



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President:
Alan Trippel

Vice President:
Annie Dethardt

Treasurer:
Mike Popkin

Secretary:
Francine McKay

Logistics Director:
Cathy Bertrand

Marketing Director:
Teri LaBove

Program Director:
Andy Cosby

Member Services Director:
Linda Prust

Player Development Director:
Candace Williams

Board of Directors' Minutes

Meeting held February 11, 2019 @ VCC

Call to Order:

The 2nd meeting of the 2019 Board Meeting was called to order at 4:35 PM.

The entire board was present with Russ Choyce also in attendance to give a brief overview of website updates at beginning of meeting.

The agenda for this meeting was distributed and approved. The minutes from the January 7th meeting were also approved.

Website update:

Russ gave a very informative "walk through" of data base updates regarding Membership Analysis and Activity that are now available for Board members on the website. Membership is listed now for all the card games VCC offers, and Activity shows several categories including non-renewals, deceased, over 85, past presidents, etc.

Discussions were briefly held as to how to keep lists current. Some members were still on website, such as those that had moved away, visitors that have played at VCC, the deceased, etc. Communication was also stated to be needed to let 85 year olds know that they still needed to sign-up each year if they were planning to continue to play.

Question asked if there was someway the data base would recognize players that had a 70% games. Also, it was suggested to change 70% to 75% games for ACBL reporting. To be continued!

There is also no way to make the button you click on for *Latest Results* be made larger. Sorry!

Director & Office reports:

Mike

- He gave a brief financial report saying we are showing \$9785.95 cash balance as of January. Statements will show a negative number for income on the P&L of ~\$450. This is not unusual except for months when there is a tournament. Game Fees are up from last year. Total current assents (cash and cds) are down from last year. The new bridge pads and the ice maker purchased last year explain this and also why the Fixed Assets number is larger than last year. Annual renewals for Bridgewebs (who hosts the VCC website) and QuickBooks (payroll) were made.
- Discussion was made regarding debit cards vs credit cards to be issued to those that need them. It was decided that credit cards were a better choice for obvious reasons, so all debit cards will be collected and voided. Logistics/Purchasing and the Club Manager will be the only board members to possess a credit card.
- Gave Francine a form from the Arkansas Secretary of State to complete and file with them. It seems what the State has listed for us is out-of-date and has been for a number of years.
- Insurance for employees mentioned. The three officials who have signatures on the bank account are bonded.

(Continued next page)

Linda Directory to be printed for all members. Annie and Linda will aim to get together on 3/23 to collate, etc. Other members offered to help also. Linda also gave count on renewals: 437 renewed; 145 did not

Candace The Player Development committee has met once. Due to having to leave early, she will get back to us with more.

Teri Articles and pictures taken at the Life Master's party will be taken to the Voice for publication. Will put up Grand National Team posters and/or banners if requested!

Andy Sanctioned table count is up: 500 to 590. Attributed this to the Saturday game being so successful and no closures due to weather this year. Swiss team games continue. He also made corrections to list of committees.

Cathy Purchased the three plaques for the other games. Cribbage plaque was discussed as to whether some words that were requested taken out were or not.

Francine

- Russ has allowed me to upload the Agenda and the Board Minutes each month to the web-site. He has also instructed me on how to do others if necessary. Files already posted to the web-site remain. If "modifications" are discussed and approved of at our Board meetings, I can upload the new files if asked to do so.
- Question: Do we need to look into printing a disclaimer to protect ourselves as Board members from any liability and/or for the website? Not sure if needed, but something we should be aware of and look into.
- Attachment: I passed a paper that I typed listing suggestions made to me (and by me) for improvements at VCC. (It is attached for everyone's convenience.) For example, a better method for collecting monies at beginning of games would be appreciated, so as not to be so disruptive. Looking forward to hearing views for solutions, etc. after everyone has had a chance to read and formulate ideas. Hopefully, we will find a way to incorporate some of these suggestions and help relieve the stress of the directors as well as make the games and VCC a more enjoyable and organized venue for players.

Old Business:

- Umbrella donation revisited: Ten umbrellas are to be given to Teri for the Alzheimer auction during bridge game. Alan is investigating getting an umbrella stand for the lobby to store the umbrellas. This way they are readily available for members to use when needed and easily returned.
- Cribbage tournament date was not discussed.

New Business:

- Table & Chair recommendation. It was decided to have foldable tables like the ones already being used at the club. Chairs are to be stackable and of vinyl (or equivalent) so easily wiped and kept clean. Plus, width is to be as wide as chairs we are already using. Carpet, tables, and chairs hopefully all color coordinated by the POA to be attractive. Annie showed a picture of a solid chair that was very nice. She will check on price, etc.

(Continued next page)

- Insurance review.
- 2019 Committee approval. Andy made corrections to list of committees and this corrected list was approved by the Board. Concern was noted when a husband and wife were the only members on a committee, such as the Audit committee. A conflict of interest, might exist, but supposedly there was no rule against it.
- Teri and Norinne are in charge of the Spring Fling. Teri is checking on how many assistant directors Charley is bringing with him, and if he will need to request help from VCC. Andy reminded that certain rules, regarding directors that assist, need to be met.
- Mike said that the pay schedule for tournaments need to be addressed. Some directors volunteered and were not paid in one of the previous tournaments. These volunteers were upset and felt taken advantage of. Better communication needed. Please come to him if anything like this comes up.
- Andy had a request regarding our VCC directors playing in VCC games be allowed under certain. Wording will need to be changed in the Standing Rule. This need is sometimes needed to avoid long sit-outs and sometimes sending someone home. Complications allowing this were discussed. Matter was tabled until more thought could be given to the matter. Suggested that maybe it should be allowed for small games only (limited to 4 tables or less).
- Alan asked that two committees be organized Motion made by Francine and seconded by Teri for them to begin.
 1. Long Range Planning Committee. Annie Dethardt is chairperson and will be in charge of a comprehensive review of the external and internal environment (SWOT analysis) and the creation of three-year strategic plan for VCC board approval. (Time frame is for a presentation and draft document to be presented no later than September 30, 2019 to the 2019 Board. A monthly progress given each month and final document prior to November board meeting.)
 2. Constitution and Bylaws Committee. Duane Hall is chairman and will conduct a review of the internal documents including the Constitution, Bylaws, and Standing Rules and provide the VCC board any recommended changes one month prior to the Annual Meeting in December 2019. (Time frame is for a presentation and draft document to be presented no later than September 30, 2019 to the 2019 Board. A monthly progress given each month and final document prior to November board meeting.)

Adjourned: Motion made to adjourn at 6:35PM and approved.

Suggestions for improvement of bridge games! *(Submitted by Francine)*

The following were submitted to me for possible improvements of the bridge games. *We can discuss now, through emails, and/or at March Board meeting.*

New games and teachers:

- Handicap Swiss: To increase table count, why not handicap the Swiss game allowing players with more than 2000 points to play. (In Houston, these were my favorite games. I learned so much from the more experienced players.)
- Barometer Games: *(These games are fun and I know novices especially love them. Takes a little more effort in getting the boards ready which may be feasible for smaller games.)* In barometer games, everyone plays the same hand at the same time. (Three or four boards at each table.) Then results are posted. Could even be discussed as in a “learning” session. Then rotate to another table against new opponents and procedure repeated with new boards, but same hands at each of the tables.
- New teachers with new and different approaches to learning the game be allowed to instruct classes. To verify there is a need, we could have a “drop box” or a “town hall” meeting to discuss ideas. I know of other volunteers, but it doesn’t seem that they are given an opportunity.

Routine procedure improvements:

- **Cell phone reminder** at beginning of each game.
- **Thoughts for changing the way monies are collected at beginning of games so as not to be so disruptive.** Often happens when in the middle of playing a hand. Here comes the director making change, asking questions, etc. Solutions might be:
 - a. Paying before sitting at tables (like they do at tournaments). Louallen offered to do this before each game even if she isn’t playing. No extra cost involved but would need money to make change.
 - b. Or, entries can be collected at table 10 minutes before start of game. Partner pays for their partner if that person is not there before game starts to reserve their spot.
 - c. Up to director to allow a late entry, etc. based on if person called ahead and/or it would improve overall game because of table count, number of boards able to play, sit-outs, etc. *(Not to be abused and an equal opportunity for all.)*
- **Directors start announcements five (5) minutes before game is set to begin.** *(Especially true for IPM games.)*
- **Table conduct/etiquette**
 - a. Do not talk about the hands at the table. Walk away to discuss if time permits between rounds, or tell partner to circle board number so as to discuss later. *(It seems to be the advanced players doing this more than the novice and intermediates.)*
 - b. Tempo in bidding
 - c. Don’t touch bidding box until ready to pull bid
 - d. Don’t pull card from your hand until you are ready to play it, etc.
 - e. Make hands before inserting back in boards. We used to do this a few years ago. And now it seems, we have even more bridge players who need this courtesy. *(Speeds up play and just might cut down on some of the table talking.)*