

**Unit 533 Board Meeting
September 14, 2021**

Board Members present:

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

Also present: Treasurer Bill Dani

Guest present: Beverly Hartin

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

The summer meeting minutes had been approved electronically prior to the start of the meeting.

HOLIDAY PARTY

There was discussion about holding the annual holiday party with a special emphasis on an effort to bring people back to face-to-face bridge. Diane suggested a fun team game concept like Eight is Enough where teams are formed with a mix of skill levels. Diane said this was very popular in Houston. Another thought was to consider a normal team game as a preparation for the PSP Regional and our February Sectional. Anne said that food was often a draw, and there was consensus to try a wine and cheese event—possibly served as play progressed, in between games or after. To encourage attendance Vicki noted that she had heard that a Tucson club had built their attendance by calling people to invite them to the event. There also was discussion regarding door prizes—traditionally holiday baskets or free plays. The suggestion was that we should not do holiday baskets but possibly provide free plays for either F2F games or our sectional in February. (The dollar value of those free plays would need to be determined.) It was decided that a date at which some of our snowbirds would be back would be preferable. Vicki asked Beverly to give us costs for holding the party at Duncan either Saturday, December 4 or Sunday, December 5, and we would proceed with planning given that date. Bev also offered to let the Unit use one of the free sanctions they have for extra point games so we can avoid a sanction fee for this event.

F2F GAMES

Bev said that Duncan is getting about 10-11 tables daily, and people enjoy seeing each other. The charge is \$6 which is competitive with on-line games. Duncan will offer extra points at all F2F games in the 4th quarter.

FINANCIALS

Treasurer Bill Dani provided an update to board members via email before the meeting. There is \$21,400 in the checking account. Sandy moved the financials be approved, and Diane seconded the motion.

Anne asked Bill to give us input on free plays that are left over from 2019. Beverly mentioned that we cannot assume the current card fee of \$6 will continue in 2022. Free card plays are for F2F games only.

MEMBERSHIP

We currently have 813 members—possibly lower than the traditional summer decrease. Half of our members have less than 100 points. Vicki said she had talked with a new life master, and she had emphasized how important the 0-20 game was in getting her hooked on bridge. Diane suggested mentor games as a way to draw people into duplicate bridge. She said this had also worked well in Houston. Bev offered to let the Unit use Duncan in the mornings at no cost for such games. She also suggested contacting Jeannie Shull at Adobe BC in Tucson as she has been involved with mentor programs. Diane will define mentor and mentee and bring a more defined proposal to the next meeting.

FEBRUARY SECTIONAL

The most important priority at this point is to prepare a flyer. Bonnie offered to come up with a draft by mid-October. She will contact Scott who has the previous copies. Bev noted that we can also do free banner advertising on BBO. We will also need volunteers for food planning and a partnership desk.

We should have a better idea of the viability for the February sectional after the December regional tournament and make a go/no go decision based on attendance there and in our clubs, by that time.

BOARD ELECTIONS

Diane secured Connie Swanson and Sally Tobin to serve on the Nominating Committee. They will meet later in September. The committee is made up of four individuals not on the Board and a Board liaison. There will be three board vacancies to be filled in January, 2022. We will also need to choose an Election chair.

We have a vacancy on the Board due to Keith's resignation due to personal issues. Vicki encouraged members to think of a replacement.

NEXT MEETING

Vicki will let us know of a future board meeting to be held in mid-October. The meeting was adjourned at 9:37 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Bonnie Sipkins, Secretary