

**UNIT 533 BOARD MEETING
JANUARY 7, 2022**

Board Members Present:

Paola Cohen
Vicki Graves
Linda Hahn
Sandy Hertz
Diane Jobin
Anne Lund
Rob Martin
Bonnie Sipkins

Absent: Chip Graves

Treasurer: Bill Dani

The meeting was called to order by President Vicki Graves at 8:30 am.

Minutes from the November 2021 meeting were approved by electronic vote prior to the meeting.

FINANCIALS

Bill Dani provided an update to board members via email prior to the meeting. Sandy voted to approve the Financials and Rob Martin seconded the motion. All approved the motion. The Financials are posted on the Unit 533 website.

Bill reviewed the Financials for the Holiday party which netted \$563—thanks in great part to the donation made by Sandy to offset expenses. Vicki noted that they had used \$300 of Sandy's donation for Director pay for 'above and beyond' given the unexpected 35 tables! Bill also reviewed his projected budget for the Annual Meeting game in late January. With 30 tables he estimates that we could lose approximately \$278. Because this is a Silver Points game, our Sanction Fee will be \$4.77 as compared to the normal \$2.25. The need for an Assistant Director will be dictated by a table count of 25 or more.

Sandy voted to approve Financials and Rob Martin seconded the motion. All approved the motion.

MEMBERSHIP

Paolo reported the unit had 898 members at the end of December 2021. Vicki referenced the article in the current ACBL magazine stating that overall membership has dropped by 10%. It is believed that the growth of the game has to come from face-to-face club games and tournaments.

UNIT SPONSORED STaC (Sectional Tournaments at Clubs)

This first ever event will be January 17-23 at all F2F games in our valley. A notice of how to register has been sent to the applicable clubs. Vicki noted that, in terms of silver points

available, a STaC is about 65% of those at a full sectional (a BBO game might be 40-50% of those at a full sectional). This should be a good opportunity for our players. She said that ACBL had indicated last fall that there probably would be no more BBO silver games in 2022 , but one had been scheduled the same dates as our STaC. In response to her query, the ACBL contact had been apologetic about the date conflict and sited the Omicron virus as the motivation.

ANNUAL UNIT MEETING/ELECTIONS

The meeting will be held January 23, 2022, at the Duncan Bridge Center. Vicki sent the board the ballot which appears on the Unit's website and which will be emailed to unit members a week before the election. Barb Wegener, Deann Young and Sandy Young are candidates for the Board and the revision to the By-Laws is on the ballot as well. Because most of our clubs are still closed, she said that a decision had been made to accept electronic votes as 'absentee'. Given COVID this was the only manner of voting in 2021 and she believed the results were accurate then and will be now. Kay Walters has agreed to chair the Elections Committee and Suzie Layne Carr will assist.

At the meeting, no speeches will be planned but copies of the Unit Financials for EOY 2021 will be available on request. Vicki will introduce board candidates and give out the 2021 WIN awards— 15 free plays to the top MP winner in each of seven categories under 500MPs. Bill reminded all that these are funded separately, and there is \$14,570 in the WIN account. The recipients will receive a special invitation to attend the meeting. Anne said it is important for all of us to draw people to the game, and a personal invitation helps attendance. Masks will be required as will proof of vaccination.

Anne suggested that we should emphasize a 'fun party' as we had in December. It was agreed that we'd have some wine available again and that Rob will buy it. There was a discussion of food options as a lunch will be served, and there is a need for volunteers. Bonnie will bake, and Diane will get card-like cookies. We need to be set up by noon. Tom and Anne will help clean up—Vicki noted that everyone is needed for that!

Vicki requested that we stay after the game, and in conjunction with the new board members, elect officers for 2022. Anne has agreed to recommend the slate of candidates.

Vicki thanked Anne, Paola and Sandy, whose terms are ending, for their many contributions of time and effort as board members. Sandy thanked everyone on the board with whom he has served. He commended Vicki, as President, and Bonnie for her job as Board secretary.

ADDENDUM: On January 8, the Board electronically approved a change that would move the STaC week silver games back by a week because of the conflict with the BBO Silver Linings games. The new dates are January 24-January 30 with the Unit Meeting now on January 30.

SUN AND FUN SECTIONAL

Linda said the board has an important decision to make on this sectional on February 18 and 19, 2022. Our contract with CVBF provides for a 50/50 split of net profit/losses, and our table projections at this point indicate that there would be a loss. Guy Brackett, representing Duncan, has the same concerns given lesser projected revenues and fixed ACBL costs.

Linda asked for Board member thoughts and the consensus was that the Omicron variant of COVID situation at this time would warrant canceling the Sectional. Bonnie made a motion to do so and Sandy seconded it. All were in favor. Linda offered to run the Sectional again next

year with an idea that maybe we could make it even more special. She did suggest that because of the knowledge required, it is a good policy to always have a person as second-in command.

AWARDS GAME and 2022 UNIT GAMES

It was agreed that we would try to schedule the game for Sunday, March 27, 2022 ,where we give out 2021 awards. A site agreement is needed, and we'll need to apply for a sanction for an extra points game.

For ten years, Ron and Nancy Erickson had funded a Volunteer of the Year award and had suggested that the Board take this role going forward as worthy candidates were noted. There was discussion and agreement as to a candidate for 2021, and it was agreed to fund the award for this year at \$100. Rob made the motion to approve the \$100 and Diane seconded. All were in favor.

It was agreed to table a discussion of the dates for Unit Games for 2022, but it has urgency for the next meeting as these dates are generally determined by January. Unit games give extra points to players, and the Unit absorbs the extra \$1.25 table fee.

EDUCATION

Anne believes that the heart of growing bridge players is giving lessons and said we needed to look at ways to fund education programs in a varied manner now that more classes were online. Bill added that, without any Sectional incomes, we might have to give a lesser amount than in the past.

In closing, Bonnie recognized Vicki for her work as board president during 2021 and Diane joined in the sentiment.

The next meeting of the board will be February 11, 2022, at 8:30am via zoom.

The meeting adjourned at 9:45 am

Respectively submitted,

Bonnie Sipkins
Secretary