

**ACBL Unit 179 Board Meeting
July 20, 2021 Meeting Minutes
Online via “Zoom”**

Date: July 20, 2021

Board Members:

Present: Bob Allard, Harry Allen, Dot Blue, Richard Chalal, Kevin Clark, Bob Dietrick, Sheila Fleming, Charlynn Foust, Karen Kendrick, Clifford Kent, Ken McPeak, Pat Williams

Absent: none

Others Present:

Secretary: Alison Gembar

Treasurer: Sue Atwood

Proceedings:

Meeting was called to order at 4:50 pm

Minutes presented for the following meetings: March 27, 2021

Motion to approve

Minutes were approved

Treasurers Report:

Sue Atwood presented financial statements through today

Unit portion of dues are remitted to us quarterly

Our portion of 2nd Quarter dues have not been received as of today; typically in July.

QUIP Report

Reviewed – Discussion regarding retention of Unit members

We have not pursued members who are “falling out” of Unit membership. Some are deaths, others are unknown.

Unit members has been as high as 990, currently 915

Currently 10% of membership does NOT renew their membership.

We should recruit ***Ad hoc Membership Committee*** to review membership decrease and how to improve membership retention; research members that can renew but do not.

The committee has thus been charged with that assignment.

New Business

Tournament Coordinator – Alison Gembar

October 14-17, 2021 we have a Sectional on the calendar. Pat discussed having this tournament at VBC with VBC board members. Additionally, Pat attended roundtable discussion regarding tournaments. Concerns have been expressed about the viability of running sectionals. Prior to a few days ago ACBL was requiring attendees to wear masks, but that has been rescinded. Attendance at sectionals is still an unknown after the pandemic. ACBL costs (Directors, etc) are a significant charge to consider in our decision to pursue. Vaccination is a requirement (allowances for medical and religious issues; requires pre-approval from ACBL).

We do NOT have to have ACBL directors, this is a “downgraded” sectional and affects the masterpoints awarded (-30% reduction). We can request “fewer” directors expecting a smaller sectional. This may not be favorable to participants.

Limiting games to 2/per day would be worth considering. Night games typically do not have a significant turnout even prior to pandemic.

Huntsville, Alabama is having a sectional the 2nd weekend in August and we will look at their turnout to decide about using ACBL directors and games/day, and possibly canceling our sectional altogether.

Food considerations. Not planning to have food available at the tournament. Food trucks were discussed; availability, number they can serve, where to park, are all things to consider. They would only need to be there for a short period of time. We either need to space games out to allow people time to eat or provide a quick choice. We can limit games to 24 boards that would give them more time between games.

First, we need to decide if we want to have a tournament.

Items to consider if we do decide to have tournament:

Events

Number of boards to play

Number of Directors & ACBL directors v local directors (reduce loss?)

Number of games per day. Consider removing evening games.

Lunch considerations

Motion to pursue October Sectional

Motion approved.

Tournament Scheduling Committee will meet in the next couple of weeks. Some new committee members assigned by Unit President.

Committee members as of 7/20/21: Alison Gembar, Kevin Clark, Clifford Kent, Charlynn Foust, Becca Ingle, Peggy Burkhalter, Pat Williams

Motion to approve committee members

Motion approved

Committee will develop schedule, research viability of tournament (review tournament considerations above) and report back to Unit.

Upon review of committee findings, Huntsville sectional turnout, COVID Delta Variant status, etc, we can vote to cancel October 2021 sectional at our next meeting.

July 2022 Regional

We need to consider alternatives for tournament next year to cut our losses. Our room night commitment was the biggest factor in 2020 that contributed to our excessive loss. The tournament has been reduced to 4 days and 3 nights; our per night commitment on rooms has not been reduced from what our average was at our last tournament. We need to make a decision on the status of this contract and viability to hold the tournament next year, by the end of this year.

Committee Reports:

Ad hoc Membership Committee – nothing to report

Committee members assigned to committee as of today

Karen Kendrick, Chair

Bob Allard

Pat Lynch

Gale Srulevich

Motion to approve committee members

Motion approved

NAP/GNT Coordinator – Pat Williams

GNT District Event (from 2019)

Tournament was held online. Local Unit 179 members represented District 10 in the Championship Flight and Flight A. Although they did not advance, we are proud they qualified to represent our District.

We are presently (June, July, August) holding NAP qualifying games online and at the club(s). We will host the NAP finals here in Nashville in the Fall.

VBC Club Liaison – Bob Dietrick

VBC has met several times to determine game schedules (how many games, how many days/week), food considerations, etc. The club recently sent out a survey and will meet again to discuss the results. They will use the survey results to determine games and other considerations of how to move forward from the effects of the pandemic and get people back to the club.

Sheila Fleming, New Life Master Coordinator

This upcoming tournament is not a great time to honor new life masters. Hosting a party would be better to honor these achievements when we can celebrate with food, cake, and better attendance. We should acknowledge these people at the sectional. However, we should delay an official celebration until some point after the pandemic is “over” and we can coordinate a celebration.

Goodwill, Volunteer of the Year nominations should be submitted to Patrick. Let him know if you have nominations.

Date of next board meeting

August 17th, 4:45 via Zoom

Motion to adjourn

Meeting adjourned 6:10