

MINUTES ADBC MEMBERSHIP MEETING JUNE 26, 2021

CALL TO ORDER

President Steve Kornegay called the (delayed due to COVID) annual ADBC Membership Meeting to order at 11 am June 26, 2021. He welcomed all present and made a few remarks on the state of the club. He noted we are a member-owned club and therefore rely on our players for support. During the past year when face to face bridge has been suspended due to the COVID pandemic, we've lost several members due to death, illness and moving away. In 2019 we had 204 members, in the truncated 2020 year 194; and this year we currently have 90 members. We are financially healthy at the present time due to cost-cutting measures taken before the pandemic (eliminating Sunday meal at our Grapevine Tournament, cutting back on free plays and increasing table fees,) initiating online games offered through BBO and ACBL (whereby we were able to pool players from other clubs) and favorable lease terms from our landlord. Also, Grapevine Convention Center has graciously extended the time to honor the down payment we made for our 2021 tournament until 2022. To encourage participation in this abbreviated year we are reducing game entries to \$8 except for special games where ACBL charges extra and membership to \$20. Further, we decreased internet charges by switching providers, and though cleaning fees have increased we did switch companies to have less of an increase.

Special thanks went to those who had been instrumental in supporting ADBC during the pandemic: Tom Moore for maintaining our website; Steve Kornegay, Tom Moore, Dorothy Moore, Mary Ellen Stanton and Doug Berke for directing online games; George Morey for managing club finances; Theresa Brantley for keeping members informed via email blasts; Tracy Stanley for designing survey for returning to face to face bridge; Karen Cook for cleaning all the bidding boxes and inserts; and Nancy Kornegay for help wherever needed. Helen Nelson and Corinne Easley were thanked for all their efforts in providing meals during the last year of our face to face games.

BY-LAW CHANGES

Having previously encountered problems in scheduling the annual meeting during March as mandated in ADBC By-laws (not to mention last meeting having been canceled because of a pandemic,) the board decided to request amending this requirement to allow the meeting to occur in February or March. This amendment won approval of an overwhelming majority by show of hands.

The board also requested that membership fees be set by the ADBC board rather than the membership. This was also approved by an overwhelming majority.

ELECTION OF BOARD MEMBERS

There were eight candidates for the five open slots on the board: Theresa Brantley, Sue Gilbreath, Breck Henderson, Dorothy Moore, George Morey, Jack Muzzio, Jeff Newman and Larz Smith.

Nancy Kornegay discussed bios for Theresa Brantley and Larz Smith who were unable to attend. The others gave a brief bio. Nancy Kornegay, Mary Ellen Stanton, Jerry Derby and Ginger Kennedy collected and counted the ballots. They reported the winners to be Theresa Brantley, Sue Gilbreath, Dorothy Moore, George Morey and Jeff Newman.

FINANCE REPORT

George Morey discussed the financial report handout given to all present and which will be posted at the club. He noted that the state of our finances is very dependent on our table count which actually increased during the pandemic because of the online games. He also discussed other reasons for our financial health: decreased utilities, decreased director fees, decreased cleaning fees, decreased food costs, donations and memorial gifts. However, even though we are a non-profit, donations are not tax-deductible. Unless face to face table count increases above pre-covid participation, the club projects to lose money in the coming months. Online games and reduced food costs will offset part of the losses. The online games will lose table count as pooled players return to their home clubs, and ACBL phases out online participation through decreased matchpoint awards online and increased matchpoint awards in face to face as clubs reopen. Finally, the club's lease ends February 2022; board/ club members will need to decide whether to continue at the current location or find a new one. Bridge game participation in the next few months will be the primary determinate for this decision.

OPEN FORUM

Steve noted the need for all to be diligent in keeping the studio clean. He called on Nancy Kornegay to discuss the recycling criteria.

Hugh Hillaker stated we are in a very favorable position compared to many other clubs:

- 1) We have an attractive facility that is very comfortable and conducive to playing bridge;
- 2) Further we are a non-profit so our primary focus doesn't have to be making money;
- 3) For our membership fee and game entry we are getting a bargain.

Margot Hirsch and Jack Muzzio both advocated eliminating free plays to save money.

Melody Gann, Hugh Hillaker and Kimmel Jones all expressed gratitude to Steve Kornegay in initiating the online games which have so greatly sustained ADBC during the pandemic.

Mike Tully expressed interest in getting to know identities of players he's played against online like Little Sister, Candlevase and others. He suggested nametags that would include online handles.

Hugh Hillaker exhorted members to think about why they play—suggesting prime reasons are fun, being with other people and improving card play. He also noted that a good way to improve is to play in open games against stronger players—recalling his own beginnings as a bridge player.

Dorothy noted that all our games are stratified, but that requires at least three strat C pairs in smallest games for earning masterpoints and four in larger games.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at noon with Melody Gann and Nancy Kornegay leaving to pick up pizza for lunch prior to the game at 1:30pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Melody Gann, Secretary ADBC

