

Attending: April Apfelbaum, Jay Apfelbaum, Mark Bolotin, Mark Cohen, Ellen Luchette, John Nothdurft, Jeff Rohrbeck, Pam Scalamandre, Cathy Strauss
Not Attending: Ellen Berkowitz, John Dickenson

Annual meeting: 36 pairs so far, some duplication to work out. So, 18 tables already. There is a lot of interest – some people are joining ACBL to be able to come. Some out-of-unit members are registering. Very promising start. We have 2 directors so far, John N. will be a director if needed. There will be random drawings for prizes. There will be some giveaway swag items. There will be two sets of hand records with a break after 2 rounds for review of the hands.

We would like to have a table with club information, since it seems like we will be drawing members who don't attend clubs. We are trying to get a list of club teachers, but clubs are not responding. We will continue to pursue this.

We have interest from non-members – how do we handle this? The publicity says it's for U141 members. 1) no outsiders 2) Must pay full price 3) Only if there is room. We want to keep the “inclusive and welcoming” attitude that we have typically. Non-members should be a guest of a member. Full price might be prohibitive. It is a unit event, so non-members shouldn't expect a subsidy.

Motion: people who are not Unit 141 members may play provided, 1) they play with a Unit 141 member, and 2) Pay whatever the full freight is as designated by the committee, estimated at \$50-\$60. The motion seconded and passed. We will contact the current out-of-unit players and their partners.

There was a discussion of the pro/am nature of the game. We are expecting a wide range of points. John N. is suggesting 4 groups arranged by points, pairing new pairs with lower-level pros, and more advanced newcomers with seasoned pros, i.e. groups 1-3, and 2-4.

Charity: The charity “Connectedly” was our overall choice as a charity. This was submitted to the ACBL for an award; we should hear sometime in October from them.

Sectionals: Open sectional: Mark Bolotin will chair the January sectional. In the future, Devika Chakraborty is set to take over for the March sectional. She will get a co-chair. That sectional was moved to March 27-29 to avoid golf season parking – this change was approved by the board. There was some discussion of looking for alternative venues.

The Flyer emails to the group for discussion, and minor modifications were suggested. Ellen L. volunteered to do partnership. Devika is reportedly not available for hospitality chair. We will check the Nationals volunteer list to look for additional potential volunteers.

I/N Sectional: Successful I/N Sectional in KOP. Completely full. There is another one scheduled in KOP December 8. It will be a two-session play-through, 20 table limit. Pam is looking for a date in early 2026 for one in Cherry Hill. Discussion of holding an I/N Regional in Cherry Hill – we'd have to coordinate with the district. A motion made to authorize Mark C. to discuss an I/N regional with the district, seconded and approved.

Elections: Cathy, Mark C., John D., and Mark B. are finishing their terms. Mark B. has decided to not run for re-elected. Some suggestions: Susan Rubin (Susan Packer), Devika Chakraborty, Anne-Marie Corner.

Education: Ellen L. presented “Jump Start Bridge” from Patty Tucker as a school initiative, looks like an interesting program. Ellen is meeting with schools to try to get interest. We could hold open houses in the clubs for these players. This is a long-term investment in the future of the game.

The next meeting will take place online, Oct. 23, 5:30.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:35.

Jeff Rohrbeck

Secretary