

## Minutes of ALACBU Board Meeting of July 11, 2015

The meeting was called to order by President Becky Clough. The minutes of the previous meeting were approved. President Clough thanked a number of people who had been of enormous assistance during her administration. Pursuant to ALACBU's bylaws, having served two consecutive terms as President, President Clough was not eligible to run for reelection. On behalf of the Board, Rand Pinsky presented a gift to President Clough to thank her for her service.

Roger Clough presented the Treasurer's report. Over the last four years, the District's net profit on regionals have been approximately \$7,000, as detailed in his written report. As usual, the District contributed \$100 to the Scholarship Fund from proceeds from the Regional, and Unit 559 contributed \$700. The Scholarship Fund now stands at \$14,466.95. In accordance with the bylaws, Bill Schreiber examined a handful of randomly selected transactions and determined that they were supported by appropriate documentation.

Mark Raggio gave the Finance Committee report. The Winter Regional lost money. Table count was down by approximately 115 tables, and we suffered from room attrition that led to the payment of rental fees on the ballroom space used for the tournament.

Rand Pinsky gave the Nominating Committee report. After confirming the presence of a quorum, Rand announced that the Nominating Committee proposed the following nominees as officers of ALACBU for 2015-2017: Mike Marcucci as President, Penny Barbieri as Vice President, Joe Viola as Treasurer, and Robert Shore as Secretary. Each nominee expressed willingness to serve. In addition, Candy Scott put forward her name in nomination for Secretary. The unopposed candidates were elected by acclamation and an election was held for Secretary. Effective immediately, the following individuals assume the following offices in ALACBU, for a term of two years and until their successors have been elected and qualified:

- President, Michael G. Marcucci
- Vice President, Penny Barbieri
- Treasurer, Joseph Viola III
- Secretary, Robert M. Shore

President Marcucci expressed a strong preference that items of business be presented to him in advance and in writing, preferably via e-mail.

President Marcucci welcomed ACBL President Suzi Subeck as a guest. There was a discussion of various issues affecting ACBL as a whole. One suggestion was that the ACBL Board of Directors might be too large to effectively and efficiently manage the organization. President Subeck's view is that shrinking the size of the Board would reduce the scope of expertise and talent available to the Board. A follow-up question was whether the size of the Board had to go hand-in-hand with the ACBL's District structure. Another inquiry was whether the executive supervising ACBL's attempt to recover value from the ACBLScore project had substantial project management experience. President Subeck expressed her confidence that the new supervisor hired by management was the right selection for the job, but she was unable to comment on specifics of his experience because the Board has not yet seen his resume.

Rand Pinsky presented the District Director's report. Rand agreed with the views expressed by ACBL President Subeck. Rand opposed district consolidation because he prefers that District 23 preserve the ability to send its own contestants to Grand National Teams and North American Pairs, and its own ability to name members to the National Charity Foundation and the National Goodwill Foundation. Shrinking the Board also would perforce reduce representation.

As noted, the Board is attempting to salvage value from the ACBL Score project.

The Board of Governors is standardizing presentation of ACBL's various convention charts to conform to international practice.

Danny Kleinman has proposed a standardized "Gray Card" suitable for use by partnership desks when making last-minute introductions. The Gray Card will have conventions and treatments commonly used by most experienced players. It has been presented to the Board of Directors.

An organization chart is being prepared.

Ellen Anten presented the Tournament Committee report. Peter Rank commented that he would like all districts to run ProAm games at their regionals. Some players had complaints about hotel parking and the lack of coffee in the rooms. Ellen thanked Tom Lill for preparing the *Daily Bulletin* and Betty Jackson, who is retiring as the tournament's partnership chairman. Tournament Manager Peter Benjamin reported that the hotel's central booking system gave rise to problems with players securing convenient reservations. Table count was down approximately 77 tables from last year, but we hit our room guarantee.

The Bylaws Committee, the Appellate Committee, and the Discipline Committee all had nothing to report.

Mike Marcucci reported on North American Pairs. He is waiting to hear from Barrington and Beverly Hills. Qualifying is going well. Mike is planning a schedule change this year. He intends to hold Unit Finals in September and October and complete the District Finals by Thanksgiving.

Howard Einberg reported on Grand National Teams. He encourages additional advertising. He is considering moving Flight C qualification to a weekday at Jeff Grotenhuis's club, in the hope of attracting a large contingent of Flight C teams.

The STAC Committee had nothing to report.

New Webmaster Nancy Heck is making changes to the District's Web site, which will include placing important information on the front page. Contemplated for inclusion are pictures of GNT and NAP District winners.

Jeff Grotenhuis presented the Newcomers report. The ProAm attracted 41 tables. Gerri Soffa Carlson arranged a slate of speakers for the 299ers. We gave away 45 newcomer bags. Family Feud, presented by John Jones, was hilarious. We are considering presenting a Master Solvers Live panel.

Barbara Nusbaum presented the Scholarship Committee report. The Committee wants to continue awarding scholarships but is running low on money. Scholarships are now down to \$800. The Scholarship Fund was boosted in the past when Paula Oliver succeeded in attracting a one-time contribution from Warren Buffett. Barbara encourages Units to name events at Regionals, at a price of \$100 per session. Candy Scott proposed using charity games, and reducing the price of sponsorship in order to attract more sponsors. Mike Marcucci would like to see better advertising for scholarships. He recalls that scholarship recipients used to generate nice articles.

John Jones reported for the Education Committee. There was not youth duplicate event this year. He may try again this fall. John would like the application form for the scholarship to be placed back on the District Web site.

Lucy Zhang, a junior at Arcadia High School, is teaching bridge students who show up at the Caltech Bridge Club. Lucy's team won the District's Flight C GNT competition.

The Mahaffey scholarship offers \$500 to college students who teach bridge to other college students. Applications go through ACBL, but the award is administered through the USBF. Other grant applications are available through the Education Foundation.

The Intercollegiate Championship now awards \$20,000, and is becoming more popular. The qualification process has improved by lengthening. Two teams from Caltech participated, but none from USC, UCLA, or Claremont-McKenna.

New Business: With Reno having ended its year-end regional as a result of its move to District 21 (which is already running 4 successful regionals annually), there is some thought to using our fourth regional, currently going unused, to hold the only year-end regional west of Kansas City.