



Memorandum of Discussion

ACBL Unit 174 Board of Directors Meeting

June 5, 2023

Tracy Gee Community Center

Call to Order

Karen Nussbaum

President Karen Nussbaum brought the meeting to order at 9:15 AM. Also present at the meeting were Thomas Rush, Charles Dalton, John DuBose, Paddy Fiorino, Steve Gordon, Antoun Henri, and Siraj Jiwani. Sarah Springer and Dave Becker were present via zoom call. Also present was Nancy Strohmer. Bridgette Sandifer and Ken Russell were present as guest speakers. Nile Gross was absent from the meeting.

Guest Speaker

Bridgette Sandifer

BS wanted to discuss the current delays in clubs receiving reimbursement for tournament bridge pad rental. She did not receive the monies for the April regional until today. Discussion followed exploring options to speed up the process. SG stated that reimbursement is made based on actual table count rather than the number of bridge pads loaned. SG requested that a motion be made that he is able to make payment once he receives the tournament table count numbers (currently involves only the pairs games) without awaiting BOD approval. TR made this motion which was seconded by SJ. Motion was passed by the BOD. BOD also discussed whether to alternate bridge pad rental between BCOH and Apple/BS. TR will follow-up with BCOH to determine if they want to be a source of bridge pads for tournaments. BS also offered to the board a monthly mentor/mentee (less than 50 MP) game during her Friday game and she will waive the fees. KN will put it in the newsletter to attract prospective mentees. BS will check with Susan Banks Johnson to see if she wants to participate in this M/M pairing during her Monday Apple game.

Guest Speaker

Ken Russell

KR addressed the board about recruiting younger persons to duplicate bridge. Templates from the Atlanta Junior Bridge website are available but are unscalable. He advocated marketing duplicate bridge to college students as a means to improve brain function. TR recommended a working group to create a plan. TR made a



motion to assign Ken Russell to form a working group and return to the board with an action plan for funding consideration. CD seconded motion. Motion was passed.

Approval of minutes

Paddy Fiorino

PF presented minutes from the May 8, 2023 meeting which had been previously circulated via email to the board. TR moved that the minutes be approved, SJ seconded the motion and **minutes for the 4/17, 2023 meeting were APPROVED.**

Minutes of Special Meeting

Paddy Fiorino

An outline of the special meeting on 5/19 prepared by SS is stored in box.

Treasurer's Report

Steve Gordon

SG reported a current balance of \$81,000 in a checking account and \$50,000 in (2) Vanguard CD's at a current interest rate of 5.3%. SG reported all CD funds will be available by the next regional. Discussion ensued between board members between the desired balance between checking/savings options and possible money market accounts with checking options. SG will follow-up and investigate various options for interest rates and liquidity considerations. DB made a motion to keep \$25,000 in the checking account and the balance of funds in CD's which will expire the end of December 2023. CD seconded the motion. Motion passed. Issues regarding the needed amount for the checking account can be further addressed at a later date once SG has additional information. SG also stated that another signatory is needed for the Vanguard accounts. SG will get the paperwork ready for KN and she will create an online account as an additional signatory.

Technology

Thomas Rush

TR stated that he has spoken with webmaster Allison about fraud/spoofing issues but she does not have the needed technology skills to address this. TR plans further follow-up with John Magyari and Allison to continue to address. KN stated she received an email from John Magyari district 16 that fees for right to domain are needed. KN texted message to SG and he will arrange payment. TR stated that microphone issues will be tested this week before the sectional. The (Shriner's) missing microphone will be replaced if not located. TR stated labels need to be on the equipment to prevent re-occurrence. CD stated the current speaker system for the sectionals is not working well. NS recommended that a BOD representative meet with a Marriott engineer asap to prepare for the January 2024 regional tournament. KN will request that David Littmann plans to be present for this meeting at the Marriott.



SS continues to address.

June Sectional**Thomas Rush, John Dubose**

TR is preparing to purchase water and sodas and apples for the upcoming sectional. CD stated apples will need to be washed prior to distribution. TR stated that equipment and supply delivery is scheduled for 6/10/23. Thursday 6/11/23 setup is planned at 2 pm. 5-7 vegetarian meals/day will be available. There is no minimum sandwich purchase for the June regional. TR will contact Al Fortier to confirm his availability. TR verbalized concerns regarding caddy availability for the June sectional and beyond. Board members are concerned with the lack of contact information for the caddies. TR will follow-up further with NG with this issue. TR will obtain courtesy free plays for SG, PF, AF, Diane Kaminsky. There will also be free plays as a promotion for getting country club game participants through flyers distributed by Jennifer B. TR stated non-board members that are chair- persons for the tables out front should get free plays. Additional blank forms will be available if needed. TR made a motion that sectional speakers be awarded 2 free plays. Motion was seconded by DB. Motion passed. SJ and KN will follow-up with director Kevin about pre-registration for team games, possible use of bridge pads for team games, and other issues.

Charity Report**Nancy Strohmer**

NS reported no new funds have been received, she is still awaiting funds from 3 clubs and will follow-up as needed.

New Life Master/Club Connection**Karen Nussbaum**

Club connection game at Kingwood in conjunction with presentation of 3-4 Life Master awards is scheduled for 6/21/23, SJ encouraged as many board members to attend as possible. August club connection date of 8/21/23 was proposed for BCOH and SS will coordinate this date with BCOH. A Clear Lake Club Connection date for November/December will be considered in the upcoming meetings.

October 2024 Bryan/College Station**Karen Nussbaum**

KN stated the date has been rescheduled for November 1-3, 2024. JD and KN will work on sanctions. DB is addressing hotel arrangements with the nearby Hilton.

District Update

Karen Nussbaum

KN presented a letter from Betty Starzec concerning a district plan to send \$10 vouchers to lapsed ACBL members to encourage their return to F2F games and ACBL renewal. She forwarded the email to board members at this time.

Flyers

Karen Nussbaum

KN stated that work needs to start on preparing the regional flyers. SS reported difficulty with the current computer program, Greg May was suggested as a contact person. TR stated that another option may be to put it into Word. TR and SS will discuss a transition into a Word document.

Club Manager

Karen Nussbaum

KN presented an email report from Greg May stating that on May 30 there were 4 tables at the 0-50 MP unit 174 game. As of May 30th of this year, the table count for year 2021 is 171; year 2022 is 207; and year 2023 is 77.

August Sectional

Sarah Springer

SS reported that the guest speakers have been arranged. Daughters of the Nile will provide sandwiches at least Th/Fr/Saturday. Sunday is still pending.

I/N- Future Life Master Rep

Sarah Springer

SS reported she has not found a FLM representative to act as a board liaison and SS will continue to follow-up with the FLM program herself.

New Member Recruitment/Retention

Charles Dalton

CD reported that postcard efforts to invite additional members to expand the committee have been unsuccessful.



Publicity Chair**Thomas Rush**

TR has not yet initiated action on setting up a Facebook page for the unit.

STAC**Karen Nussbaum**

Scott Humphries and KN will coordinate with SJ. STAC week is 6/12-6/18.

NAP**Thomas Rush**

NAP finals are coming up in July in Chicago. Local club qualification for NAP For the March 2024 finals are just beginning.

Moody Gardens Sectional**Karen Nussbaum**

SS, KN, GM, AH, and NG will be visiting Moody Gardens soon (possibly July) to begin planning.

Houston Regional January 2024**Karen Nussbaum**

KN stated that the event naming process is already being addressed. KN encouraged board members to bring new ideas for upcoming planning discussions. TR discussed a Pro-Am event he had seen at a recent Denver regional.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn made by TR. SJ seconded. All were in favor.

Motion carried

The meeting was adjourned at 11:20 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Paddy Fiorino, Unit 174 Board Secretary

