

ACBL Unit 143 Board Meeting Minutes, September 11, 2019

Location: Creve Coeur Government Center Meeting Room 2

Attendees: Dennis Abeln, Terry D'Amato, John Antognoli, Mark Boswell, Diane Deutch, Estella Lau, Jay Shah, John Welte, Kelly White, Mike Carmen (non-board member.) Absent: Lee Hastings and Larry LaBrier.

The meeting was called to order by President Mark Boswell at 7:02 PM.

New Board Member: John Levis was nominated to replace Debbie Romero who resigned effective August 30. The board voted to approve John's appointment. John then joined the meeting. John's term will expire Oct 31, 2020.

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

President's Report: Mark passed out a list of board jobs, and asked people to consider what jobs they would be willing to do, especially President, as Mark is limited to 2 years ending Oct 31, 2020.

Mark reported that incoming board member Maureen Curran has agreed to be Caddy Chair.

Treasurer's Report: Larry was absent. He submitted an e-mail reporting the cash position. His report was approved.

Tournaments:

August Regional: Mike Carmen reported tentative results of the August regional. Preliminary financial results show a gain of about \$4700. Table counts were about the same as last year. Evening table counts were down. 0-499 table counts were up. Zip Swiss was cancelled due to lack of interest. Two charity games were held, one benefitting the Backstoppers. Director fees decreased, hospitality increased, hotel room costs increased. Mike asked that any comments be e-mailed directly to him. A detailed report will be submitted next month.

Mark led a review of the August Regional:

Signage was missing. Need volunteer to create signs for the next regional.

Consider cutting back on food offered after the afternoon session.

No feedback yet from ACBL's opinion survey.

Registration gifts ran out, so Mark purchased some pens. 380 gifts were handed out per Linda Siebert. Discussion about purpose of Registration, why we do it, what we do with the information collected, etc. Bottom line: players expect registration gifts so we will continue it. Jay agreed to investigate and order gifts for next year's regional.

Four or five new totes are needed for bidding boxes to replace deteriorated ones. Mark asked that an extra tote be purchased for registration gifts.

Some complaints were made about poor condition of boards and cards used for the team games. These materials are provided by the directors, and if there are problems, the directors should be informed.

The contract with Renaissance Hotel for the 2022 Regional has an out escape clause that expires Sept 18. Mark said the escape clause will not be exercised.

Some items were stolen from outside vendors who set up displays in the hall outside the games. Shirts were taken from the clothing vendor and a cash register was taken from the bookseller. The hotel does not have security cameras.

John reported the bidding boxes were kept in the Lambert Room which worked well. Someone said games in the side rooms didn't have time clocks. Directors placed the clocks in the main room with no problems.

Committee Reports:

Awards: Mark reported trophies for the September I/N Sectional had been transferred to John Welte. Mark reported the current trophies cost about \$6-7 ea and that he maintains an inventory of the Flight A, B and C trophies for both the Sectionals and the Regionals. Terry asked whether the trophies could be upgraded. Jay volunteered to look into this.

Kelly inquired about the Ed Schultz Championship, saying the Policies and Procedures call for him to keep and post records on that. Mark reported that this is the Player of the Year award presented at the January Sectional, and that Milton Zlatich calculates the standings based on a formula that considers points from unit games, tournaments, etc.

Bidding Boxes & Time Clocks: See discussion under regional

Caddies: Debbie has organized caddies for the Fall Sectional and submitted a report by e-mail. Maureen Curran has agreed to take over this chair.

Datebook: Dennis is on track to send the Datebook to the printer by the end of September. Dennis reported some scheduling conflicts that he wants resolved before printing. Dennis will pursue resolution with Mark later.

District 8 Report: Debbie submitted a report of the August district board meeting by e-mail.

Membership: Jay submitted a report by e-mail. Total unit membership is about the same as this time last year. Packets have been sent to new members.

Publicity: Estella reported the postcard and flyers for the Fall Sectional have been printed, and that the email blast had been approved by ACBL and should go out later this week. The flyer is available on the unit website.

299er Tournaments: John Welte advised plans for the September I/N sectional are complete. He circulated a signup sheet for helpers.

Unit Electronic Contact: No report.

Unit Games: No report - Lee absent. Unit games have been scheduled for 2020.

Website: Terry reported the website is up to date. She advised the Bragging Rights link will be retained because it provides historical information, and that a note explaining it has been discontinued is on the target page.

Hospitality: Diane reported being prepared for the September I/N Sectional and the Fall Sectional.

Education / Camp Scholarships: No report - Lee absent.

Nominations: Dennis reported no petitions were received asking to join the board, so no runoff election is necessary at the annual membership meeting. The four nominees will automatically join the board on Nov 1. Dennis reported Jim Cooper submitted his resignation, and that the committee is seeking a new candidate.

Financial Review: No report - Lee absent.

Old Business: none

New Business:

Discussion of Unit Insurance Needs. Postponed until next meeting

Discussion on serving alcohol at unit events. Postponed until next meeting.

Terry asked about the policy regarding using the DropBox. She distributed a list of existing folders, most of which are empty, and asked people to let her know what folders they want access to. We discussed making the folders readable by all board members, except nominations. Discussion will be continued at the next board meeting.

Mark reported he had agreed to the formation of a new Rules Review committee to update the By-Laws and Standing Rules. He has appointed Dennis chairman. Mark distributed a proposed mission statement prepared by Dennis and committee members Kelly White and Debbie Romero. Mark did not support the full scope laid out in the mission statement, preferring instead to focus on by-laws and standing rules. After discussion, the board approved the formation of the committee and the full mission statement as submitted.

Next Meeting: The next meeting will be October 9, 2019 at the regular location.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 8:58 pm.