



Minutes of the District 17 Board of Directors Meeting Denver, Colorado – May 27, 2022

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 (via video link)

Guests: Bonnie Bagley (GNT and STaC Coordinator), Robb Gordon, Scott Humphries (Area Manager for Districts 15, 16, and 17)

THE PRESIDENT CALLED THE MEETING TO ORDER AT 8:01 AM MDT

GENERAL

Opening Remarks Liz Hamilton

Liz asked all present to introduce themselves.

Recording of email Votes Liz Hamilton

Subsequent to the last meeting three email votes were taken: (1) Motion to maintain the STaC sanction fee at \$6.50 per table, carried unanimously; (2) Motion to allow the Las Vegas Regional to increase the entry fee by \$1, carried 9 in favor, 2 opposed; (3) Motion to make the youth entry fee 50% of the member entry fee, carried unanimously.

Approval of March 1st 2022 Minutes Bill Phillips

Jennifer O'Neill moved to accept the minutes as submitted. Seconded by Bill Curtis. Carried unanimously.

Treasurer's Report Jennifer O'Neill

Overall D17 is doing well financially, although a loss is projected for this year. We received \$1,000 from the Western Conference. STaC expenses and revenues will be higher than budgeted; the net will be close to the budgeted amount. Royal STaC was well-received by clubs. Jerry Ranney audited the books. Money market rates of return are increasing. District 17 has \$50,000 in a Schwab account. In addition, there is a \$30,000 Certificate of Deposit maturing in February 2023. Motion by Jennifer O'Neill to purchase a 2-year or 3-year Certificate of Deposit in the amount of \$25,000 to \$30,000. Seconded by Liz Hamilton. Carried unanimously.

National Board Report Cindy Shoemaker

A “robust” return to face-to-face bridge is a top priority. The Reno NABC turned a small profit. The organizers worked hard to cut expenses, particularly in the area of hospitality. Membership in ACBL has dipped below 144,000. ACBL membership declined by 1,700 in April 2022. ACBL computer technology is currently a patchwork of “band-aid” fixes. A significant investment (\$800,000) is being made to clean this up.

Regional Tournament Planning**Bill Phillips**

Currently there are several documents pertaining to regional tournament planning, and to some extent the existing documents are inconsistent. Bill has drafted of a preliminary draft of a rewritten version of the Regional Tournament Plan. Revisions of these draft documents are in progress. In the interim: Motion by Liz Hamilton that the District 17 Board of Directors approve any proposed actions taken by the Regional Tournament Committee regarding regional tournaments. Seconded by Steve Reynolds. Carried unanimously.

COMMITTEE REPORTS**GNT****Bonnie Bagley**

We have six teams in Flight A, ten teams in Flight B, and nine teams in Flight C. Theresa Verhuis is the Tournament Director for the Denver GNT events. Motion by JoAnne Lowe that we approve an additional \$1,000 each to subsidize travel for the second-place teams in Flight B and Flight C if they participate in the Nationals. Seconded by Lakin Hines. The merits of spending this amount of money for this purpose was discussed. Vote was 8 in favor, 3 opposed. Motion carried.

Communications**Cindy Shoemaker**

The open rate for the latest issue of the Buzz was greater than 60%. Cindy's National Board Report also had a high open rate. There has been some maintenance and some bug fixes on the District 17 website.

Contract Review Committee**Steve Reynolds**

The RTP for the upcoming August 2022 Desert Empire Regional has been approved. Neil Hunter and Liz Hamilton have been working with Unit 374 and Albuquerque Marriott Pyramid officials to craft a satisfactory contract and budget. Neil has been attending Unit 374 Board meetings in his capacity as District 17 representative. Jennifer O'Neill has been running budget scenarios.

Education**Sharon Smith**

Teachers are pleased with the “Bridge In A Day” (BIAD) materials that District 17 has made available to them. The District 17 BIAD license does *not* cover the cost of books for face-to-face “Learn Bridge In A Day.” Sharon answered questions about applying for grants and other matters concerning teaching. The 99er Nite Club continues to attract participants. Liz Erling is doing recaps of Monday evening 99er Nite Club sessions. Sharon would like to get another District 17 person involved in this process. Liz Hamilton suggested that the 99er Nite Club hold a face-to-face event at the upcoming Phoenix Regional. Sharon proposed that the 99er Nite Club cover the players’ entry fees, as was done at the 99er Nite Club event at the Reno NABC. Sharon also suggested that a District 17 person should provide a recap of the boards the 99er Nite Club participants play. BridgeWhiz is

advertising via Peachjar. Sharon encouraged board members to get in touch with authorities at their local school districts to request that they participate in Peachjar.

Elections**Lakin Hines**

Board member terms expire at the end of December 2022 for Liz Hamilton, Bill Phillips, and Steve Reynolds. All are planning to stand for re-election for three-year terms. Cindy Shoemaker is standing for re-election as National Board Representative. This election will be conducted by ACBL. The length of the National Board representative term is four years.

Goodwill**Neil Hunter**

Goodwill Ambassador nominations for 2022 were appreciated by the recipients. Motion by Jennifer O'Neill that an awardee from Unit 360 be allowed to redeem his free play vouchers at a local club, sectional tournament, or regional tournament within District 17, as a one-time exception. Seconded by JoAnne Lowe. Carried unanimously.

NAP**Lakin Hines**

Lakin is working on the conditions of contest and a flyer. Qualifying games are to be held June through August. District 17 finals are to be held in Las Vegas. Jennifer O'Neill mentioned that District 17 had low participation in NAP last year, partly because people did not know they had qualified. She suggested that a list of qualified players be compiled and sent to the qualified players via email inviting them to compete in Las Vegas.

Regional Tournaments**Steve Reynolds**

Jack Shoemaker has become the Tournament Chair for Unit 356. Tucson is in the early stages of planning for a five-day (Tuesday through Saturday) regional tournament to be held in Tucson in February-March 2023. The proposed venue is a large church recreation hall. The planners expect to be able to operate the tournament at a profit. Steve proposed that the entry fee be set at a uniform maximum of \$16 for all regional tournaments. There was some discussion of the matter but there was no motion, and no vote was taken.

Tournament Coordination**JoAnne Lowe**

JoAnne has updated the calendar on the District 17 website. She encouraged sectional tournament planners to work with her to identify dates for their tournaments. JoAnne has not received any communications from Winifred Stebbins concerning the October 2023 Regional scheduled for Taos. The contract with Talking Stick Resort for the Phoenix Regional expires in 2022. It is not clear whether there will be a Phoenix Regional in 2024 and beyond. The 2022 tournament is expected to incur a loss of about \$10,000. Ken Horwedel projected a table count of 700, down from 1,300 pre-COVID.

Tournament Supplies**Bill Phillips**

Bill reported that he received a great deal of help with loading and unloading the supplies from the trailer, as he did in Las Vegas. The Denver tournament planners requested that District 17 supply all the bidding boxes as well as pre-duplicated boards, bridge round timers, and table marker cards. Bidding boxes and boards now have “Property of District 17” labels.

Pianola**JoAnne Lowe**

Motion by JoAnne Lowe that the Phoenix Regional be authorized to send two email blasts for advertising and communication purposes. Seconded by Lakin Hines. Carried unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Jennifer O'Neill to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Bill Curtis. Carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 11:45 am MDT.

Next Meeting: Friday, August 19, 2022, from 8 am to 12 noon Arizona time, Scottsdale, AZ
(subsequently changed to Thursday, August 18, 2022, 9 am to 1 pm AZT)

Respectfully submitted,
William D. Phillips
Scribe