



Minutes of the District 17 Board of Directors Meeting January 18, 2022, via Zoom Video Conference

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

THE PRESIDENT CALLED THE MEETING TO ORDER AT 8:00 AM PST

GENERAL

Opening Remarks

Liz Hamilton

Liz welcomed new board members: Bill Curtis and Neil Hunter. Neil is the new chairperson of the Goodwill Committee. She expressed thanks to Jennifer O’Neill for sending flowers to Felix Moore. Liz also mentioned that, so far, 33 clubs have signed up for STaC games that D17 will be operating in 2022.

Approval of November 2021 Minutes

Bill Phillips

Steve Nordberg moved to accept the minutes. Seconded by JoAnne Lowe. Carried unanimously.

Treasurer’s Report

Jennifer O’Neill

Income from the November 2021 Las Vegas Regional was less than anticipated. The LV Regional lost \$5,843. The shortfall contributed to a \$7,700 loss for District 17 in 2021. Motion by Jennifer O’Neill to approve the 2021 balance sheet. Seconded by Liz Hamilton. Carried unanimously.

Neil Hunter raised the question of whether the District 17 Board should hold only one live meeting in 2022 instead of two as a cost-saving measure. The consensus was that the benefits of meeting in person justify the costs. If a board member is unable to attend an in-person meeting that person can participate via video link if a connection is available, or else via speaker phone.

Bill Phillips requested a discussion of Jennifer’s note in her report concerning free plays. Jennifer suggested that a discussion of free plays for both board members and other free play recipients should take place. Liz asked board members to think about the free play question and to be prepared to discuss it at a future meeting.

Motion by Jennifer O’Neill to approve the 2022 budget. Seconded by Steve Reynolds. Carried unanimously.

National Board Report

Cindy Shoemaker

The National Board voted to have NABC games start at 10 am and 3 pm (there will be evening games as well). Local organizers are given the flexibility of choosing their game starting times. Action has been taken to streamline handling of the backlog of player memos. An assistant recorder has been hired to work with Robb Gordon.

NEW BUSINESS**2022 Albuquerque Regional Cancellation**

Neil Hunter

The Albuquerque Regional Tournament Committee assumed that ACBL would not staff the 2022 Albuquerque Regional because of the sponsoring Unit's inability to meet ACBL COVID mitigation requirements. The venue (Marriott Pyramid Hotel) stated that the sponsoring unit is responsible for a payment of \$40,000 to Marriott. At this point the question of whether the Marriott will insist on payment is unresolved.

COMMITTEE REPORTS**Education**

Sharon Smith

Teachers are interested in making use of licensed materials that District 17 is able to make available to them. Teachers are *not* making use of information available on resources such as Bridge In A Day (BIAD). 99er Nite Club is continuing. A 199er section will be added to provide opportunities for players who have earned more than 99 mp.

Regional Tournaments

Steve Reynolds

Steve Reynolds and Neil Hunter will communicate to support the new chair appointed in Albuquerque.

There was a discussion about whether District 17 should support Unit 373 financially to help them cope with losses incurred by the 2021 Las Vegas Regional tournament. When all of the financial matters are settled Unit 373 will have about \$4,500 remaining in its treasury. They had disappointingly low participation in both I/N and Gold Rush events. Jennifer O'Neill pointed out that District 17 provided \$10,000 in assistance to Unit 373 several years ago.

Motion by Liz Hamilton to postpone any potential financial action with regard to the 2021 Las Vegas Regional tournament. Seconded by JoAnne Lowe. Carried unanimously.

The 2023 Albuquerque Regional tournament has been sanctioned. It is scheduled for January 16th through January 23rd. Denver, Albuquerque, and Taos are the regionals that have been the most successful financially in recent years. The 2023 Taos tournament has been posted in Tourney Trax. The Taos coordinator needs to approve it in order for JoAnne Lowe to move forward.

Steve will be holding a Zoom meeting of the Regional Tournament Committee, tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, January 25th at 10 am Arizona time, 9 am PST.

District 17 Document Archive

Cindy Shoemaker

The archive is complete. JoEllen Lowry is creating a tutorial for board members to show us how to access the archive. Bill Phillips suggested that the board consider archiving supporting documents in addition to the minutes. Liz suggested that Bill communicate with Cindy. Liz proposed that site licenses be archived.

Elections

Lakin Hines

Liz Hamilton, Bill Phillips, and Steve Reynolds are now in the final year of their current terms of office. They will be eligible for re-election when the election cycle begins.

Local Clubs

Cindy Shoemaker

JoAnne Lowe expressed concern about the viability of local clubs and asked whether District 17 can do anything to help them survive COVID, the plethora of ACBL-sanctioned online bridge, loss of members, etc. Cindy stated that the ACBL Board and ACBL support local clubs and recognize that they are the backbone of organized duplicate bridge. JoAnne mentioned that the clubs she represents believe that online games are destroying the clubs.

FUTURE MEETINGS

Motion by Liz Hamilton to schedule the next two meetings to be held March 1st from 8 AM to 9:30 AM PST and May 3rd from 8 AM to 9:30 AM PDT, both via Zoom video conference. Seconded by Cindy Shoemaker. For the March 1st meeting the vote was 10 in favor, 1 opposed. For the May 3rd meeting the vote was unanimous.

ADJOURNMENT

Jennifer O'Neill moved that the meeting be adjourned. Seconded by Steve Nordberg. Carried unanimously. MEETING ADJOURNED AT 9:33 AM PST.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, March 1st from 8 AM to 9:30 AM PST, via Zoom video conference.

Respectfully submitted,

William D. Phillips

Scribe