

MINUTES OF ACBL UNIT 547 BOARD MEETING

November 12, 2020 via Zoom

Theme: Bridge for Everyone

Present: Rose Buckley, Dennis Charles, Mark Eckhout, Larry Pelletier, Lorraine Salvatore, Josh Rosenbluth, Parker Mann, Barry Brenner, Jody Shapiro, Barbara Fitzgerald and Charles Clarke.

- 1) Rose called the Zoom meeting to order at 10:30 am.
- 2) The minutes of the 10-8-2020, were reviewed. Larry moved they be approved and Lorraine seconded. All voted in favor.
- 3) Charles presented the Treasurer's report. He said that our current institution, Bank One, was totally unresponsive to his request for establishing a money market account. He recommended dropping Bank One and moving our business to Community West Bank. Barbara moved approval of a resolution to move \$40,000 to Community West Bank. Parker seconded. All voted in favor. Charles said that the club continues to do well financially. Josh moved that we approve the Treasurer's report. Barbara seconded. All in favor.
- 4) Barry presented the club operations and management report. He said that we were losing players at our games and will prepare a graph showing our attendance. The matter was discussed and Barry felt that a drop in attendance is due to the fact that our club was an early adopter of Virtual Games and there were not the alternative venues that now exist. Rose is working on a project to set up her step-up classes on the Zoom platform through our club website. She will charge \$10 per class and has set up 300 teaching hands. For simplicity sake, Rose said that she will use a PayPal account or credit cards for the students to pay for her lessons. Rose said that after the ½ hour lecture there would be practice hands on BBO. Rose said she would donate \$5 back to the club for each participant. So far setting up the whole process has been very time-consuming.
- 5) Virtual Club Games. The week of November 23-29 will be Stardust week on BBO, meaning enhanced masterpoints. Our Monday-Friday limited '49 MP games are not generating adequate enough attendance to remain viable. Barry said that even the District's '49er limited game was having trouble attracting enough players. After discussion, the consensus was that we do not continue these games. The ACBL has said that the virtual games of local clubs can only have 15% of outsider participation to prevent excessive poaching. The Duncan Club has limited outsiders to playing once a week. Barry talked about peer pooling with the Ojai and TownHouse clubs. There is a master-slave arrangement for clubs not able to get virtual games going to receive \$1 back when they play in BBO tournaments with other clubs. When our unit players participate in the Duncan games, our club receives no compensation. Josh moved that going forward our limited masterpoint games would be the '49er games Tuesday and Saturday, and 1,499er MP Wednesday and Friday. Larry seconded. All in favor.
- 6) Rose brought up the Unit's holiday brunch. BBO's lowest card fee allowed is \$3. Larry moved that we have our holiday party on Tuesday December 15th and charge \$3 for card

fees. There would be an 11:45 am virtual pop-in session lasting 5 minutes. Josh seconded. All voted in favor.

7) Mark is still working on a list of nominees for the Board. Regarding the mentoring program, Larry reported 4 mentors and 6 mentees. Barry said that he is getting frustrated trying to renew our sanction with the ACBL. He will keep trying to contact them, but there are 3,000 clubs competing to use the website.

8) To plan our Annual Meeting, the Board will have a meeting November 19, 2020, on Zoom at 10:30.

9) The next general Board meeting will be Hanukkah, starting day December 10, 2020, at 10:30 am.

Respectfully submitted: Dennis Charles, Secretary