

## **ACBL Unit 143 Board Meeting Minutes, November 13, 2019**

**Location:** Creve Coeur Government Center Meeting Room 2

**Attendees:** Dennis Abeln, Terry D'Amato, Mark Boswell, Maureen Curran, Estella Lau, John Levis, John Welte, Kelly White. **Absent:** Diane Deutch, Larry LaBrier and Jay Shah.

The meeting was called to order by President Mark Boswell at 7:01 PM.

**Secretary's Report:** Minutes from the October meeting were submitted by Dennis via e-mail. The minutes were approved as submitted.

### **President's Report:**

Doug Larson was nominated to replace Jim Cooper who was regularly nominated and elected but resigned in early September before taking his seat. Doug was approved by acclamation.

Officers for the next year were elected. Mark Boswell was re-elected president by acclamation. John Welte was elected vice-president by acclamation. Larry LaBrier and John Levis were nominated for treasurer, Larry was re-elected. Dennis was re-elected for Secretary by acclamation. Mark said other positions are appointed and will stay the same until further notice.

Mark reported that ACBL has changed discipline such that units will no longer be involved with discipline after Dec 31, 2019. Instead discipline will be handled by the districts.

Mark announced the December board meeting will be followed by a board of directors holiday party. Mark will invite off-board members including Debbie Romero, Mike Carmen, Phyllis Siegel, Dian Barker and Milt Zlatic.

**Treasurer's Report:** Larry was absent but submitted his report by email. Approval was tabled.

### **Tournaments:**

Mark announced the October Sectional lost money. No report yet. (Mike Carmen absent.)

Mark asked for feedback on the October Sectional.

- 1) Maureen reported players in the 0-299 Swiss game on Sunday were distracted by the Open Swiss players during round changes. She suggested the 0-299 Swiss game be held in a different room.
- 2) Dennis reported hearing from a 'C' player with friends who were 0-499 range players that don't like playing against rude open players, and had announced they were 'done' playing in those games.
- 3) Someone suggested adopting Non-Life-Master games in place of 0-299 or 0-499 pairs games.
- 4) Donuts set out Saturday morning were stale.
- 5) Mark reported a suggestion of 10AM and 2PM game starts on Saturday. Evening game turnout is shrinking.
- 6) Someone suggested having Friday 10AM and 2PM games.
- 7) Mark reported difficulties getting photos of winners. Many people don't know. Many others don't care. Discussion about having winners have their friends take pictures and submit electronically.

### **Committee Reports:**

**Awards:** No report. It was subsequently announced that Doug Larson will take over this job from Mark.

**Bidding Boxes & Time Clocks:** John Antognoli, an off-board member, is handling this job. No activity per Mark.

**Caddies:** Maureen has accepted the Caddies job and is working with Debbie Romero to learn the job.

**Datebook:** The 2020 Datebooks were printed and distributed in mid-October and are available at the clubs.

**District 8 Report:** Debbie had earlier shared an email announcing ACBL is considering consolidating districts into regions, with the main goal to reduce the size of the ACBL Board of Directors to reduce costs.

**Membership:** Jay was absent but had submitted a report by e-mail showing total membership dropping by 10.

### **Publicity:**

-Estella has submitted drafts of the January Sectional flyer and postcards to Mark Boswell and Mike Carmen, and is awaiting their approval. On track for mailing them in December.

- Estella announced that ACBL's email blast services will end starting 2020, and units will work with a third party.

**299er Tournaments:** No activity, no report.

**Unit Electronic Contact:**

- Kelly will update the unit's Officers List on the ACBL web site.

- Kelly questioned whether sending tournament postcards to players in other units is worthwhile. About 200 such postcards are mailed each tournament, costing about \$100. Kelly agreed to try to find out how many players from these other districts come to our sectionals.

**Unit Games:** Dennis reported unit games for 2020 are all set. Mark said clubs seeking sanction numbers can obtain them from their club page on ACBL.org.

**Website:** Terry has updated the website's unit games for 2020.

**Hospitality:** No activity.

**Education / Camp Scholarships:** No report. Mark advised that John Levis has been appointed chair.

**Outreach:**

- Mark announced Doug Larson has agreed to join this committee.

- Chair John Levis distributed a proposed committee mission statement with 1) increase the number of new players, 2) re-engage lapsed players and 3) make sure the unit has enough directors. He asked for ideas on how to get people interested in being directors.

- Mark passed out copies of an email from Dennis suggesting the unit conduct an opinion survey. Mark assigned this to the Outreach committee.

- Maureen reported Debb Keniley's 0-20 Chat game on Monday mornings is growing. Maureen said we need to work to provide a non-threatening playing environment. Maureen suggested all players wear nametags.

**Financial Review:** John Levis had no report. Doug Larson will join this committee.

**Nominations:** Doug Larson was nominated to replace Jim Cooper. No other activity.

**Rules Review:** Dennis reported the committee is working to complete the new bylaws by year end. The general plan is to submit them for approval at a special membership meeting to be held during Spring Sectional in May 2020. Proposed bylaws will be distributed to the board members for review and comment in January 2020.

**Old Business:**

Kelly asked about budget for Registration Gifts for next year's regional. Mark indicated budget is about \$2 per gift.

I/N Trophy upgrades - Kelly hasn't looked into this yet.

Jay was absent but reported he will get replacement signage made for the Regional.

Mark and John Antognoli are still working on buying new storage bins for bidding boxes and hospitality gifts.

**New Business:** (none)

**Next Meeting:** The next meeting will be December 11, 2019 at the regular time and location.

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 9:01 pm.

Minutes submitted by Dennis Abeln, Secretary, November 19, 2019. Rev 2 Dec 7, 2019.