

## MINUTES OF ACBL UNIT 547 BOARD MEETING

December 10, 2020 via Zoom

Theme: Bridge for Everyone

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

- 1) Rose called the Zoom meeting to order at 10:30 am.
- 2) The minutes of the November 12, 2020, were reviewed. Mark moved approval; Parker seconded. Approved. The minutes of the November 19, 2020, special Board meeting were read, noting that the Unit will send out \$20 gift certificates to StoneFire Grill for those attending our January 30, 2021, Annual Meeting. Larry moved and Josh seconded that the minutes and the gift certificates be approved.
- 3) Charles presented the Treasurer's report. He recommended that the By-laws be amended so that the first Board meeting after the Annual Meeting does not have to happen on that date. (RESOLVED, that the By-Laws of our Unit 547 be amended by deleting the word **immediately** from Article V, Paragraph F [which now requires the Board to meet immediately after the annual membership meeting]). Larry moved and Parker seconded that Article V Section F of the By-laws be so amended. All in favor. Charles said that our club's net revenue was \$781, down a little due to lower table count. The transition of our accounts to Community West Bank has been completed. Lorraine moved and Josh seconded approval of the financial report. All in favor. Barbara moved that up to \$100 be allocated for expenses related to our Annual Meeting. Lorraine seconded. Approved.
- 4) Barry presented the club operations and management report. ACBL has made a deposit to our account. The trendline graphs he prepared and sent to Board members show a downward trend in attendance. This is because more clubs have now moved to virtual games, so more options for players. There has been promotion of the 99'er games hosted by the District. Barry talked to Tish Gainey of the Santa Barbara Bridge Club about pooling with SB for beginner games. As they only charge \$4 a game, so we would only realize \$1 by joining them and their partner. A major risk is that our club players will be marketed to by SB and their partners, meaning we could lose players to their games. Rose feels that the intent of our virtual games is to have our members play with each other. Since our attendance is going down, it seems prudent not to pursue pooling with SB.
- 5) It was the consensus that we not hold a game on Christmas Day, but that there will be one on New Year's Day. There was discussion of the voice chat feature on BBO. It is not shut off during bidding and play. This feature is not available in BBO on mobile devices. The Board agreed that until all devices can use this feature, we will not use it in our games.
- 6) Our Annual Meeting is scheduled for Saturday 1-30-2021 at 11:15 am and last 45 minutes. Josh moved and Barbara seconded a motion that Dennis be authorized to send Amazon \$50 gift cards of appreciation and gratitude to Martha Richardson at TBT, Bob Gruber, Barry Brenner and Charles Clarke. Passed with one dissent.

- 7) Mark is getting down to the wire on presenting nominations for new Board members and will email it soon. Rose suggested having a director on the Board.
- 8) Regarding mentoring, Larry is seeking mentors as he already has mentees.
- 9) We are getting new club members and Barbara is reaching out to them.
- 10) Rose said that she is starting weekly virtual Step-Up classes, beginning Saturday January 2, 2021 from 9:30-11, using a teaching website. It will cost \$10 a session. Rose said that she will donate a portion of those proceeds to our club.

**The next general Board meeting will be January 14, 2021, at 10:30 am.**

*Respectfully submitted: Dennis Charles, Secretary*