

UNIT 533 BOARD MEETING

OCTOBER 22, 2021

Board Members Attending:

Paula Cohen
Chip Graves
Vicki Graves
Linda Hahn
Sandy Hertz
Diane Jobin
Anne Lund
Robert Martin
Bonnie Sipkins

Also present: Bill Dani, Treasurer

Guests: Guy Brackett, Beverly Hartin, Barbara Maniscalco

The meeting was called to order by President Vicki Graves at 8:35 am.

District 22 Bylaws

Barbara Maniscalco reviewed the "Overview of changes to District 22 Bylaws, May 2021" (see Attachment 1 below). She said that some of the changes were necessary because of changes to the structure of the National ACBL Board and some were updates the District Board believed were needed. Vicki made the motion to approve the changes, Bonnie seconded the motion, and all Unit board members were in favor. Vicki will send our ballot back to the District Board.

Barbara also reported that a decision had been made by ACBL that masks and vaccines will be required at the Palm Springs Regional in December. Nancy Erickson will be in charge of the vaccination certification process. Each person will receive a bracelet indicating their certification.

Addendum: On October 25, the District advised us that masks would be recommended but not required at the Regional.

February Sun and Fun Sectional February 18-19, 2022

Bill had provided a financial view of \$12, \$13, and \$14 as a game charge at the event. Guy Brackett reported the contract originally indicated a \$14 fee per person but that could be changed if we felt the fee might deter participation. It was noted that we've charged \$12 in the past. After discussion, Bonnie moved that we charge \$12, and Sandy seconded the motion. All approved.

There was also a discussion of the directors' fees for the tournament as we may only draw 100 people in 2022 rather than the more normal 200. Barbara offered to see if ACBL would allow us to use a local director as the second on site which would be less costly. It was noted that ACBL had not allowed that in the past but possibly would be open to it now.

Vicki said that Linda had agreed to be point person on the tournament as a replacement for Keith. She said Sandy Young had agreed to serve as Partnership Chair. The flyer will be finalized and sent to ACBL for electronic posting—but no printed flyers prior to December.

The Unit-sponsored Sectional Tournament at Clubs is on the calendar for January 17-23, 2022.

Addendum: After the meeting, the required notice of a contractual modification from \$14 to \$12 was sent to Bev and Guy, and they acknowledged the change.

Holiday Party

Given a motion by Vicki and a second by Anne, the Board approved the Holiday Party to be held at Duncan on December 5 at 1:00 pm. Mick Riccio will direct the game. We'll serve wine and cheese and crackers which will be in snack-pack type containers for safety. The charge will be \$10 per person, and Bill estimates that we'll spend \$5 of that for the wine and cheese. It will be an extra-masterpoint pairs game, but the primary objective is a fun face to face event for our members. Vicki asked that each Board Member plan to play and to also invite friends. Linda volunteered that she had many contacts at the Lakes, Rob said he did at Ironwood, Anne offered to promote the event at Sun City, etc. We will require vaccinations, but not masks. Bonnie will come up with some free-play ideas as prizes. To make it festive, Beverly suggested people wear some type of holiday clothing/sweaters. Vicki will work on the publicity.

Mentor Program

Diane provided an update on the idea that we could sponsor mentor face to face games to encourage new players on a given morning each week. She said that in her experience a mentor needed 500 points, but that could be lowered to 299. Since half of our membership has less than 100 points, there is a large pool of potential mentees. Bev said that branding is important and that a mentor-type partnership might well make the pair ineligible for masterpoints in the MP limited game. She said sometimes a Pro Am format works better as MPs can result.

It was agreed that we table the idea of a face to face mentoring game until the beginning of the year. Diane and Bonnie have played as mentors online and enjoyed the experience. The contact person on Duncan's online mentor program is JeanneSholl@gmail.com.

Elections

Diane reported we have two people, Sally Tobin and Connie Swanson, on the nominating committee and, per the Bylaws, we need two additional non-board members. Diane said she had the names of several people who might be interested in serving on the Board.

Vicki reviewed the document she had provided prior to the meeting which compared the nomination and election process in the Unit Bylaws as compared to those in the District's. (See Attachment 2 below.) She said she personally believes that the requirements in ours should be lesser and that the Bylaws should be updated to allow such things as electronic voting.

Anne and Vicki will work on recommended updates and submit the revisions to the Board in time to be included in the January election process.

Membership

Paola reported that we have 851 members as of 10/1 which was an increase from 813 last month. The majority, 526 members, have less than 100 masterpoints. Vicki added that we had 46 snowbirds who had moved back as of 9/30. She also said that we could start sending names and contacts to club directors so they could reach out to them and include these people in our community. She said she had also given the names of the 15 new members from the last four months to Mick as he was starting a beginning bridge class—noting that we realize that a player with zero MPs might already be quite a good player! She said that we continue to send a welcome email letter from the Unit to new members each month.

Financial

Sandy moved we approve the 3rd quarter financials which Bill Dani sent via email prior to the board meeting. Rob Martin seconded the motion. All were in favor and these will now be posted to the Unit website.

Other

The September Unit minutes were posted on the website for our membership to access. Sandy, and other board members, welcomed Rob Martin to the Unit Board of Directors. Vicki said our next meeting will be November 19, 2021 at 8:30 via Zoom. Vicki moved to adjourn the meeting at 10:30 am and Rob seconded the motion.

Respectively submitted,

Bonnie Sipkins, Secretary

ATTACHMENT I

Overview of changes made to District 22 Bylaws, May 2021

The Bylaws Committee reviewed the District 22 Bylaws, last revised in 2016. Committee members are Bill Grant, Ron Lien, Richard Picheny, Tish Gainey, Chair, and board president Lamya Agelidis.

The review indicated the bylaws, in their current form, needed to be updated. Incomplete and/or incorrect information needed to be replaced. The format needed to adhere more closely to standard non-profit corporate bylaws. Some of the language needed to be clarified and modern methods of governance needed to be addressed.

The following is an overview of the major changes made to the bylaws.

- The number of board members is increased from nine to ten. This allows for a ninth voting member to be an elected District Representative on the Board of Governors and a tenth member to be the District or Regional Representative to the ACBL National Board as a non-voting member.
- Deleted the requirement of assessing the size of the Units every five years in order to make adjustments as to the size of each unit. The language was changed to “making adjustments as needed.”
- Simplified the language of how elections are carried out in Units, based on the size of Units within an Area. The voting power now reads “equal to the percentage of its (the Unit’s) members with respect to the total number of members in that Area.”
- Allows for meetings through electronic means.
- Allows for email voting outside of meetings with specific stipulations.
- Provides for an Annual Meeting. District 22 is a member organization and as such should have an annual meeting of its members. The members are the Units. The bylaws now make provision for how Units can participate in the Annual Meeting.
- A Conflict of Interest stipulation was added to the bylaws. This is current practice.
- Bonding and Indemnification are addressed.
- Several Standing Committees have been added: Finance, Tournament, Education, Membership and Bylaws.
- The procedure for amending the Bylaws has been clarified. The Bylaws Committee will review any suggestions and amendments deemed urgent will be submitted for a vote.

- Dissolution: District 22 is a nonprofit corporation and as such its bylaws require a description of how the corporation will be dissolved should the occasion arise.

ATTACHMENT 2

UNIT 533 BOARD ELECTION PROCESS **DISTRICT 22 BOARD ELECTION PROCESS**

BYLAW REQUIREMENTS:

Article V (Membership Meeting) excerpts:

The Annual Meeting should be in the first quarter of each calendar year. The Board shall notify the membership at least 30 days in advance (notices at clubs, emails, a web post). The chair of the Election Committee shall certify prior to the meeting that a quorum exists. A quorum consists of 60 members (*) present at the meeting OR who have submitted absentee ballots in advance.

Sec H: Annual Meeting shall be held in December or at any other time as determined by the Board. A notice shall be emailed to Unit Presidents and posted to the District's website at least 30 days prior to the meeting. The meeting may be held electronically or in person.

Article VI (Unit Board of Directors) excerpts:

(Sec. 3) Candidates for election to the Board shall be nominated by a Nominating Committee and elected by the general membership. Prior to October 15 each year, the President shall appoint a Nominating Committee consisting of 5 members of the Unit, 4 of whom are not Board members.

The Nominating Committee shall meet in a timely fashion, elect a chairperson from amongst its committee members and prepare a slate of at least three persons who are qualified to be elected to the Board. The slate should be published in the notice of the Annual Meeting.

Additional nominations may be made by petition from the general membership. A nominating petition must contain the approval of the nominee and 25 signatures of members in good standing. Only such nominations received by the Board prior to the notice of the Annual Meeting shall be publicized in the Meeting Notice or in absentee ballots requested by and sent to members. Nominations may not be made from the floor at the Annual Meeting.

The Board shall appoint an Election Committee of three members, none of whom are Board Members and none of whom are on the current Nominating Committee. The Election Committee will elect a chairperson and will conduct the election at the annual meeting. Results should be reported to the Board as soon as possible but no later than 24 hours after the meeting—and announced to the membership.

Article V: During the first week of September, the Secretary shall solicit nominations from the Units/Areas for which a representative is up for Election. Such nominations shall be emailed () to the Secretary. The election shall be held during the month of October with ballots returned by December 1.**

***There is no quorum...the winners get the most votes.**

****The Unit bylaws contain no reference to electronic voting.**

Article VII (Unit Officers) excerpts:

The Board shall elect all officers at the first meeting after the annual meeting's election.

Article VI (Officers) excerpts:

After the adjournment of the last Board meeting of a calendar year, the newly elected Board members for the following year shall meet together with carryover Board members for the purpose of electing officers for the following year. No other business shall be conducted at this meeting.