

Minutes of ALACBU Board Meeting of October 24, 2015

The meeting was called to order by President Mike Marcucci. The minutes of the previous meeting were eventually approved.

President Marcucci introduced a number of individuals who had agreed to accept roles that the District needed to fill. Stan Holzberg, a former President of the District, agreed to serve as Tournament Chair. Diane Sachs will be the Partnership Chair. Janet Logan will accept the responsibility of Grand National Teams Coordinator. Stephanie Young will be the District's liaison with the ABA. Betty Jackson will be the District's STAC coordinator. Marcus Evans expressed interest in coordinating North American Pairs, and Liang Fan is willing to assume responsibility for flyers. We continue to look for a Tournament Photographer.

Kevin Lane was introduced as the District's new director to the ACBL's Board of Directors. Kevin's term will begin January 1, 2016. Kevin thanked incumbent Director Rand Pinsky for his many years of service to the District.

Rand Pinsky gave the District Director's report. Rand anticipated that the budget would be discussed at Denver, as would the ACBL's response to recently publicized cheating issues. Rand used his discretionary budget to make a contribution to the District's Scholarship Foundation, and announced his appointment of Gerri Soffa Carlson to the National Goodwill Committee.

There was no report from the Board of Governors.

Mike Marcucci reported that he is soliciting job descriptions from all District officers and volunteers. He also is searching for trophies that the District has awarded in the past. Nancy Heck is maintaining the District's Web site and will be adding dates to articles that are posted.

Peter Szecsi reported on behalf of the Scholarship Committee. The Committee funded 7 scholarship renewals and awarded 3 new scholarships. Five of the recipients are in their final year at school. The Scholarship Fund currently has \$6,000, plus Rand's contribution. The Committee would like to publicly thank contributors who are willing to be identified, and also proposes that when regional games are named (resulting in contributions to the Scholarship Fund), that biographies of the honorees be distributed to further acquaint players with them.

Joe Viola distributed the Treasurer's report. The last two regional tournaments lost approximately \$10,000 in total. We are soliciting volunteers to serve as Finance Chair.

Peter Benjamin reported on the current tournament. We are down approximately 11 tables from the previous year, but we also failed to hit our room quota. Accordingly, the District will be assessed a penalty of approximately \$5800, which we will try to negotiate. We are aware of and addressing problems with dirty cards and difficult-to-read or confusing vulnerability indicators on boards. We are talking with the hotel about room cancellations. Hospitality reports that we have succeeded in feeding our players 52 bags of candy. The poster board publicizing our speaker schedule was contributed by Peter's wife. A suggestion was made to make available at the Partnership Desk a "gray card" (an idea of Danny Kleinman) suggesting agreements that are common among experienced players. The goal is to ease the way for last-minute partnership to

minimize misunderstandings, thereby increasing interest in the use of our Partnership Desk. The mini-game had a positive impact on interest and attendance from intermediates and novices. Tom Lill, serving as *Bulletin* editor, thanked Peter for his services printing the *Bulletin* and asked that as much material as possible be provided to him in advance.

There was nothing to report from either the Discipline or Appellate Committees.

Mike reported his belief that Gene White will continue to serve as District Recorder.

Gerri Soffa Carlson reported that Jeff Grotenhuis will present a Monday morning program on February 15 at the LAX Regional.

Jeff Grotenhuis proposed scheduling grass roots Flight C events in a manner that accommodates the relatively large number of new players joining the game from the South Bay area. This proposal met with general approval.

Scheduling Unit Finals (known informally as District semifinals) and District Finals for North American Pairs remains a work in progress. Mike was hoping to hold the District Finals earlier than in past years but it does not appear likely at this point.

Howard Einberg will be handing over his reins as Grand National Teams coordinator to Janet Logan.

Mike would like the Board to consider potential amendments to the bylaws. One would change the District's fiscal year to coincide with the calendar year. A second would move officer elections to the February meeting.

Candy Scott has continued to implement her successful campaign of writing correspondence inviting people who have allowed their ACBL membership to lapse to rejoin the League. Her initiative has shown measurable positive results.