

MINUTES OF ACBL UNIT 547 BOARD MEETING

August 13, 2020

Theme: Bridge for Everyone

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

- 1) Rose called the Zoom meeting to order at 10:07 am.
- 2) The Board meeting minutes of 7-9-2020 were reviewed. Barbara Fitzgerald's name was inadvertently left out of those present. Larry moved that they be approved with the above correction and Barbara seconded. All voted in favor.
- 3) Charles Clark, Treasurer, reported that the income in July was comparable to June's. Expenses were up slightly because of increased ACBL fees during silver week. Josh asked why Rose was paid \$560 when she was only due \$360 for directing. Charles confirmed she got \$50 for being the director liaison and \$150 for Mike Gaddis' free plays which she pre-pays. Charles will detail payments to Rose in future reports. Charles also agreed to send guidance out to Parker and Josh on what their audit duties should be. Josh moved that the Treasurer's Report be approved and Parker seconded. All voted in favor.
- 4) Rose presented a proposal to purchase Common Game Premium at \$100 per year. Premium gives us hand records in ACBL Live for Clubs, reports of our players playing in other games, reports of players in our games, and directors can choose substitutes before the game begins and by masterpoints. Without Premium, substitutes cannot be chosen until the game begins and you might end up with a person who has too many masterpoints. Larry moved we purchase Common Game Premium and Barbara seconded. All voted in favor. Additionally, with or without Premium, we may use Common Game hands instead of BBO hands. It's more work for the directors but it will allow people to view results on the Common Game. The directors will consider experimenting using Common Game hands.
- 5) Rose announced that both Jody Shapiro and Marjorie Butler are both now certified club directors and virtual directors. Rose also posted the August directors calendar on our website. It includes who directs on each day and a phone number for each director.
- 6) Larry expressed concern over bids, such as transfers, not being pre-alerted. Rose agreed to include a discussion of pre-alerts in next week's email, including a link to a video tutorial.
- 7) Larry passed on a request to open up the limited Wednesday and Friday games to all players. Without a formal vote, the idea was rejected.
- 8) Lorraine requested that the weekly email blasts be posted on the website, including past issues. Parker, with help from Barry, will find the appropriate place on the website.
- 9) Barbara expressed concern about habitually slow players. Rose said the directors keep an eye on slow players, can warn them, and can assess penalties. However, care must be taken not to scare away newcomers by being too heavy-handed.
- 10) Parker will look into compiling usage statistics on our website, including views per page and unique visitors.

- 11) Barbara agreed to become the Membership Chair, a required ACBL position, until we resume in-person games.
- 12) Josh confirmed that the contract for the 2021 Strawberry Sectional was signed.
- 13) Josh gave an update on people who don't get our email blasts. Some people have not entered their email address at ACBL. Others have not permitted their email address to be shared with Marketing Solutions. And others have AOL as a service provider that thinks our emails are spam. In all those cases, the people can take actions to get our blasts. If they don't, they can still view the blasts on our website. More problematically, the weekly updates from ACBL to Marketing Solutions have not been processed, perhaps not at all in 2020. Thus, new players and transfers have only been receiving our blasts because Josh manually forwards them. Marketing Solutions is looking into the problem.
- 14) A set of options put together by Mark Eckhout to increase the number of games available to I/N players was presented by Rose. In light of the new ACBL policy lifting some restrictions on playing in other clubs, all agreed we will go with option 1 and encourage people to play in the Santa Barbara I/N games in the next Bridge Buzz. At the same time, we will encourage others to join our games.
- 15) The meeting was adjourned at 11:18 AM. **Our next Board meeting will be September 10, 2020, at 10:30 am.**

Respectfully submitted: Josh Rosenbluth, subbing for Secretary Dennis Charles