

ACBL Unit 179 Board Meeting
February 2016 Quarterly Meeting Minutes
Vanderbilt Bridge Club/ Nashville, TN

Date: February 20, 2016

Board Members:

Present: David Birnbaum, Coley McGinnis, Tommy Boze, Robert Erwin, Jr., Anne Hitt, Betsy Keeling, Rees Mitchell, Dianne Sussman, Charlynn Foust, Chris Clark, Jim Bass, Walter Brostrom

Absent: Tom Cox

Others Present:

Secretary: Alison Gembar

Treasurer: Sue Atwood

Special Guest: Pat Williams

Proceedings:

Meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m.

David introduced and welcomed the new board members: Jim Bass, Walter Brostrom, Chris Clark, Charlynn Foust (representative outside of Davidson County).

October minutes were reviewed:

- It was noted that ACBL allows 3 Non-Life Master regionals per year. They pay 20% Gold points. Huge draw. NLM regionals require ACBL staff. Russ suggested they are hosted in conjunction with a sectional tournament. Downside: if you're in the open game, currently you are getting credit for the people in the lower strat. If they're playing in a NLM regional, you do NOT get credit for those people. Players between 500/750-3000 don't get as many points as if their lower strat were participating in the sectional. We have to apply to tournament coordinator to get that done. The mechanics to do that are not in place.
- Charitable bequests were raised to \$3000. \$3000 to Humane Society and \$3000 to Second Harvest Food Bank. It was suggested that we get this published locally. Chris Clark agreed to check with publications such as Nashville Scene and Tennessean for publicity.

MOTION to approve Minutes, seconded and passed

Alison Gembar was introduced as new Secretary

Treasurer's Report:

Sue Atwood presented the financial summary and report for 2015. July Regional and October Sectional numbers were reviewed. Table count for Fall Sectional was down. Vanderbilt University Homecoming was that weekend. May have contributed to numbers being down.

Our losses are contributed to February 2015 and October 2015 Sectional, not the July Regional.

Balance in Cash and Bank Accounts were discussed. There are things we can do with the extra funds: buying tables, bidding boxes and scoring machines for local clubs, publicity in cooperation with VBC.

Tournament Coordinator Report:

Coley reported there is now a "playbook"/manual for Sectional tournament chairs. There are a lot of newer players that are willing to step up and do the work.

Pat Williams will present an update for the 2017 Regional. Hotel availability in Nashville is expensive and limited. Turns out July 4th is a better, less expensive week, for the tournament. It has been decided that we will move our next 2 Regionals to the 4th of July week.

We have not scheduled Regionals beyond 2019. Tournament Oversight Committee will review allocating Regionals beyond that time. We are hoping to keep a Regional here every other year. Coley will remain on the Committee until this has been decided.

David presented Russ Jones' reported on District 10 Meeting in Biloxi.

Points:

- District lost money in 2015.
- Swiss teams are going to be charged per person. (6 people per team will be $6 \times 10 = 60$, for example, for entry). This will take place at Regionals and Nationals.
- "Invitational clubs" will no longer be able open them and make them "open" clubs for special games like STaC's . They will only be able to make them an "Invitational" STaC, not an "open" STaC.

Pat Williams reporting on 2017 Regional:

Marriott Hotel (aka, "Inn at Opryland") is managed in Atlanta. We have been provided a rate of \$159 per night for The Inn at Opryland (located across from Opryland Hotel) for the week after July 4th.

If we would consider the week of July 4th, the rate would be \$119, with some requirements.

Parking is an issue. "Game" location is not so good, poor lighting.

The Sheraton at the Airport has quoted \$129/night with a few bells & whistles in the proposal, without a buy-down. Room block would be 590 room nights (but would hold us to 80% of that – 480).

They can also offer us a 5% rebate on the total of the room nights and the hospitality concessions.

Maxwell House has provided us a rate of \$169. But they are now booked for the week.

Reviewed the Profit & Loss Statement for The Inn at Opryland and the Sheraton.

Director costs are going up (10-15%).

What impact would the Holiday have? Attendance up or down?

Restaurant choices were discussed.

Impending deadline for securing host Hotel. Upon further discussion, MOTION to have Pat pursue the Sheraton, considering things may change. MOTION seconded and passed.

MOTION to pursue additional discussion or votes with board members via e-mail.

MOTION seconded and passed.

New Business:

Unit has an interest in the VBC fund raising efforts and VBC Board Meeting discussions. We need a liaison to attend the VBC Board Meetings and report back.

Betsy Keeling was nominated to represent the Unit Board at VBC Board Meetings.

MOTION seconded and passed.

Anne Hitt has researched table storage. Proposed that we build a rack(s) and store the surplus tables next door in the empty office space. Thus, there is no longer a need for a trailer to store them.

Our table goal is 150, thus we need an additional 50 tables for the Regional. Prices for 50 tables will be researched and discussed in the near future. Information will be presented to Board members via e-mail.

David has been approached by the ABA (Hadley Park Club) to join with us to host a tournament in the odd number years. The ABA (Nashville Duplicate Bridge Club) hosts a Sectional Tournament here in even years. No member had any thoughts on the matter. The ABA representatives were not present to discuss. No action was taken.

Tommy Boze: responsibilities of the Tournament Chair(s) were discussed. David assigned a committee consisting of Jim Bass, Tommy Boze & Coley McGinnis to determine the responsibility of the Tournament Coordinator and Tournament Chairs. Charlynn emphasized the importance of getting flyers distributed timely (to other tournaments, perhaps a year in advance) and of better quality.

David wants the committee to meet a couple of times before the May meeting.

Funding for Youth Program at VBC was discussed. Program cost is approximately \$40-50 per month. No additional funds were apportioned to the Youth Program at this time.

Honorarium for Secretary:

\$150/month Honorarium for Secretary was presented to the Board. MOTION seconded and passed.

Election of Officers:

Meeting was turned over to the Vice President, Robert Erwin, for nominations for the Unit President.

Jim Bass nominated David Birnbaum. There were no other nominations.

MOTION to elect David Birnbaum as President of Unit 179 Board was seconded and passed.

Meeting was turned back over to David Birnbaum. Nominations for Vice Presidents were taken. Robert Erwin was nominated by Charlynn Foust.

MOTION to elect Robert Erwin as Vice President of Unit 179 Board was seconded and passed.

Meeting was adjourned at 6:30