

Unit Board Meeting: March 10, 2021 (Held via Zoom)

Paola Cohen
Diane Jobin
Sandy Hertz
Vicki Graves
Bonnie Sipkins
B J Moses
Joy Barron
Keith King
Bill Dani

Absent: Anne Lund

MEETING MINUTES

Vicki Graves called the meeting to order at 10:05 am. She noted that two items had been approved via email vote by the Board since our February meeting. The February minutes had been approved and Keith King had been appointed to the Board as a replacement for Georgia Jones. She welcomed Keith to the Board.

FINANCIALS:

Bill Dani, treasurer, sent us the unit financial statement online. (See email: 3/10/2021.) The unit's account balance as of today is \$21,524, the WIN balance is \$14,570, and there is \$325 in the Change Fund. In Accounts Payable there is \$60 from December, 2019 which is for free plays won at the unit game but not yet claimed.

Sandy, reporting on the WIN Award Account, stated he has the 25 free plays to be granted to Judy Searle and to Lori Keifer as the winners for the six months ending in 12/19. He will make sure they are received.

Bill paid the insurance premium of \$503 for the liability policy which runs May to May.

Regarding virtual games Bill said there is a month delay in getting receipts from BBO. Our current balance does not include this month's receipts.

MEMBERSHIP:

Paola reports the membership count is currently 982.

The home Unit for our snowbirds was discussed. That 'home' is a matter of where they are when their annual membership is renewed and not an indication of where they spend the most time. ACBL only needs an email from a person to change his/her home Unit and said some units solicit such emails from their "snowbird" members. As one idea, Vicki said she could put this in our email blast once or twice a year. Individualized emails to snowbird members are also possible?

SECTIONALS:

Bill's financial analysis of our four sectionals in 2018 & 2019 was reviewed. He pointed out that the one at Hope in March 2019 was well attended and financially viable but using any outside venue is problematic if we can't find a new way to rent tables going forward. The idea of purchasing tables was discussed but there are transportation and storage concerns to consider.

Using the Duncan Center for a future sectional is a possibility but the projected costs may be too high for the number of tables we could draw?

Vicki noted that our Spring Sectional has historically been more widely attended and suggested that, given COVID uncertainties, we should cancel our sanction for a Fall 2021 Sectional. The Board voted to do so.

For the Spring 2022 Sectional, it was agreed that Bill and Keith will look further at the cost of renting tables and at the financial viability of using the Duncan Center if it's available. It was also agreed that we would look more closely at the idea of hosting a Unit 533 STAC as another alternative. This might offer a silver point opportunity to our players and still let them play at their club of choice.

As a scheduling consideration, Vicki has emailed District 22 to inquire about if/when they planned to offer a NLM Regional in winter of 2022 and asked about the date. That will be on the District's April agenda.

UNIT GAME:

The upcoming unit game is Sunday, March 14. We are changing the 0-750 game to a 0-499 point range in an effort to draw more IN players. The only night available is Sunday because the Clubs do not run games then. We will need to see how we do with these games in the virtual world as attendance has not been that good. In December we had 19 tables (+\$34), January had 12 (-\$9) and February was 10 (-\$6).

We're charging \$5 per player and BBO takes 20% of our fees plus charges 3.5% for credit cards and ACBL takes \$1 per table. The director's fee is another cost. Sandy said we should continue these games once a month to let members know we're doing something for them—and offered to reimburse any of these small losses to the unit from these games.

Bonnie asked how the game is promoted? Currently it's on the unit website a few weeks before the game, it's on the club websites, it's in our monthly email blast, and Mac, our webmaster, sends out a special email a few days before the game. Bonnie suggested personal invitations as a possible additional approach.

It was agreed that we would continue to assess the situation after this next game.

AWARDS:

Vicki said she had ordered the Mini McKenney medallions and would send those and the Ace of Clubs certificates to the winners. An alternative to the medallions had been considered but wasn't easily workable.

STORAGE UNIT:

Bill mentioned at the last meeting we are paying \$1400 per year for our storage unit. Vicki had made some contacts and it is very possible that we

can cut this 10X10 space in half and reduce our costs by half. Joy will go with Vicki to inventory the items in storage and they'll offer a 'game plan' at the next meeting.

SANCTIONS:

Joy was asked to take over planning/sanctions for special games. She agreed but will need help learning the procedures. Vicki asked everyone to think about different special games we can offer: IN games, Charity games, etc.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Paola asked when our clubs might offer face to face games. Vicki said each is independently owned and the decision is at their discretion.

Diane agreed to check to see if the Palm Springs Regional is still on the calendar for December.

Vicki said she had received a list from ACBL indicating that only half of its members are playing in online virtual club and tournament games. Our unit results sync with that conclusion but a way to address the list of such players is unknown.

NEXT MEETING:

Our Board meetings will continue to be held on Wednesdays at 10:00 AM. Vicki will send out a notice for the April meeting.

Respectively submitted,
Bonnie Sipkins, Secretary