360, 363, and 367 are currently represented by John Grossmann. John has not yet decided whether to stand for re-election.

Sectional Tournaments at Clubs (STaC)

Liz Hamilton

District 17 sent a letter to the Western Conference stating that District 17 would be withdrawing. A committee is needed to investigate how STaCs might be run at the district level. Bonnie Bagley has volunteered to run D17 STaCs for D17 should we decide to operate them in 2022. Liz is seeking people to work on an *ad hoc* committee to chart a course for

future D17 STaCs. Sharon Smith volunteered to serve on the committee. Liz sent a letter to D17 club owners and managers stating that the D17 Board has voted to exit from the Western Conference, and that competing the withdrawal would be a nine-month process. JoAnne Lowe requested that Liz distribute the letter she sent to club presidents to D17 Board members. Liz indicated that she would do so.

NEW BUSINESS

District 17 Board Meeting – Las Vegas Regional Tournament

Liz Hamilton

It has been established that the meeting will take place on Thursday, November 11th. There was discussion about whether it should be a morning or afternoon meeting. The consensus is that it will be a morning meeting, commencing at 9 AM.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

North American Pairs

Lakin Hines

Virtual clubs held more than 1,800 qualifying games in June. The qualifying period is only 1/3 complete. The turnout for the face-to-face finals in Las Vegas could be very good.

Grant Proposals

Steve Nordberg

The board received a grant proposal from Susan Knight, Fundraising Chair for the 2022 Phoenix NABC tournament. The request is for \$1,400, consisting of \$1,200 for 20 four-day parking passes at \$60 each, and \$200 for miscellaneous supplies. Jennifer expressed the view that the proposal is really geared toward supporting and encouraging newer players in Unit 351 and is not specifically intended to support the Phoenix NABC. Lakin concurred. Among other things, the request for \$1,400 exceeds the maximum of \$1,000 that District 17 is empowered to provide for approved grants. Liz asked whether the \$1,400 could come from the Outreach allocation. Several board members indicated that they were confused about the focus, intended audience, and rationale.

Motion by Jennifer O'Neill to *give the Phoenix NABC \$5,000 from the restricted fund, with the possibility of additional funds if they need it*. Seconded by JoAnne Lowe. Carried unanimously. JoAnne agreed to follow up with Susan Knight for clarification of the grant proposal.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 9:08 AM.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, September 14, 2021 from 8:00 AM to 9:30 AM PDT, via video conference

Respectfully submitted,

William D. Phillips

Scribe