



Minutes of the District 17 Board of Directors Meeting Taos, NM – September 27, 2023

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

Also Attending: Matt Koltnow, ACBL Area Manager

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

Opening Remarks

Liz Hamilton

Liz offered her thanks to Neil Hunter and Jennifer O'Neill for co-chairing the Taos Regional Tournament.

Approval of May 24, 2023 Meeting Minutes

Bill Phillips

Motion by Jennifer O'Neill to approve the May 24, 2023 minutes as submitted. Seconded by Liz Hamilton. Motion carried unanimously. Motion by Steve Reynolds that the Recording Secretary distribute draft minutes to board members for review. Board members will have seven (7) days to review the revised minutes. After changes having been incorporated the President will send the final version to the board for an email vote. Approved minutes will then be distributed to board members and posted on the D17 website. Seconded by Jennifer O'Neill. Motion carried unanimously.

National Board Report

Cindy Shoemaker

Cindy stated that the National Board Report has been disseminated to the D17 and to membership and is posted on the D17 website for further reference. The next board report will be provided after the national board meetings held in conjunction with the fall NABC. For questions, please contact Cindy at region10director@acbl.org.

Treasurer's Report

Jennifer O'Neill

STaC has produced about \$3,500 income thus far for calendar year 2023. Schwab accounts are paying about 5% interest. These accounts are liquid; funds can be accessed in 24 hours. Motion by Lakin Hines to approve the Treasurer's Report. Seconded by Neil Hunter. Carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

Area Manager Report

Matt Koltnow

Costs have risen dramatically. ACBL has lost many tournament directors. Recruiting tournament directors is difficult. ACBL has created a tournament category called a Local Sectional, along with a program to train local sectional directors. They are not ACBL employees. Their performance is not monitored or controlled by ACBL. The motivation behind

local sectionals is to facilitate tournaments that otherwise could not be offered. The local sectional concept is not intended to replace regular sectional tournaments that are run by a DIC supplied by ACBL.

Strategic Budget Planning

Bill Phillips

Bill suggested that District 17 has two main functions: (1) attracting and teaching new players and retaining existing members, and (2) facilitating regional tournaments. He suggested that we should be willing to provide additional financial assistance to local sponsors to help them cope with rising costs. He also suggested that the grant program needs a chair who will be able to devote substantial time, energy, and enthusiasm so that our grant funds will be maximally effective in attracting, educating, and retaining new players.

Caddies and Volunteers

Liz Hamilton

We need to make sure that caddies are not too young for the job. Managing volunteers is difficult. We may need to start paying people to handle some of the tasks that require physical labor.

Bylaws Changes

Liz Hamilton

At a Zoom meeting held August 27, 2023 all but two members of the District 17 Board were present. A motion was presented to combine Units 159, 359, 374, 376, 380, 381, and 388 into an entity referred to as New Mexico and El Paso. The motion carried unanimously. This change is effective January 1, 2024. The current representative is Neil Hunter. Any additional changes in the structure of unit representation will require a change in the bylaws. Liz suggested that the bylaws should be changed so that assignment of board representatives is not driven by unit membership numbers. A Zoom meeting to consider bylaws changes is scheduled for Tuesday, November 7, 2023 from 8:00 to 9:00 AM MST (7 AM PST).

Emergency Tournament Supplies Planning

Bill Phillips

District 17 should develop a plan to ensure that pair game boards are duplicated and that all supplies are delivered in the event of an emergency that prevents the Tournament Supplies Chair from fulfilling his duties. Board members are encouraged to think about possible solutions. Sharon Smith is a skilled board duplicator.

OLD BUSINESS

Grant Program Update

Liz Hamilton

The ACBL CAP Program has been changed. Cindy will send out information to the board members about those changes when she is able to do so. Motion by Sharon Smith to allocate \$5,000 in the 2024 budget for the grant program. Jennifer O'Neill suggested that the allocation be changed to \$3,000. Sharon amended the motion such that the allocation would be \$3,000. Seconded by Neil Hunter. Vote was 8 in favor, 2 opposed. Motion carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Communications

Cindy Shoemaker

Jerry Keeran is no longer helping with website maintenance. Cindy will be seeking a replacement. She also updated the Communications Protocols and Procedures and the Pi-nola Schedule, which she included in the meeting packet.

Education

Sharon Smith

Sharon will send flyers about the 99er Nite Club to board members. The Bridge-in-a-Day contract is up for renewal. Sharon suggested that the board vote on renewal at the next board meeting. Steamboat Bridge will host one monthly GNT Qualifier game online through February. Details are on the GNT page on the D17 website.

Elections

Lakin Hines

Sharon Smith was re-elected to represent Units 359, 364, 421, and 422 (Colorado at large and Southern Wyoming). Her new three-year term will begin January 1, 2024. Kitty Larson was elected to represent Unit 351 (Mesa). Her term will begin January 1, 2024.

Goodwill

Neil Hunter

Neil distributed Goodwill Ambassador pins to board members, so they have them in their possession to present to their nominees. Awarding four free plays along with a certificate and pin will continue.

NAP

Lakin Hines

District 17 will need a new NAP coordinator to replace Lakin when his term ends on December 31, 2023.

Regional Tournaments

Liz Hamilton

The 2023 Taos tournament is our 5th, and last, tournament for 2023. Tournaments that will be held in 2024 are in Albuquerque, Tucson, and Denver. Unit 354 is continuing to negotiate with Talking Stick Resort regarding a tournament that might be held in Scottsdale in August 2024. Offering a tournament in Taos in 2024 is a possibility.

Tournament Supplies

Bill Phillips

District 17 is now printing hand records. This process began with the 2023 Denver tournament. The number of copies requested by the DIC is sometimes substantially higher than the number of hands records taken by players. However, the pattern is inconsistent - sometime the number of surplus hand records is minimal.

Tournament Coordination

JoAnne Lowe

JoAnne is not notified by ACBL when a flyer has been approved. She has requested that Crystal Mann provide her with such a notification.

Election of Officers for 2024

Lakin Hines

President: Liz Hamilton was nominated by Jennifer O’Neill. Elected by acclamation. Vice-President: Neil Hunter was nominated by JoAnne Lowe. Elected by acclamation. Recording Secretary: Bill Phillips was nominated by JoAnne Lowe. Elected by acclamation. Treasurer: Jennifer O’Neill was nominated by JoAnne Lowe. Elected by acclamation. Motion by Jennifer O’Neill to table the election of an Elections Secretary until 2024. Seconded by JoAnne Lowe. Carried unanimously.

District 17 Meetings in 2024

Liz Hamilton

Bylaws state that there shall be three face-to-face meetings per year. Motion by Liz Hamilton that we hold three face-to-face meetings in 2024 if tournament dates permit. Seconded by Bill Curtis. Carried unanimously. Motion by Liz Hamilton that the first meeting in 2024 be a Zoom meeting and that the first face-to-face meeting be in Tucson. Seconded by Bill Phillips. Vote was 8 in favor, 1 opposed, 1 abstaining. Motion carried. Motion by to hold a Zoom meeting on Tuesday, January 9th from 8:00 AM to 9:30 AM MST. Carried unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn by Lakin Hines. Seconded by JoAnne Lowe. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 12:00 PM MDT.

Next Zoom Meeting: Tuesday, November 7, 2023 from 8:00 AM to 9:00 AM MST

Subsequent Zoom Meeting: Tuesday, January 9, 2024 from 9 AM to 9:30 AM MST

Respectfully submitted,

William D. Phillips

Scribe