

ACBL Unit 143 Board Meeting Minutes, December 12, 2018
Location: Creve Coeur Government Center Meeting Room 2

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

Absent: John Antognoli

The meeting was called to order by President Mark Boswell at 7:05 PM.

Secretary's Report:

Minutes from last month's meeting were submitted by Dennis Abeln via e-mail. No additions or corrections were offered. A motion to approve the minutes as submitted was made by Lee, seconded by Jay, motion passed.

Dennis has been appointed Secretary by President Mark Boswell.

Board Member Elections:

Debbie nominated Diane Deutch and Kelly White to fill the final year of the terms vacated by the resignations of Linda Siebert and Diane Glick. There being no other nominations, nominations were closed. Diane and Kelly were elected by acclamation.

President's Report:

Mark reported that the St Louis Bridge Center wants to borrow the unit's dealing machine while their machine is out for repairs. After discussion it was agreed to offer to rent the machine to the club for \$10 per set of boards, with the condition that it be returned in time for the unit to make the boards for the January Sectional. Mark will follow up with Beth Percich.

Mark asked for a volunteer to write the unit's on-line article for District 8's Advocate, a bi-monthly on-line newsletter, replacing the job Mary Dolan used to do. No volunteers.

Mark asked for a volunteer to take photographs at tournaments of winners, etc. Diane Deutch volunteered. Photos need to be submitted to Jennifer Luner for the Regionals, and to Terry D'Amato for other events.

Mark asked for a volunteer to print the mailing labels for tournament mailings. Kelly White volunteered.

Mark asked Terry D'Amato to take over Drop-Box coordinator from Mary Dolan, and she agreed.

Mark announced Debbie will handle Education.

Mark will distribute a list of board member contact information. The list will include non-board members.

Treasurer's Report

Larry LaBrier presented his first treasurer's report. He found the October 2018 cash balance to be \$988 less than previously reported. Dennis questioned the \$988 shortfall and whether the books should be audited. Larry did not see a need.

Larry presented a month-by-month report for the fiscal year ending Sept 30, 2018 using data which he reconciled. He will file the annual tax return based on those figures. He will also file the required 1099 tax forms.

Larry proposed changing the unit's mailing address to the St Louis Bridge Center rather than the treasurer's home as has been the practice. After discussion it was agreed to use a PO Box at a Post Office on Olive.

Larry advised ACBL needs to be notified of the unit's mailing address change. Mark asked Kelly to handle this.

Larry reported that that ACBL wants to know what charity should receive \$7500 they're distributing. The money cannot be used for bridge related purposes. After discussion, Dennis made a motion to direct the money to Backstoppers, seconded by Larry, motion approved.

(In preparing the meeting minutes, it was realized the treasurer's report had not been approved by vote of the unit board. This will be addressed at the next board meeting.)

Tournaments

Mike Carmen distributed a projection for the January 2019 Sectional that predicts a 3.1% increase in table count for a loss of \$327 due to general cost increases.

John Welte has agreed to handle the I/N Sectionals. The Spring I/N Sectional is scheduled for March 23 and 24, 2019, which is the first weekend of the Nationals in Memphis March 21-31. John has made plans to go to the Nationals, so he will not be on hand to run the sectional. There was discussion about moving the sectional. Mike Carmen will follow-up with Rick Beye.

Committee Reports

Outreach:

Mark announced the first welcoming bridge party will be at his home on Friday evening March 15, 7-10 pm.

Debbie distributed a compilation of suggestions submitted to date. Debbie asked for volunteers to serve on a committee to review the suggestions and choose the first few to act on. Jay volunteered. Debbie asked others to send her an e-mail.

Larry offered that he had friends in a college fraternity at Cape Girardeau which might help get a bridge club started. Mike reported that the unit has supported a club in Cape that wanted to run tournaments but that it died off after a couple of years. Debbie offered that ACBL has a college bridge expansion program – she will follow-up.

Awards: Mark distributed new magnetic name tags to board members, with instruction that they be worn at tournaments.

Bidding Boxes: John was absent, Debbie will work on it.

Datebook: No report.

District: Debbie reminded everyone that she had e-mailed changes regarding GNT and NAP Finals.

Communications: No report.

Membership: Jay did not have the current membership report. He has been holding off sending new member packets pending his suggested changes to the greeting letter. He will mail the packets this week.

Publicity: Estella reported the postcards have been mailed. The flyers are being distributed.

Unit Games: Lee has just been assigned to this. No report.

Hospitality: Debbie reported that Suzi Shymanski has been having some health issues and needs help. Diane Deutch offered to assist. Per Mark, Rick Armstrong has offered to help the board in any way, so he could be

tapped. Per Jay, Diane Barker is also willing to help. Suzie is still expected to lead the hospitality work. There was some brief discussion about possibly scaling back the hospitality offerings, but nothing was decided.

Website: Terry reported that the first six months of 2019 games have been entered into the web's calendar.

Old Business:

Meeting Room Reservations have been made for all of 2019. Mark asked for a Creve Coeur resident who can make reservations for 2020, and Diane Deutch volunteered. Mark will follow up with Diane.

New Business:

Larry stated the By-Laws require two signatures for checks over \$300. The Standing Rules require two signatures for checks over \$2,500. Larry opined that \$300 is too low and \$2500 is too high. Larry reported these are our rules, and that the bank will process checks with a single signature. Changing the By-Laws requires approval at the unit's annual meeting at the Fall Sectional. Larry agreed to draft an amendment to the By-Laws for consideration at the Fall Sectional.

Debbie suggested changing the March I/N tournament Sunday game to Swiss Team Game starting at 1PM. No concurrent pairs game. Game-time change from 10AM to 1PM to try to improve attendance. A class will be scheduled for 12:30 to explain the difference between pairs games and team games. Debbie motioned these changes be adopted, seconded by Larry, motion approved.

Next Meeting:

The next meeting will be January 16, 2019 at the regular location, Creve Coeur Government Center, Meeting Room 2.

Adjournment:

Mark called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion made by Lee, seconded by Debbie, motion approved. The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm.

Minutes submitted by Dennis Abeln, Secretary, December 14, 2018. Rev 2, Dec 21, 2018