

ACBL Unit 143 Board Meeting Minutes, Wednesday July 12, 2023

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

Attendees: Dennis Abeln, Sandy Bigg, Mark Boswell, Terry D'Amato, Diane Deutch, Ken Obrecht, Jay Shah, John Welte, and Mark Zellmer. Ken left the meeting after 45 minutes.

Absent: Don Chase and Steve Russell

The meeting was called to order at 7:05. The meeting met quorum requirements.

#### President's Report:

Mark B shared good news about several players who may be interested in joining the board. Diane expressed special enthusiasm for one of the candidates in particular and would like to come off the board and let this candidate replace her as Hospitality Chair.

#### Treasurer's Report:

A motion to approve the Treasurer's Report was passed unanimously.

### **TOURNAMENTS**

#### Regional

Tables/Bidding Box party will take place at the Heathrow Room at the Renaissance Hotel on August 12<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 AM; Mark Z is heading this up, and at the last meeting, the whole board offered to come to help.

Caddies: Jay reports that they are all arranged.

Dennis brought up cleaning Tables at the end of the day; he explained the hotel doesn't do this for us. Diane reported that in the past, we haven't cleaned them every night. Mark B and Mark Z offered to help clean tables on an as-needed basis after the last session each day. At the end of the tournament, we clean all the tables before we put them away.

Partnership Desk: Phyllis doesn't need assistance except before the 2:00 Monday session. Mark Zellmer will take care of this from around 1:00-1:45. Mark B wrote to Phyllis to ask her to communicate with Mark Z about what he needs to do.

Welcoming Ambassadors: Sandy raised the idea to have board members serve as ambassadors or hosts in the early days of the tournament and urged people to keep their eyes and ears open for people who look like they may need help or have questions. Mark Z feels that all board members should automatically do this. Dennis thought it was appropriate for people to sign up to make sure it gets done. Mark B, Diane, and Sandy said they would help on Monday; Jay offered to help on Tuesday.

Dennis went over the hotel room block and explained how we've increased the number in our block three times already so that the maximum number of people can get the low room rate. He is carefully monitoring this; we have to fill 75% of the room block, and he is doing the math to make sure this works out optimally. Mark Z called for a motion to give Dennis the authority to alter the room block as he sees fit. All board members approved, and the motion carried.

The Board decided not to add hot tea to the regular coffee service. It also decided not to provide iced tea for the Sunday lunch. Dennis raised concerns about portion control for the lunch, worried that there won't be any food left for people at the end of the line. John and Jay thought it was a good idea to make an announcement essentially saying we want to make sure everyone gets food, so please don't fill your plate to the brim. WHO WILL MAKE THIS ANNOUNCEMENT? Mark Z said board members should go last in the line.

Dennis shared that the Pre-Bulletin was going out and that board members should especially check sections that pertain to them to make sure all is okay. Let Dennis know by Thursday. Diane said she will work on the restaurant list that we'll be posting on the website, with a link in the Pre-Bulletin; there is a list from last year, and John W will get that to her.

We're missing a write on white board that is needed for the tournament. Jay thinks it's at someone's house. Mark B told Dennis to just buy another board if we can't find it.

We discussed Guest Speakers. Some people don't want to do it because they feel they are poorly attended, partly because people don't get there early before the morning game. Dennis thought attendance would be better if the sessions were properly advertised with speaker name and topic and that he would do that via the Daily Bulletins and signage outside the playing area. Dennis said he would like to gear it toward beginners and intermediates, not open players. He'd like to have speakers Tuesday-Sat. Mark Z said that just isn't possible; he felt we should say we're having them on Tuesday and Wednesday and we can add more days depending on how it goes. After talking about who could do the talks, we arrived at three speakers so far: Mark B for Tues, Mark Z for Wed. and Jay for Thurs. The time for the talks is 9:30 AM because there is not enough time at lunch.

#### Sept 499 Tournament

John W reported that the flyers are out and a Pianola blast will go out next week. Phyllis is directing and will also do partnership. Mark Z is available to give the lecture on Sunday, Sept 10<sup>th</sup> at 11:40. The game starts at 12:00.

Terry will put the flyer on the unit website; John will send it to her. Dennis reported the flyer is on the acbl tournament website.

#### Promoting tournaments:

Mark B and Don Chase need to get to the Bridge Center to talk with the newer players as discussed at the prior board meeting. Mark will do this after the National.

Dennis said that in general, we need to do more Outreach and talk up our events: the free NLM Regional, 499 tournaments, and our upcoming Regional.

October 2023 Sectional/NLM Regional flyer has been approved by the ACBL. Dennis released it on July 3 to Ken O for printing and to Terry for placement on the unit website. Ken wasn't available to report because he had left the meeting.

January 2024 Sectional is currently sanctioned for another NLM Regional. The consensus was to keep with the NLM Regional and to have people who pre-register for the NLM tournament get to attend for \$5.

#### Nominating Committee

Alan Popkin was approved (7 voted for, 1 against) to be added to slate for the board election in October; if elected, he will fill the last position, which has been vacant. He would start in November.

#### Trophies:

Mark B said that we need to have someone take on trophies since he'll be coming off the board. He wants to train someone in what we do. He'll need to order trophies for 7 events for the 299rs at the Regional.

#### Old Business & New Business.

The meeting adjourned at 8:05.

Next Meeting:  
August 9, 2023