

ACBL Unit 143 Board Meeting Minutes, Wednesday September 14, 2022

Location: The meeting was conducted on-line using ZOOM.

Attendees: John Welte, Mark Boswell, Dennis Abeln, Maureen Curran, Terry D'Amato, Diane Deutch, Ken Obrecht, Steve Russell. Non-board members: Mike Carmen.

Absent: Don Chase, Mark Zellmer

The meeting was called to order by President John Welte at 7:05 pm. Eight board members were in attendance, satisfying quorum requirements of six.

The minutes from the August 10 board meeting were approved as submitted.

The treasurer's report was approved as submitted.

President's Report:

John Welte announced that Kelly White had resigned from the board effective August 31. John reported that Steve Russell had agreed to serve as Treasurer and Unit Electronic Contact, positions Kelly had held. Steve was elected to be new Treasurer and Unit Electronic Contact.

John's term as President is limited to two years and expires in November 2022. John reported that Mark Boswell had agreed to run for next President and Mark Zellmer for next Vice President. Elections for all Board of Director offices will be held at the November board meeting as per the by-laws.

Terry asked for bios from Steve Russell and Don Chase for posting on the unit website.

Terry asked for clarification on board member terms. COVID-19 has prevented the normal annual membership meetings at the October Sectional where board members are elected or re-elected. John, Mark Boswell and Terry will work to address this.

John reported that Mark Zellmer has been in contact with two individuals about joining the board. One declined, currently waiting on an answer from the other.

August 2022 Regional

Mike Carmen reported that the August 2022 Regional had 628 tables, about 48-49% of 2019's Regional. We missed the minimum hotel room guarantee by 15 or 16 night which cost us \$1712. We met the hotel's hospitality spending minimum. Preliminary results show a loss of about \$2600.

Mike also reported that District 8 is considering dropping the usual fees they collect from the Regional. This could reduce our losses. A decision on this is expected after the Effingham Regional. Mike will hold off submitting the final tournament report to District 8 until this decision is made.

Mike had emailed his detailed tournament report to John Welte. John will forward it the rest of the board.

Terry reminded Mike to submit copies of the signed hotel contracts and addendums for placement on DropBox.

Eight people apparently caught COVID-19 at the Regional. No health-threatening infections have been reported.

September 2022 499er Sectional

Diane Deutch (499er Tournament Chair) reported that Phyllis Siegel will direct the Saturday games and Mike Arnheim will direct the Sunday games.

Postcards and Flyers have been distributed. Kelly White sent a Pianola email blast. John will make announcement to the I/N players at the Bridge Center at the games he plays in.

John reported that financial arrangements with the Bridge Center are the same as those for the March 2020 499er Sectional Tournament.

October 2022 Sectional

John presented a markup of the May 2022 Sectional flyer showing actual table counts. He suggested dropping the October Sectional's Friday evening and Saturday evening 499er Pairs events due to very low table counts experienced at the May sectional. The board agreed to this without objection.

John will investigate restaurant alternatives to Jimmy John's with goal of avoiding the Jimmy John's meal delivery snags at the May Sectional.

John reported that Peter Wilke (ACBL's director in charge for the sectional) had agreed to let local directors run the 499er events. John is working to get commitments from local directors.

John will finalize the tournament flyer and submit it to ACBL.

Other

Mike reported the unit has reservations for sectionals at Blanchette's Memorial Hall through the end of 2025.

The board discussed moving the January 2023 Sectional from Blanchette to the St Louis Bridge Center. Advantages were lower facility charges and less winter driving for most people. The move was approved without objection. Mark Boswell agreed to notify Mike Carmen who had left the meeting after the Regional and October Sectional reports were made, and ask him to notify Blanchette. John Welte will notify the Bridge Center.

Maureen submitted an email to John Welte and Mike Carmen complaining about bad behavior of an individual playing at a table next to her at one of the Regional events. Maureen said the director was called more than once, but the individual was allowed to continue playing. Maureen complained that ACBL's purported zero tolerance policy was not followed. The question was raised – 'Can units bar someone from playing in their events?' Mark Boswell agreed to contact ACBL and report back.

Terry reported that someone had inquired about making a financial donation to the Unit. Dennis reported that donations can be accepted but they are not tax-deductible because Unit 143 is not a charitable organization. (It is a non-profit organization.)

Dennis asked Terry to add a link to ACBL's Tournament Finder webpage on Unit 143's webpage.

The next board meeting will be October 12, 2022.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:06 pm.

Submitted by Secretary Dennis Abeln September 24, 2022. Rev 1 Sept 27, 2022.