

ACBL Unit 143 Board Meeting Minutes, Wednesday October 12, 2022

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

Attendees: John Welte, Mark Boswell, Dennis Abeln, Don Chase, Diane Deutch, Ken Obrecht, Steve Russell, Mark Zellmer

Absent: Maureen Curran, Terry D'Amato

The meeting was called to order by President John Welte at 7:03 pm. Eight board members were in attendance, satisfying quorum requirements.

The minutes from the September board meeting were approved as revised on Sept 27.

President's Report:

John Welte announced that Mike Carmen had resigned as Unit 143 Tournament Chair effective September 20. Mike will serve out his term as Unit 143's representative to District 8, ending December 2022. The board agreed by consensus to honor Mike's service with unlimited personal free plays during 2023.

John had appointed Dennis Abeln as Tournament Chair. The board approved the appointment by consensus.

Dennis Abeln resigned as Unit 143 Secretary effective after this meeting so as to concentrate on Tournament issues. Don Chase expressed willingness to serve as Secretary and was elected by consensus.

John announced one person has agreed to join the board starting in November.

John announced that Mark Zellmer and Diane Deutch's terms on the board expire in November. The board voted by acclamation to have them each continue for another 3-year term. Regular board member elections are expected to resume in October 2023.

August 2022 Regional

Dennis reported that a final report is expected from Mike Carmen in November. Mike is waiting for District 8's decision on whether to forgo its share of the proceeds. A decision is expected at District 8's board meeting on October 22.

September 2022 499er Sectional

John reported the tournament had a profit of about \$500.

Tournament Report:

Dennis had emailed a detailed report on the October '22 Sectional, the January '23 Sectional and the next three Regionals. Key items are presented here.

October 2022 Sectional

Dennis reported that Blanchette agreed to have the October rental match May '22 where we were charged for 2 days rather than 3.

Dennis reported that the October Sectional is expected to lose about \$3,000 based on estimated turnout of 53% compared to October 2019. Our costs are fixed for this tournament.

Jay Shah will run the 499er Sunday Swiss games in a side room and will be paid \$100 per session.

Don Chase has agreed to be COVID-19 Coordinator. Ken Obrecht is assisting. The COVID-19 Community Level in St Charles County is currently LOW so ACBL protocols will not require masks for all. Wristbands, courtesy masks and hand sanitizer will be handled same as August 2022 regional.

Diane has Hospitality under control. She needs help with clean-up.

Diane will work to get photos of winners.

Steve Russell (treasurer) will not be available to meet with the ACBL director at the end of the tournament on Sunday afternoon. Mark Boswell will cover collecting the proceeds and writing the required check to ACBL.

January 2023 Sectional

Dennis proposed reducing the number of games on Saturday from three to two which will allow getting by with one ACBL director instead of two which will significantly reduce director costs. He also proposed raising the entry fee for Open and 499er players to \$14. Assuming a 53% turnout compared to January 2020, Dennis is projecting that these changes will result in losing about \$100. The proposed changes were approved by the board without objection.

John and Dennis had proposed raising the I/N game upper limit to 750 so as to attract more players. Diane commented that the 500-750 players that she knew were willing to play in the Open game. The January I/N games will be 0-499, no further objections.

Dennis proposed making the I/N Pairs games 'flighted' rather than stratified which would have the beginners play only other beginners. Dennis reported that Peter Wilke is willing to do this if the I/N table count is six or more. No objections.

Dennis reported on a meeting held October 10, 2022 with the Bridge Center's Dick Lazaroff and Linda Currier. Terms of our use first negotiated on August 1, 2022 were clarified.

- We will use the Bridge Center's tables, chairs, bidding boxes, coffee-making equipment, ice-machine and other beverage supplies.
- We will pay \$500 flat fee per day.
- We will pay the Bridge Center \$75/day to have their usual cleaning service people do daily cleaning. Board member volunteers will handle pickup after each session.
- We will pay \$3 per packet of coffee to cover costs of coffee, cups and other related supplies.
- We will be responsible for sidewalk snow and ice removal. We can use the Bridge Center's tools and salt. (The landlord takes care of the parking lot.)
- We will not be charged for whole days lost due to weather.
- The unit will not use the Bridge Center's boards, scoring devices or time clocks – these items will be provided by the ACBL director.
- The unit can use the Bridge Center's chat room without additional charge.
- The unit can use the Bridge Center's presentation aid without additional charge.
- The unit will be permitted to hang a welcome banner over the kitchen cabinets.
- The Bridge Center agreed to hold these rates and terms for 2023.
- A formal contract was not deemed necessary.

The board voted to approve these terms without objection.

Don Chase agreed to continue as COVID-19 Coordinator.

Dennis is working with John on the flyer and wants to submit it to the District 8 and ACBL for approval before the end of October. The flyer will be submitted to the board for review and comment prior to sending to District 8 and ACBL. Publicity will commence after approvals are obtained.

Dennis reported that we can cancel the January 2023 reservation with Blanchette without penalty if we do so at least 90 days before the event starts which is Oct 14. Dennis will notify them of the cancellation.

August 2023 Regional

Dennis reported on a meeting held October 6, 2022 with Renaissance Hotel personnel concerning a contract addendum for August 2023 Regional. Unit 143 attendees were John

Welte, Mark Boswell and Dennis Abeln. The hotel proposed matching the terms of the addendum for August 2022's Regional with the exception that the guaranteed minimum number of room nights would be lowered to 75% of the actual 2022 room nights. The Food & Beverage minimum would remain at \$7500, the same as the 2022 addendum. We asked the hotel to drop the late afternoon snack and instead let us spend those monies on lunch either free or subsidized, details to be worked out later, and they agreed. We retain the use of the full ballroom and foyer and facilities for District 8 meeting and party on Saturday. We released all of the ground level side conference rooms except for Heathrow which is used for storage. The proposed contract addendum terms were approved by the board without objection. The proposed contract addendum will be executed this week, with copies to be distributed to board members.

Dennis will submit a proposed game schedule and seek approval at the November board meeting. His goal is to get the schedule approved by District 8 and ACBL by the end of November.

August 2024 and 2025 Regionals

Sanctions for these events have been approved. The Renaissance Hotel is holding these dates for us and will ask for contracts if someone else wants the dates. Otherwise, they are willing to wait and sign contracts after the immediate preceding event.

Trophies:

Mark Boswell reported having a surplus of Section A trophies and no Section B trophies. He paid to have some A's changed to B's.

Nominations:

Diane has some suggestions for new board members. She will forward the names to Mark Zellmer.

Old Business

Mark Boswell reported that units are not permitted to bar players from their tournaments. In order for a unit to discipline a player, someone must file a formal complaint to the District President who will refer it to the district's disciplinary people. Mark will follow-up with Maureen Curran on how to file a complaint.

New Business

Dennis reported that Frisella has announced a rate increase for their storage and moving services effective January 2, 2023. The initial reported increase amounted to 63% on an annual basis, and was later reduced to 50%. Frisella hadn't changed their rates since 2005, and claimed the new rates are competitive. Dennis will seek comparative pricing from some other companies and report back next month.

Dennis reported that Blanchette has announced intent to raise their rates beginning January 1, 2023. Details are expected in early December.

Dennis reported conversations with Beth Percich where she said the unit's boards are of the type that don't work efficiently with dealing machines, because they require manual removal of the hands from the boards and manual re-insertion of the sorted hands. Peter Wilke brings his boards to our tournaments so our boards aren't needed. Someone suggested loaning the boards to the ABA. Action was tabled.

John suggested dropping the Christmas party given the continuing tournament losses. Approved without objection.

Dennis proposed three new Standing Rules which follow. Discussion and vote on approval will take place at the November board meeting.

- a. **Contracts.** All contracts committing the unit to spend more than \$5,000 shall require prior approval of a majority of the board and the signatures of two officers. For the purposes of this standing rule only, officers are the President, Vice-President, Treasurer and Tournament Chair.
- b. **Free hotel rooms.** Free hotel rooms at Regional Tournaments shall be limited to the Unit President, Unit Treasurer, Unit Tournament Chair, Unit Partnership Chair and Unit Caddy Chair. A free hotel room shall be available to the ACBL President. Free hotel rooms for District 8 personnel shall follow District 8's standing rules and bylaws. The board may award free hotel rooms to other contributors by a majority vote.
- c. **Free plays at tournaments.** Free plays at tournaments shall be limited to unit board members, the Unit Tournament Chair and the Unit Partnership Chair. Four free plays shall be available at the unit's Regionals, two free plays per person at the unit's Open Sectionals, and one free play per person at the unit's I/N sectionals. Free plays are not transferrable or bankable. The board may award free plays to other contributors by a majority vote. A reduction in free plays per tournament may be made by majority vote.

The next board meeting will be November 9, 2022.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:26 pm.

Submitted by Secretary Dennis Abeln October 19, 2022.