



Attending: Jay Apfelbaum, Ellen Berkowitz, Mark Cohen, John Dickenson, Katharine Link, Ellen Luchette, John Nothdurft, Susan Packer, Jeff Rohrbeck, Cathy Strauss

Not present: Pam Scalamandre

Cathy Strauss called the meeting to order at 5:31.

1. Welcome to Katharine Link, our newest board member! Katharine was voted in by acclamation to fill the vacant role in the board.
2. Special - ACBL Board election: We have a vote coming up to elect a new board member of the ACBL. Our unit has a lot of weight in this election due to our size. There was a general discussion of the ACBL, the board, and their roles; also, the two candidates and what we might ask them. Via Zoom, Richard Popper and Joanne Glasson each gave a short statement and then fielded questions from the board. The actual vote will be held in the first two weeks of May.
3. Financial report: Ellen B. sent financial reports ahead of the meeting: Since we last met, we've had 3 tournaments. In December, we had an I/N tournament in King of Prussia. We made a profit of \$292. In January, we had the 3-day sectional at Bala. We had a deficit of \$3097, which is typical; we do not expect to cover expenses at Bala. Just last week, we had another 3-day sectional, in Cherry Hill. Per the contract, Bernadette, owner of Game Friendly, keeps the surplus, if we have one. It looks like after paying her rent, we will have a surplus of about \$1200. It will be sent to her, as she managed the tournament.
We filed our annual taxes in March.
We don't have the March bank statements yet. But as of the end of February, we had \$99,155 in the bank.
4. Cherry Hill Sectional – There was an observation that the food was considered substandard by some and adequate by others. There was a question about the food expense allocation vs. what was spent and whether that met the contract requirements. Discussion in general of the kind of food and the way it was presented to the players at the tournament. A suggestion that we re-word the contract to specify a reimbursement of up to \$10 per person, requiring receipts. We will watch the I/N regional and see how it goes. There was also a question regarding the cards – we have purchased replacement cards, yet many boards still seem to have old cards. There was a suggestion that we mark boards during play as requiring replacement cards.
5. Center City Game: Ellen B, Mark C. and John N. – The unit would like to have more bridge available in Philadelphia, so we want to start a game in Center City. There is an overall question as to whether the unit can run this game per ACBL restrictions; there is some disagreement on interpretation of the rules. The Cosmopolitan Club is offering space to host the game. There is possibly a donation of computer equipment from Scott Brown. There was a general discussion of logistics and personnel involved. A target start date could be as soon as May. Mark will look talk to the ACBL about a game sanction. We need a proposed budget for approval by the board. Insurance is a question – are we covered by ACBL and/or the club? We need a written agreement with the club.

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6. Annual Unit Game: Ellen B and Cathy – The committee is meeting. It might be similar to last year's mystery team game, which was well received by the players. There was a discussion of a "Swiss pairs" game as an alternative.
7. Sectionals – we need to be more organized and prepared in 2027. We got bumped from Bala in March this year; we are limited at Bala due to golf season. Currently we have the sectional at Bala January 8-10, 2027. February is a possibility for sectionals. Jay was authorized by the board to generate a contract for future sectionals at Bala in January with possible second tournament in March if possible. The Fall Sectional will be in Cherry Hill, date TBD. The 2027 Spring Sectional is not yet scheduled. Other venues are being investigated. There was a general discussion of future I/N sectionals in clubs such as NP, KOP, Cape May, etc.

The next meeting is scheduled June 18 at Bala Golf Club again.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:29.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeff Rohrbeck

Secretary