



## Minutes of the District 17 Board of Directors Meeting Albuquerque, NM – January 19, 2023

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

Attending via phone link: Diana Galis, Lakin Hines

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

### Opening Remarks

Liz Hamilton

Liz nominated for JoAnne Lowe and Phoebe Packer for membership on the ACBL National Charity Committee and nominated Jennifer O’Neill and Bill Phillips for membership on the ACBL National Goodwill Committee.

### Approval of December 8, 2022 Minutes

Bill Phillips

Motion by Sharon Smith to approve the minutes of the December 8, 2022 Zoom meeting. Seconded by JoAnne Lowe. Motion carried unanimously.

### Treasurer’s Report

Jennifer O’Neill

District 17 made a donation of \$3,000 to support the 2022 Phoenix NABC. Motion to approve the calendar year 2022 Treasurer’s Report by Jennifer O’Neill. Seconded by Cindy Shoemaker. Carried unanimously.

### National Board Report

Cindy Shoemaker

ACBL surveyed the membership regarding the policy requiring vaccinations. The survey response rate was 10%. Of those who responded, 48% indicated that they would *not* attend an ACBL event if vaccinations were not required. There will be an NABC in Phoenix in Fall 2027 at the Sheraton Hotel. This scheduling is an arrangement with the Sheraton to recover costs incurred because the 2022 NABC did not meet room occupancy quotas.

## NEW BUSINESS

### Committee Chair Assignments

Liz Hamilton

Motion by JoAnne Lowe to approve Diana Galis as the chair of the Grant Program Committee. Seconded by Neil Hunter. Carried unanimously. Motion by Bill Phillips to approve Liz Hamilton as chair of the Regional Tournament Committee. Seconded by Bill Curtis. Carried unanimously.

### Allocation of I/N Regionals

Liz Hamilton

District 17's allocation of I/N regionals has been increased from three to five per year. Typically, I/N regionals are run in conjunction with open sectionals. Participants must be non-Life Masters with less than 750 masterpoints. District 17 receives no income from I/N regionals. The District provides I/N regional sponsors with one free Pianola communication. There was an extended discussion regarding awarding and calendar distribution of I/N regionals. Liz will communicate with unit presidents regarding the availability of I/N regionals.

**Fund Raising**

Liz Hamilton

Liz suggested that District 17 regionals should not be adding fees or allocating any proceeds to support NABC events. The Phoenix NABC attempted to use Go Fund Me as a fund-raising device. This practice should be discouraged.

**OLD BUSINESS****District 17 Board Meeting Schedule for 2023**

Liz Hamilton

There was a discussion regarding the number of face-to-face meetings to be held in 2023. Zoom meetings are cost-effective but there are advantages of face-to-face meetings. Motion by Sharon Smith to hold three face-to-face meetings in 2023 (including the Albuquerque meeting). Seconded by Cindy Shoemaker. Vote was 8 in favor, 3 opposed. Motion carried. Motion by Sharon Smith to hold the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> face-to-face meeting at the Denver Regional and at the Taos Regional (see below). Seconded by Neil Hunter. Motion carried unanimously.

**Taos Regional in 2023**

Jennifer O'Neill

The Regional Tournament Committee reviewed the contract. Winifred Stebbins, Tournament Chair, negotiated with the venue to reduce the costs. Motion by Jennifer O'Neill to approve the 2023 Taos Regional, with proceeds to be split 50/50 between the tournament sponsor and District 17. Seconded by Neil Hunter. A discussion of the motion followed. The consensus is that the risk of incurring a financial loss is low. Proposed dates are September 25<sup>th</sup> through October 1<sup>st</sup>. Vote on the motion was 10 in favor, 1 opposed. Motion carried.

**2023 Budget**

Jennifer O'Neill

Jennifer O'Neill moved that the 2023 District 17 budget be approved with inclusion of the Taos Regional, three face-to-face Board meetings, and an adjustment to bring NAP subsidies into conformance with ACBL NAP conditions of contest. Seconded by Liz Hamilton. Motion carried unanimously.

**Pianola**

Liz Hamilton

Jerry Keeran has volunteered to serve as the District 17 Pianola coordinator.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

## Communications

Cindy Shoemaker

Buzz newsletter is doing well in terms of readership and favorable comments regarding content. The bounce rate is going up, suggesting that email addresses of ACBL members are not up to date. Website content is being updated as needed.

## Education

Sharon Smith

The license renewal for Bridge-in-a-Day (BIAD) was approved by the Board via an email vote. Patty Tucker will be teaching a bridge class at the Fort Carson military base, funded by an ACBL grant. There was good participation of 99er Nite Club members at the bridge event offered at the Phoenix NABC.

## Elections

Lakin Hines

Three Board membership terms expire in 2023: Lakin Hines, Steve Nordberg, and Sharon Smith. Sharon will stand for re-election. At the Phoenix District 17 Board meeting it was incorrectly reported that Steve Nordberg would be ineligible because of term limits per the by-laws, but in fact he *is* eligible for a 4<sup>th</sup> term. Steve will decide whether to stand for re-election. Lakin Hines will *not* stand for re-election.

## Goodwill

Neil Hunter

Neil has received three nominations to date. He requests that Board members submit their nominations by the end of January. Include a quality photograph with your recommendation.

## GNT and STaC

Bill Curtis

Qualifying for GNT in face-to-face games ends at the end of February. Qualifying in online games continues until the end of March. Championship flight competition will be held online April 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>. Flight A, B, and C competition will be held at regionals. Four STaCs are scheduled for 2023. Two of these are Royal STaCs. Dates are on the District 17 website calendar.

## NAP

Lakin Hines

National finals will be held at the NABC in New Orleans. Some eligible pairs will not be participating because of the expense.

## Tournament Coordination

JoAnne Lowe

JoAnne encouraged people who are contemplating offering a tournament to apply for a sanction as soon as possible. This reserves a spot on the calendar. You can cancel an event if necessary, even after you have obtained a sanction.

**Tournament Supplies****Bill Phillips**

District 17 owns 160 Bridgemates. The District has full control of the use and delivery of Bridgemates. There are no current requests for Bridgemate rentals. Bill will order rubber feet for table units that have missing feet and will order spare batteries. Renting Bridgemates has some unresolved issues, including how much to charge and how Bridgemates can be delivered and retrieved. Liz suggested the possibility of selling some of the table units, because 160 is more than we need for any tournament that we would run in the foreseeable future.

**Grants****Diana Galis**

A grant request from Unit 363, requesting \$1,000 for BIAD in two locations. Bill Curtis, Unit 363 Unit Representative, has not signed the request. The request is in part for funding an event that has already taken place. Unit 363 has received six grants totalling \$5,000 in recent years. Units 159, 356, 373, 374, 356, 380, and 381 have never applied for grant funds. Jennifer O'Neill suggested that Liz send an email to unit presidents indicating the availability of education grant funds. Liz Hamilton suggested that a document be developed that outlines the parameters of grants, such as items that are eligible for funding and items that will not be considered for funding. Motion by Jennifer O'Neill to *disapprove* the Unit 363 grant proposal. Seconded by Neil Hunter. Motion carried unanimously.

**ADJOURNMENT**

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

**Next Zoom Meeting: April 11, 2023, 9 AM PDT and AZT, 10 AM MDT**  
**Next Face-to-Face Meeting: May 2023, Denver Regional, date and time TBA**

Respectfully submitted,  
*William D. Phillips*  
Scribe