

ACBL UNIT 112 BRIDGE ASSOCIATION

VIRTUAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

November 14, 2020

Present: Pat Stadelmaier, Mark McDermott, Betty Youmans, Mary Miller, Sandy Stockton, Doug Bradley, Lois Sanders, Richard Hurd, Eileen Schuchman, Kathy Landon, Mike Mihevc, Jim Carroll, Jim Patton, Kristen Sullivan, Diana Laurent, Sharon Steinberg, and Jerry Manioci.
Absent: Bruce Toder, Mary Kay Quiggle, Ornit Grossman and Bob Simard.

Meeting was called to order at 9:00 by President Pat Stadelmaier.

Minutes of August 15, 2020 were approved (Betty, Mark). Jim P. proposed that the minutes be amended to reflect that all free plays even those issued with a previous date on them be accepted.

Motion to approve (Jim P., Mary). Unanimously Approved.

Treasurer's Report:

Mark submitted the Treasurer's Report (Income and Expense and Statement of Assets and Liabilities). The report showed that the Unit's income is up by \$3,089 due to the fact that there were no sectional tournaments this year. The projected budget for 2021 shows total income to be \$6,950 and expenses of \$6,725 for a net income of \$225. **A motion was made to accept the Treasurer's Report (Betty, Lois). Motion Approved.** Jim P. said that Constant Contact would be under Advertising and that the cost will be less than \$500 next year. **Motion to approve the budget (Mike, Jim P.) Unanimously Approved. Motion to approve budget for (2021) (Jerry, Kathy). Unanimously Approved.**

Audit: Kathy will be responsible for doing the audit for 2020.

Mark raised the question of whether the President should receive a stipend. Several suggestions were made: Jerry felt \$250 was reasonable. Mary does not agree with a stipend on a volunteer board. Rick suggested possibly paying the hotel room for a night. . Mary said even District presidents are not getting free rooms. Lois felt that the president should get something this year for her work. Mike encouraged presidents to submit vouchers for any expenses they incur rather than pay a stipend.

Jim questioned the stipend given to Bernie Gorkin. Pat said Bernie is responsible for keeping track of players and submitting a report on the trophy races. However since there was no report this year, he did not get a stipend. The ACBL is responsible for sending out the Mini-McKenny and Ace of Clubs awards.

President's Report:

Unit Bylaws - The bylaws as they appear on our website are correct and up to date with the most recent board action.

District 4 Board Report.

The District 4 Board met virtually on October 30 and reported as follows: 2020 will be considered a financial success for ACBL due to the virtual clubs.

ACBL Board of Directors is being reduced from 25 members to 13. Our unit will lose one representative on the District Board going from 6 to 5, based on the October 1, 2020 membership.

Mary worked with a committee to survey all ACBL certified teachers in the District and found that 70-80% didn't want to teach online. The following resolution was ratified by the Board: That District 4 allocate \$5,000 for an extensive, ongoing plan to support programs and practices within D4 to attract newcomers to the game and enable teachers and club owners to have on-line lessons and games geared specifically to newcomers.

Tournaments: ACBL has cancelled sanctions for tournaments through February 2021 and may extend all tournament cancellations through March and April. Betty Youmans and Jim Patton have agreed to co-chair the Syracuse-Rochester Regional.

Online Bridge: The pandemic has changed the way we can enjoy our favorite game. Thanks to ACBL and BBO we can still enjoy our game, however, from receiving positive reports of appreciation there were also concerns of people cheating. The July 2020 ACBL Bridge Bulletin addressed the topic and gave a strong message for players who cheat online – **it's not worth it**. The bid and play records make it very easy to corroborate cheating allegations and BBO works with the ACBL National Recorder to catch and prosecute offenders.

Trophy Races: Bernie Gorkin has agreed to continue to chart our members progress once we get back to face-to-face bridge. Chuck Adrion 17.56 and Sally Hill 12.3 were the winners of the lone STaC game this year. The Ace of Clubs and Mini-McKenney Awards will still be given and the up-to-date standings can be found on our website.

Breakdown of Unit Members: There are 1091 Rookies; 119 Junior Masters, 146 Club Masters, 143 Sectional Masters, 147 Regional Masters, 83 NABC Masters, 10 Advanced NABC Masters, 23 Life Masters, 110 Bronze Life Masters, 64 Silver Life Masters, 69 Ruby Life Masters, 27 Gold Life Masters, 14 Sapphire Life Masters, 6 Diamond Life Masters, 3 Emerald Life Masters, and 2 Platinum Life Masters.

The following comments and suggestions were made regarding the report:

Jim said the report should be sent out to all the members of Unit 112. Mary said that it could be linked to the District website.

If you see anything suspicious, you should notify the director.

Richard said only half of the private clubs have locked into BBO.

Eileen – their numbers are down because a lot of people have problems learning the computer.

Mary – a program was suggested to give a free membership to players who rejoined; however, the ACBL is not recognizing them as new players.

Rick said how do we make it easy for people to play online. Any suggestions should be sent to Pat.

Website:

Doug said a website is only as good as the number of people who are looking at it. A suggestion was made there could be a link there to the clubs who have websites. Also, a place for each area to go who don't have a website. Another suggestion was to have a place there for teachers.

Education:

Mary said she is serving on a District Committee and they had a virtual meeting. There is serious concern about the number of players who are not playing online. They tried to get permission from Audrey Grant to use her program; however, OK Bridge is now using it. Several teachers have already started offering bridge classes. If interested in teaching, you can link to Shark Bridge. District 4 has started a listing of teachers on the District website. Our website should have a link to the District 4 website. Mary said there are a number of free lectures available on the ACBL website and it might be good to have a link to them too. A suggestion was made that we have a monthly newsletter sent out to players to inform them of what's on the website. Doug said he has a lot of material for teaching which is not copyrighted. Mary concluded by saying she is having fun teaching online.

Tournaments: ACBL has already cancelled all tournaments through February. They also have information on reopening a club.

Betty and Jim, co-chairs for the Regional, said the tournament scheduled for the RIT Inn and Conference Center is delayed until 2023. Jim P. said the sectional scheduled for March will probably be cancelled too.

ACBL Membership: Betty suggested forming a committee to contact those members who have moved into our District (using the Monthly In and Out Report) and contact them. Jerry and Eileen volunteered to be on the committee along with Betty. Jim P. said they might be able to set it up through constant contact. Pat said we need to look at the new members and see how we can nurture them along.

Election of Officers: Mike and Mary Kay had submitted a slate of officers (Lois, Betty, Mark, Sandy and Richard). Pat asked if there were any other nominations. Mary said she would like to nominate Betty for President. A closed poll was taken – Betty was approved. Mary nominated Jim P. for Vice President. Sharon seconded it. He was unanimously approved. Mark was nominated for Treasurer. Unanimously approved. Sandy was nominated for Secretary. Unanimously approved. A motion was made that nominations be closed. Unanimously approved.

Pat thanked the Board for all the help she has been given and she is passionate to get people out to tournaments. Hopefully, we can get some people from other areas; especially Syracuse to serve. Betty thanked Pat for her support and all the work she did the past years and she is looking forward to promoting bridge. Zoom is definitely the way to go for meetings.

Other Business:

Free Plays: A question was raised that local clubs should be reimbursed if they absorb costs for free plays. Kathy said the Unit does reimburse them for free plays. Mark stated there should be a separate category under expenses for free plays. Kathy said possibly groups aren't submitting the right paperwork. Mark and Kathy will work on a form to differentiate the free plays – not only Who but Why. Mary suggested a person giving a lecture be given a free play. Sharon has no idea what happened to their free plays. She said the report was never submitted to the Unit because COVID hit. She will try to get it done before the end of the year.

The next meeting will be announced by the new President.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandy Stockton
Secretary, Unit 112