

MINUTES OF ACBL UNIT 547 BOARD MEETING

March 5, 2020

Present: Rose Buckley, Dennis Charles, Mark Eckhout, Larry Pelletier, Barbara Fitzgerald, Josh Rosenbluth, and Barry Brenner. Charles Clark part-time.

- 1) Rose called the meeting to order at 10:30 am.
- 2) The Board meeting minutes of 2-6-2020, were reviewed. Josh moved approval and Larry seconded. All in favor of the motion.
- 3) Rose announced that Mimi Draves is considering taking over as membership chair.
- 4) Josh-website evolution. Josh reported that some players are having difficulty in accessing the club's home page; Parker Mann is addressing this problem.
- 5) Turning to web design, Josh said that Lorraine is working on a story board for displaying our content. He is hopeful that there will be a prototype in the next few months. Josh, Parker and Bob Gruber are keeping up our current website. Eventually, there will be the issue of migrating our current content to the new website.
- 6) Josh started using the Marketing Solutions email service (paying \$100 to get us going for a while) to send out the Bridge Buzz. He will send out 5,600 blasts for the Strawberry Sectional.
- 7) Director related issues. Rose has given 2 director's lessons to Margie Butler and Jody Shapiro. The Director's exam can be downloaded and it is an open book test. Larry brought up the issue of player stratification at the Thursday games. In a future issue of Bridge Buzz we will reiterate the policy of entering the TBT parking lot from the northern Foothill Rd. entrance. Mike Gaddis also monitors this.
- 8) Josh recapped the Valentines Sectional. We had a record 27 tables, plus most players stayed for the afternoon game. This was a challenge for our local directors, Nancy Hall, assisted by Rosemary Reitz. The issue was raised as to whether we continue to have 2 local directors, or one such as Dave White? The cost differential is minor. Dennis will get the Valentine's Sectional trophy engraved with the names of the winners, Michael and Linda Camras. Mark moved and Larry seconded, that we pay Nancy \$510, with a recommendation she share \$130 with Rosemary. The extra \$200 covers the salary of a second local director, less a \$41 revenue shortfall. All in favor.
- 9) Josh discussed the upcoming Strawberry Sectional April 17-19, 2020. He will contact Director, Dave White, as to his needs and send out the email blast announcing the event. Hospitality Chair, CJ Emans will be working on sourcing the berries and donations. We will have a guaranteed partner on Friday and Saturday.
- 10) Mark presented his paper on the guaranteed partner program for all TBT games including the open. We would need about 30 players to volunteer once a quarter to be a GP. He suggested we publicize the program and Barry can generate a 3-month blank calendar where GP signups can be done in advance. Further thought and will be directed toward the mechanism and implementation. It was agreed that Mark move forward on the project and an email blast be done. Larry volunteered to chair the mentoring program going forward and it was noted that Santa Barbara has an excellent program.
- 11) Charles presented the Treasurer's report. Our net year-to-date is \$790, even though we had a large Annual Meeting expense. His year-over-year comparison with 2019 is a work in progress. It was noted that our club gets money from ACBL for signing up new members. Larry moved and Mark seconded that the Treasurer's report be approved. All voted in favor.
- 12) Contact with TBT revealed that they will not allow a clock in Meister Hall.
- 13) Raeann is starting to charge \$6 for her Learn as You Play classes. She will keep \$1 each as she needs to show income to get teacher certification. She will be doing 2 sections, total beginners and continuing beginners.
- 14) Upcoming events: Mini-McKenney and Ace of Clubs awards, Thursday March 12, Pie Day Saturday March 14, and Swiss Teams, Thursday April 2 (open and 499'er). Josh suggested either 9-5-20 or 10-3-20 for the Fall Sectional.

Respectfully submitted

Dennis Charles, Secretary Unit 547