

FORT WESTERN UNIT 183
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
JULY 26, 2021

The meeting was held at 6715 Camp Bowie Boulevard, Fort Worth, TX. Vice President H. Schulz called the meeting to order at 5:05 p.m.

Directors H. Schulz, S. Shirey, C. Benton, and L. Brown attended in person. Directors D. Pearlman and L. Spangler attended by telephone. Directors J. Montgomery, L. Nash, and J. Helmers did not attend.

Also in attendance was Paul Cuneo, who represents District 16 on the ACBL Board of Directors.

Minutes

Upon motion duly made and seconded the minutes of the meeting of the June 28, 2021 meeting were unanimously approved.

Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer's report previously prepared by Unit Bookkeeper Ann LeFevre was circulated to members present. June showed a slight uptick in revenue as face to face play started to pick up. There were no other significant changes. L. Spangler noted that the figures for table count were running a month behind.

Upon motion duly made and seconded the Treasurer's Report was accepted as presented.

Old Business

L. Spangler reported that she had filed an appeal of the \$1980 IRS bill for late filing of our 2019 990 and 990T forms.

Limited game directors have continued to be hard to find. Gary Wright does not share the liability concerns of others, but when he resumes onsite work it may make it difficult for him to direct.

New Business

Paul Cuneo spoke on two topics: his candidacy for the newly created position of Regional Director, and ACBL's activities to encourage players to return to face to face games.

The Regional Director position is a new one, resulting from the ACBL's decision to reduce the size of its board from 25 to 13. Paul will be running against the current Director from Kansas.

It is Paul's belief that a smaller board will help increase the percentage of members who are good at business, not just good as bridge volunteers, and that this will minimize the chance of further financial fiascos such as the Board's decision to hold a North American Bridge Championship in Hawaii, which resulted in a loss to ACBL of about a million dollars. L. Brown noted that even at the Unit and club levels overall business acumen could be better, and Paul agreed.

Paul noted that online bridge table counts for club games to decline in January of 2021 as people began to tire of playing online. Face to face play started to resume in May, and more clubs reopened in June and July, so in-person table counts are on the rise, but overall play is still down very significantly from pre-pandemic numbers. The biggest issue is getting limited players back to the table; open games are doing relatively better than limited ones.

Paul reported that ACBL has done a couple of things to encourage a move back to face to face games: it reduced the online game master point multiplier from 1.5 to 1.25 and will drop it back to 1 on August first. ACBL also awarded more extra point games to brick and mortar clubs.

Paul also mentioned the new District policy relating to health protocols at tournaments, both Regional and Sectional. (D. Pearlman chaired the committee that drafted the new policy.) It requires that all players be vaccinated, and others to the extent possible. Paul noted that ACBL requires that all tournament directors be vaccinated as well.

H. Schulz asked if it would be financially wise to continue to subsidize players who qualify at an NAP qualifier at the Studio. S. Shirey explained why this incentive would be a positive and L. Spangler noted that there was plenty of cash on hand to do so.

C. Benton reported that the Nominating Committee has identified two potential candidates for the Board of Directors. D. Pearlman will coordinate with C. Benton on procedures and begin drafting the necessary documents.

There being no further business to come before the meeting, upon motion duly made and seconded the meeting was adjourned at 5:35 p.m.

David J. Pearlman
Secretary, Fort Western Unit 183