

ACBL Unit 143 Board Meeting Minutes, Monday July 18, 2022

Location: The meeting was conducted on-line using ZOOM.

Attendees: Dennis Abeln, Mark Boswell, Don Chase, Maureen Curran, Terry D'Amato, Diane Deutch, Ken Obrecht, John Welte, Kelly White. Non-board members Mike Carmen and Steve Russell.

Absent: Mark Zellmer

The meeting was called to order by President John Welte at 7:04pm. Nine board members were in attendance, satisfying quorum requirements of five (50%).

The board meeting was originally scheduled for Wednesday July 13 but was rescheduled by John to have more data available on the August Regional.

John introduced Steve Russell who had been nominated to be on the board of directors. After brief discussion with Steve outside the meeting, Steve was elected to the board. He then rejoined the meeting.

The minutes from the June board meeting were approved as submitted.

The treasurer's report was approved as submitted.

John announced that Jan Potts had resigned from the board due to her husband's health.

Committee Reports

Committee reports were dispensed with so as to focus on the tournaments.

August Regional

John led a discussion on the Regional.

1. John reported that the flyer had been finalized with one significant change from last board meeting: The new Wednesday Gold Rush was changed from Swiss back to Pairs because the Swiss format would not benefit the concurrent open Bracketed Swiss event and because the pairs format is thought to be more attractive to the Gold Rush participants.
2. Mike had prepared a revised projection for the Regional. It was submitted and distributed shortly before the start of the meeting so most board members had not had a chance to review. Due to event changes, the projection was based on 57% table count compared to 2019. The projection showed an unrealistic profit because attendance at other mid-west regionals this year has been less than 50%.
3. Mike reported that the hotel had agreed to reduce the original contract's minimum room revenue commitment and minimum hospitality revenue commitment by half. We gave up two conference rooms, free hotel rooms and other amenities. John had previously asked Mike to share the hotel contract addendum but Mike had forgotten to do so.
4. The tournament will provide free hotel rooms to Mike Carmen as Tournament Chair and to Phyllis Siegel as Partnership Chair. The tournament will also pay one-half the cost of a room for the District 8 Secretary, as per District 8's bylaws. No other free rooms will be provided.

5. District 8 will not hold a meeting at the Regional so costs associated with that will be avoided. The costs of co-hosting the Saturday evening function will also be avoided.
6. Mike reported getting phone calls from people who were having difficulties getting the reduced hotel room rate. He said the hotel calls this event 'Mississippi Valley Bridge Tournament' due to the contract language and that callers need to specifically ask for that. Mike said future hotel contracts should use 'St Louis Regional' in the title so as to avoid this problem.
7. COVID-19 Community Transmission rates in St Louis County are currently 'High'. If this persists, which appears likely, masks will be required as per ACBL protocol. This situation needs to be explained on the Unit 143 website and will be included in the Pre-Bulletin which will be distributed to 2019 tournament participants and ACBL members within 500 miles of St Louis.
8. A table will be set up in the foyer in front of the hotel's large ballroom for incoming people to show proof of vaccination. The table will be staffed by board members. The list of vaccinated people from the St Louis Bridge Center will be used. Wrist bands will be given to people who have given proof of vaccination. People will not be allowed in the playing areas without wrist bands. Ken will purchase 1000 wrist bands.
9. Mike said Gold Rush strats will be 0-100, 100-300 and 300-750, but may be adjusted by the directors based on attendance. He also reported that Gold Rush only pays gold points to overall winners.
10. The board wants a separate playing area for 499er Pairs and Gold Rush events. Mike said one-fourth of the large ballroom can be walled off at no extra charge but it may require another director, costs which the board agreed to pay. Mike will discuss with ACBL Tournament Director Peter Wilke.
11. Mike said celebrity presenters for the 1:45PM lesson sessions have not been arranged yet, and that he typically recruits people after he knows they're coming. The presenters are offered two free plays.
12. John reported that a one-sixth page advertisement had been placed in the July issue of the ACBL Bridge Bulletin (page 77) at the cost of \$320.
13. The FastResults Pre-Bulletin will be automatically be emailed by Fast Results to all people who played in the 2019 tournament. We control timing for the emailing which will be about two weeks before the tournament. Kelly will also distribute the Pre-Bulletin (a pdf document) via Pianola to ACBL players within 500 miles of St Louis. Some printouts of the Pre-Bulletin will be available at the tournament. *Not presented at the meeting but worth noting: The unit engaged FastResults services to email daily results to participants at a cost of \$200. The unit also engaged Jennifer Luner to develop Fast Result's Day 1 Daily Bulletin (aka 'Pre-Bulletin') at an estimated cost of \$350.)*
14. The board decided to drop all alcohol from the free hospitality offerings.

15. Mike will check on whether the tournament has the option of participating in Entry Express. 'Entry Express' currently appears on the flyer.
16. Mike advised Kelly that the directors will need a starting supply cash to make change but that it will be returned that same day. Kelly will be available each day to collect tournament proceeds.
17. Phyllis Siegel will provide the Monday 10AM lesson and direct the free 0-20 pairs game on Monday.
18. Phyllis will conduct a free Regional Orientation session at the St Louis Bridge Center on the Friday afternoon before the tournament. Publicity for this needs to be arranged.
19. Small wrapped candy will be set out at the beginning of each session as in past regionals. The hotel provides the bowls. Diane Deutch will take care of this.
20. Maureen had questions about the number of caddies required. She and John will discuss this later.
21. It was agreed that board members will only receive two free plays versus the customary four to help reduce costs for the event.
22. Diane Deutch will coordinate photographs of the winners.

September 499er Sectional

John will work to get the flyer done by August 1.

John will work to confirm the availability and costs of having the tournament at the St Louis Bridge Center.

October Sectional

The October Sectional will be held at Blanchette Memorial Hall in St Charles.

Other

Mark Boswell reported that the Unit's 2022 allocation of 28 Unit Games will be scheduled for the period September 1 to December 31. The unit games will avoid STaC week and religious holidays and will be distributed so all clubs benefit.

The next board meeting will be August 10, 2022.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:48 pm.

Submitted by Secretary Dennis Abeln July 19, 2022. Rev 1 submitted July 20. Rev 2 submitted July 20.