



## Minutes of the District 17 Board of Directors Meeting Denver, CO – May 24 and 25, 2023

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

Attending as a guest May 24<sup>th</sup>: Toby McEvoy (via Zoom)

Attending to report on GNT May 25<sup>th</sup>: Bonnie Bagley

THE PRESIDENT CALLED THE MEETING TO ORDER AT 7:38 AM MDT

### Opening Remarks

Liz Hamilton

Liz welcomed Steve Reynolds back as the District 17 Board representative for Unit 356.

### Approval of April 11, 2023 Zoom Meeting Minutes

Bill Phillips

Motion by Lakin Hines to approve the minutes of the April 11, 2023 District 17 Board meeting. Seconded by Jennifer O'Neill. Carried unanimously.

### Treasurer's Report

Jennifer O'Neill

Phoenix NABC funds not used during the 2022 tournament are being held in a restricted account to be transferred to the organizers when the NABC is held in Phoenix in 2027. Funds not used for the 2019 Las Vegas NABC were held in a restricted account and have now been transferred to the 2024 Las Vegas Fall NABC account to be used for that event. There are also funds in a restricted account should Denver ever be awarded an NABC. Currently none of these funds are deposited in high interest-bearing accounts. Jennifer will investigate investment options. District 17 is awarding a \$2,000 stipend to the first place GNT teams in flights A, B, and C to help defray expenses incurred when playing in the national finals held at the 2023 Summer NABC, if they attend. Jerry Ranney will audit the 2022 books. The Board of Directors voted unanimously to keep the June 2023 Royal STaC sanction fee at \$6.00 per table. Motion by Jennifer O'Neill to approve the treasurer's report. Seconded by Lakin Hines. Carried unanimously.

### National Board Report

Cindy Shoemaker

Paul Cuneo, member of the ACBL Board of Directors, served as interim Executive Director until the new Executive Director (Bronia Jenkins) was hired. He is continuing to work with Bronia during the transition. The ACBL Board discussed the ACBL mask policy in which a masked pair may request that a pair who comes to the table also wear masks. It discussed the potential penalty for failure to comply. The policy as currently written suggests that the director should be called if there is a failure to comply. It is not clear what this policy applies to. As written, it may be that the policy applies only to NABCs. Specific location of 2027 Phoenix NABC has not yet been determined. It is unlikely that an NABC will be held in Denver in the foreseeable future.

## NEW BUSINESS

## Revision of Grant Program

Liz Hamilton

Liz proposed that if an entity has applied for a grant, it will not be considered for another grant until two years have elapsed. JoAnne suggested that funds should not be awarded for events that have already taken place. Jennifer suggested that the grant form should indicate how the money will be spent. Liz will revise the grant application form in light of comments received during this meeting.

## Unit 383 Grant Request

Neil Hunter

Cindy asked whether the unit had applied for funds from the ACBL Cooperative Advertising Program (CAP). Neil indicated that it had not. Jennifer suggested that the grant be funded for the requested amount, less whatever funding may be available from CAP. Neil will investigate CAP, and the grant proposal will be considered at tomorrow's continuation of this District 17 board meeting.

## Unit 359 Grant Request

Liz Hamilton

This request was submitted by Sally Ann Rhea, an ABTA master teacher and senior research assistant at the University of Colorado, Boulder. The Colorado University bridge club is *not* a sanctioned ACBL club. Nonetheless, the members *do* participate in various ACBL events. Motion by Jennifer O'Neill to approve funding of the grant proposal in the amount of \$750. Seconded by Steve Reynolds. Vote on the motion was 9 in favor, 1 opposed, 1 abstaining.

## Request to Authorize a Summer 2025 Las Vegas Regional

Liz Hamilton

At the present time the request is to reserve a place on the calendar for a five-day regional tournament to be held either July 7 through 11 2025 or July 14 through 18 2025. Unit 373 understands that all of the District 17 requirements and procedures for sponsoring a District 17 tournament must be followed. Liz expressed support for Unit 373's interest in reviving a summer Las Vegas regional. They are considering a July date because in the past Las Vegas regionals were extremely popular and successful when held in July. Motion by Liz Hamilton to reserve a place on the calendar for a Las Vegas regional to be held in July 2025. Seconded by Jennifer O'Neill. Motion carried unanimously.

SESSION ADJOURNED AT 9:05 AM MDT, MAY 24

SESSION RESUMED AT 7:30 AM MDT, MAY 25

## Unit 383 Grant Request (Continued)

Neil Hunter

Neil has obtained pre-approval of advertising funds from CAP. ACBL logo has been added to the advertisement. Motion by Neil Hunter requesting \$500 in grant funds from District 17. Seconded by Jennifer O'Neill. Motion carried unanimously.

## OLD BUSINESS

**Taos Regional in 2023**

Jennifer O’Neill

Over ½ of the rooms at the Sagebrush Inn have been spoken for. Neil Hunter, Jennifer O’Neill, and Winifred Stebbins continue to meet weekly. Jennifer repeated the need for District 17 board members, including spouses and partners, to devote time to tournament operations. Winifred and Neil will inspect the Taos bridge equipment and supplies to make sure all is ready. An advertisement was placed in the ACBL Bulletin, at a cost of \$900. It is expected that the Taos Chamber of Commerce will absorb this cost. Cindy Shoemaker suggested that it may be possible to place an announcement in the NABC summer bulletin at no cost. Speakers for the Taos tournament are being recruited.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS****Communications**

Cindy Shoemaker

Jerry Keeran is the Pianola coordinator for District 17. He will contribute to District 17 website operations as well. Cindy developed a schedule of all events that may have a need for Pianola emails through 2024. Motion by JoAnne Lowe to purchase 100,000 Pianola credits in order to qualify for a total of 200,000 at no additional cost. Seconded by Neil Hunter. Total cost of 200,000 credits is \$1,000. Motion carried unanimously.

**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. Laken Hines will *not* stand for re-election. There are three or four potential candidates for Lakin’s position: Unit 351 (Mesa). Sharon Smith (Units 359, 364, 421, 422) is currently running unopposed.

**Goodwill**

Neil Hunter

Neil reported that the Goodwill nomination and approval process went smoothly. Neil will bring pins and free play certificates to the Taos Regional to avoid mailing costs.

**NAP**

Lakin Hines

Lakin is working with Cindy Shoemaker on the conditions of contest.

**GNT and STaC**

Bonnie Bagley

Online team play was well-received by the players, except for the dates. There were conflicts with religious holidays and the San Diego Regional. Some players expressed a preference for Saturday and Sunday because they have jobs that prevent them from playing on weekdays. Dates for flights A, B, and C finals will remain the same, namely, at the 2024 Denver Regional. Participation in GNT is increasing. Conditions of Contest will be developed for review by the District 17 Board. Motion by Jennifer O’Neill to approve April 6 and 7, 2024 for next year’s online GNT play. Seconded by Bill Curtis. Motion carried unanimously. There was a discussion regarding what District 17 might do to inform newer players of the variety of bridge play op-

portunities that are available, and the meaning of acronyms and terms such as STaC, GNT, NAP, I/N, Grass Roots, etc.

#### Tournament Issues

Liz Hamilton

District 17's three scheduled tournaments in 2024 are bunched into the first five months of the calendar year: Albuquerque in January, Tucson in early March, and Denver in May. It is not yet known whether Phoenix and/or Taos will operate a tournament in 2024. NAP finals may need to be held at an I/N regional. Regional tournament sponsors are permitted to hire a Tournament Assistant in an effort to reduce costs. The tournament assistant reports to the DIC. Details can be found at [www.acbl.org](http://www.acbl.org). The DIC must approve the tournament assistant. Another classification of tournament is the small sectional that has 25 or fewer tables per session and no more than two events running simultaneously. If a tournament fits these criteria, they may opt to hire a local director. There is an online training course that club directors can complete to be eligible to direct in these tournaments. Again, details are available at [www.acbl.org](http://www.acbl.org). It is important to realize that not all club directors who complete this course are ready to accept this responsibility. It is the responsibility of the local sponsor to handle any issues that may arise from local tournaments.

#### Tournament Supplies

Bill Phillips

Team players at the Denver Regional reported that there is an ongoing problem with the quality of cards and boards supplied by the local sponsors for team events. This problem occurs at all regionals to some extent. There was a brief discussion of whether we should sell some of the Bridgemates that are currently in the District 17 inventory. Liz suggested that everyone think about this and be prepared to discuss the matter at a future meeting.

#### ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn by Steve Nordberg. Seconded by Bill Curtis. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 9:00 AM MDT.

**Next Face-to-Face Meeting: Wednesday, September 27, 2023, Taos Regional, 7:30 AM MDT**

Respectfully submitted,  
*William D. Phillips*  
Scribe