

Unit 135 Board Meeting via Zoom

August 14, 2021

10:00 – 11:00 am

Present: Ed Rothenheber, Jill Kolody, Mark Brenner, Sue DiPaula, Ron Conlon, Doug Golden, Diane Jaworiwsky, Tim Kuhn, Bob Robinson and Tanya Rodich

Guests: Margot Hennings and Dian Petrov

1. Candidates for Region 4 Director – Margot Hennings and Dian Petrov

a. Background – District 5 and District 6 have combined to form Region 4. Voting takes place from August 15 – September 15, 2021 for the new position of Region 4 Director to the ACBL Board of Directors (BOD). The position of Regional Director is being driven by the reorganization of the ACBL BOD that was approved by the Board through a bylaw change in the fall of 2019 and then again in the spring of 2020, per regulations. The Board is downsizing from 25 District Directors to 13 Regional Directors effective January 1, 2024 so most Regional Directors will be elected from a larger geographic area. In our new Region, voting for the Regional Director will be done by all voting members of the unit boards of both District 5 and District 6. Ed gave each candidate time to plead their case.

b. Dian Petrov – from Buffalo, NY; here since 1992 when he went to University of Buffalo for post graduate work in Physics, ACBL member since 2005, playing bridge for 30+ years, has been a director, tournament coordinator and club owner, seen bridge from every angle, currently a software developer so very familiar with online bridge technology, wants to make units more relevant in governance of the ACBL

c. Margot Hennings – sent out a letter with link to her bio, District 6 Director for 11 years, playing bridge for 34 years-met her husband at the bridge table, governance and reorg of the ACBL happened under her watch, has organizational and operational experience along with insight into recent policy decisions, will use her experience to work with all the units in District 5 and District 6

2. Confirmation of Officers/Directors

Due to COVID restrictions, which means there will be no members' meeting this year, and the fact that there were no responses to Ed's email asking for nominees for officers or the board:

a. Ed proposed the following slate of officers:

President – Ed Rothenheber

Vice President – Jill Kolody

Treasurer – Mark Brenner

Secretary – Sue DiPaula

BOD – Jennifer Kruger (continuing for another term)

Tim Kuhn (new member)

Bob Robinson (new member)
The terms of Diane, Doug and Tanya will end next year.

b. Mark moved and Sue seconded to approve Ed's recommendation. Motion carried unanimously.

3. Treasurer's Report – Mark

a. Mark is replacing Lyle Poe as treasurer. Thank you, Lyle, for your service!

b. Mark noted that we have \$40,000 in the bank now.

4. Website – Jill

a. Ed asked everyone to go online, look at the website and provide feedback to Jill, whom he said has done "a yeoman's job" in getting this set up. Thank you, Jill!

b. Jill specifically asked about using red and yellow (Maryland's colors), and putting a list of clubs with a link to their websites or simply the owners' names and contact numbers.

5. District update – Ed

a. The district meeting went for 2+ hours.

b. The regional tournament in Williamsburg, VA in February will potentially be cancelled as only 14% of those members polled said they would participate.

c. Attendance has drastically decreased in clubs.

d. COVID restrictions have to factor into making decisions and commitments.

6. Supply purchases from Columbia Club

a. Ron and Renate Conlon are closing the Columbia Club as they bought a condo in Largo, FL and plan to be there 6 months out of the year. Ron graciously invited people to come visit them as they have an extra bedroom and they would even pick people up at the airport!

b. The unit needs tables, chairs, bidding boxes, bridge mates and the computer to run them, and cards. Ed would not recommend buying a dealing machine. He consulted with Shawn Stringer, a regional tournament coordinator, and decided \$2,000 would be a fair offer. Ed even offered to store the supplies in his basement as renting a storage unit is expensive.

c. Tanya moved and Sue seconded that we offer Ron and Renate \$2,000 for the supplies. Motion carried unanimously.

d. Ron thought the offer was reasonable and accepted it. Ed thanked Ron for everything he has done for bridge over the years. Thank you, Ron!

e. It was noted that the Pikesville Club is trying to reopen at the Senior Center and we are worried about the future of the Towson Club. There may be more supplies in our future.

7. Tournaments – Ed

a. Sectional tournament in January 2022: two options – (1) cancel it now or (2) lower risk option to hold off on a decision now and hold a weekend tournament in a location to be determined, perhaps a church.

b. Mark suggested doing something in March. Ed said the bridge calendar is “a bear” and there are no gaps at all. A weekend in March would not be available.

c. We do have the first weekend in June reserved so we may be able to hold a sectional then.

d. Adding to the problems are the current ACBL rules for tournaments – all participants must show proof of vaccination and must wear a mask at all times.

e. Ed proposed perhaps a unit game on a Saturday, venue to be determined.

f. After some discussion, Ed moved and Sue seconded that we cancel the February sectional and hold a special game in March if possible. Motion carried unanimously.

8. Clubs, American Bridge Association (ABA) and Washington Bridge League (WBL)

a. Due to poor attendance, Doug announced that he may have to close the Severna Park Bridge Club permanently. Ed is worried about the Towson Bridge Club as well and asked us to support its games.

b. Tanya mentioned an email from Brenda Bunche about ABA games. Two ABA club games will resume in September in Randallstown at the Liberty Senior Center. The Ditto Bridge Club will play on Wednesdays and the combined Northeast-Double Finesse Clubs will play on Fridays. Full vaccination is required as well as wearing a mask.

c. The WBL, Unit 147, is holding club games online on BBO. Their schedule is listed on their website.

9. Next Unit 135 board meeting – Saturday, November 19

Respectfully submitted,
Sue DiPaula, Secretary

