

## **ACBL Unit 143 Board Meeting Minutes, October 9, 2019**

Location: Creve Coeur Government Center Meeting Room 2

**Attendees:** Dennis Abeln, Terry D'Amato, John Antognoli, Mark Boswell, Diane Deutch, Lee Hastings, Larry LaBrier, Estella Lau, John Welte, Kelly White. Absent: John Levis and Jay Shah.

The meeting was called to order by President Mark Boswell at 7:03 PM.

**Secretary's Report:** Minutes from the September meeting were submitted by Dennis via e-mail. The Unit Electronic Contact line item was blank, should have been marked 'no report'. The minutes were approved as amended.

**President's Report:** Mark thanked Lee Hastings and John Antognoli for their service on the board. Mark announced that job assignments for next year will generally follow this past year, to be finalized at the November board meeting.

**Treasurer's Report:** Larry had submitted a monthly report and a report for the Fiscal Year ending September 30, 2019. Dennis pointed out that the by-laws call for an annual statement of unit's assets as well as profit and loss, and requested that a sentence be added to mention the non-cash assets. Dennis also asked that the annual fiscal report be posted on the web as a way to meet the by-laws requirement that the report be 'published and distributed' to the members. The reports were approved.

### **Committee Reports:**

**Awards:** No report.

**Bidding Boxes & Time Clocks:** John Antognoli agreed to continue helping with the bidding boxes after he leaves the board. John and Mark will evaluate optimal sizes for new totes to hold the bidding boxes.

**Caddies:** Debbie has organized the caddies for the October Sectional, and distributed the details in an e-mail.

**Datebook:** Dennis obtained competitive bids from NJC and Minuteman Press, and awarded the work to the low bidder Minuteman Press for \$1160. Advertising revenue totaled \$361. Dennis released the Datebook to the printer on Oct 7. The number of copies has been reduced to 700, down from 800 in 2018 and 900 in 2017. The booklets are expected to be ready early in the week of Oct 14. Dennis plans to distribute the Datebooks to the clubs rather than the Fall Sectional. Mark questioned the need to continue the printed Datebook.

**District 8 Report:** No report. Mark announced Debbie Romero has agreed to continue to serve as Unit 143's representative on District 8's Board of Directors, along with Mike Carmen and Mark.

**Membership:** Jay was absent but had submitted a report by e-mail. Total unit membership was down 18 last month and down 33 from Jan 1, 2019. New member welcome letters will go out next week.

**Publicity:** No report.

**299er Tournaments:** John Welte reported the September I/N sectional had a loss of approximately \$300, later amended by e-mail same evening to a loss of \$184. Table count was down 12.5 from the spring tournament, and down 2 from last fall's tournament. John reported that the winners appreciated the trophies and recommended trophies be continued.

**Unit Electronic Contact:** Kelly stores the reports in the Drop Box. Kelly will maintain an inventory of Life Master pins - these get presented at the subsequent tournaments. Mini-McKinney and Ace of Clubs awards get presented at the spring sectional because the results aren't available for the winter sectional.

**Unit Games:** Lee explained the four new unit charity games added for 2020. The November 11, 2020 Unit Charity Game can be for a charity of the Unit's choosing. The other three Unit Charity Games fall in months where ACBL sets the beneficiary. The beneficiary of the November game can be decided later.

**Website:** Terry reported the website is up to date. Terry asked who would take pictures of the sectional winners for posting on the website. Mark Boswell volunteered to do this.

John Antognoli reported a recent discussion with Milt Zlatic about automating the sharing of special game info between the Datebook and the website's calendar to avoid the manual transfer of data. Terry will follow-up.

**Hospitality:** Diane reported all preparations are complete for the Fall Sectional. Diane will not be at the Sectional, but Dian Brazier will be there. A sign-up sheet for helping with clean-up after each session was circulated.

**Education / Camp Scholarships:** No report. Mark announced that John Levis will take over this job when Lee leaves the board.

**Outreach:** No report. Mark announced that John Levis has agreed to take over this job.

**Financial Review:** No report. Mark announced that John Levis will take over this job when Lee leaves the board.

**Nominations:** Dennis reported the committee is working to nominate a replacement for Jim Cooper who resigned in early September.

**Rules Review:** No report.

**Old Business:**

Discussion of Unit Insurance Needs. ACBL extends their coverages for General Liability Insurance, Directors and Officers Liability Insurance and Crime insurance to Districts and Units. ACBL has a write-up explaining this that recommends units obtain local insurance coverage to cover the \$7500 deductible on the Crime policy. Dennis looked into this and concluded that the cost of such a policy is prohibitive. There was general agreement that the unit could self-insure the crime deductible. No action is needed.

Discussion on serving alcohol at unit events. Dennis reported on a discussion after the July board meeting where participants generally agreed that the unit should consider discontinuing the serving of alcoholic beverages at unit events. This is primarily a cost-saving idea, but also a social responsibility issue. For the Regionals, the unit pays the hotel to serve beer. The hotel has liability insurance for this. Similarly, for the sectionals, the unit pays St Charles to serve beer and wine except the wine is purchased by the unit. Eliminating alcohol at these events involves reworking contracts. Lee pointed out that the district has a say in any changes for the regional. Dennis reported that the liability insurance extended by ACBL covers alcohol. No action at this time.

Final financial results and survey results for the August Regional were not available at last month's board meeting. Mike Carmen was absent, so no discussion.

Registration Gifts for next year's regional - Kelly hasn't looked into this yet.

I/N Trophy upgrades - Kelly hasn't looked into this yet.

Signage for Regional. Need to order replacements for missing signs. Who?

**New Business:**

Mark Boswell distributed a proposal received from Ann Lemp earlier today of the Bridge Center. They're proposing free plays at the Fall Sectional for players with 0-5 master points and other steps to promote new players. This is already offered.

**Next Meeting:** The next meeting will be November 13, 2019 at the regular time and location.

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 8:08 pm.

Minutes submitted by Dennis Abeln, Recording Secretary, October 10, 2019. Rev 2 Nov 19, 2019