

**MINUTES**  
**THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF**  
**THE UNITED STATES BRIDGE FEDERATION**  
**MARCH 1, 2004**  
**8 PM CST**  
**VIA CONFERENCE CALL**

Directors Present: Chris Compton, Marvin Comer, Jan Martel, Rose Meltzer  
Dan Morse, Sharon Osberg and Bill Pollack

Others Present: Nick Nickell, Michael Becker, Peter Rank, Gary Blaiss, Rena  
Hetzer and Beth Palmer

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order by President Chris Compton

**II. ATTENDANCE: ESTABLISH QUORUM**

The President noted that at least a majority of the directors were present at the meeting, thus establishing a quorum for the purpose of transacting business by the Board.

**III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- A. The minutes of January 13, 2004 were accepted and approved as submitted.
- B. The minutes of the February 17, 2004 Special Meeting were approved as amended.

**IV. ELECTION OF TREASURER**

Sharon Osberg was nominated by Dan Morse for the position of USBF Treasurer and elected by acclamation.

**V. APPOINTMENT OF BYLAWS COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON**

Jan Martel was appointed by President Compton to Chair the Bylaws Committee

**VI. TREASURER'S REPORT**

Deferred to the next meeting of the USBF Board, April 26<sup>th</sup>, 8:00 PM CST.

## **VII. WBF DUES PAYMENT & REPORTED USA TOTAL MEMBERSHIP**

After discussing the matter it was determined that the ACBL was addressing the situation and no action is taken by the USBF Board,

## **VIII. WBF DUES PAYMENT IN REGARD TO THE ABA MEMBERS**

It was confirmed by Marvin Comer that the ABA (American Bridge Association) Board had determined that no WBF dues (\$.50 per member for approximately 4400 members) would be paid by the ABA.

While the USBF Board is sympathetic to the position taken by the ABA, USBF President Compton will draft a letter to the ABA asking that they reconsider their position, pointing out to them that the dues go wholly to the WBF and help support the efforts of the WBF to promote bridge worldwide, such as promoting bridge in schools and other endeavors to bring more people into the bridge community. Compton will express appreciation for the ABA's cooperation in the early endeavors of the USBF and thank in particular their representatives on the USBF Board for their contributions and excellent service to the organization. In the unfortunate event the ABA declines to reconsider the payment of the dues, President Compton will ask the ABA to consider withdrawal from the USBF.

## **IX. COMPTON'S REPORT – MEETINGS WITH WBF PRES. JOSE DAMIANI**

The report was received and discussed and is appended to the end of these minutes.

## **X. POSSIBLE RELOCATION OF 2004 OLYMPIAD**

Taking into account Compton's Report of his discussions with WBF President Jose Damiani as well as the opinions offered by USBF Board members and its past presidents Becker and Nickell, it was determined that the USBF Board would forego dedicated fundraising efforts aimed at inducing WBF to relocate the 2004 Olympiad. It was the collective opinion of the Board that any such efforts would be highly unlikely to produce the substantial amount of money necessary to effect such a relocation.

## **XI. LETTER SUBMITTED BY WINESTOCK**

The Board agreed that although the USBF decision not to send USA teams to the 2004 Olympiad was posted on the USBF website that wider publication of the USBF position on the matter was needed so that the concerns expressed in the Winestock letter were answered and available to a wider audience of USBF members.

It was agreed to publish the USBF official position in *ACBL BULLETIN* as well as the Daily Bulletin at the Reno 2004 Spring NABC.

## **XII. OLD BUSINESS**

Regarding residency issues determining eligibility to represent the United States in international competition Martel reported that an amendment to the Bylaws had been drafted addressing this issue and will be discussed at the next meeting of the USBF Board.

Compton reported that in his discussions with Damiani that Damiani indicated the WBF would look favorably upon regulations that allowed some players to be grandfathered as eligible based on their representation of the USA for several years and based on the fact that they met the WBF criteria to represent a country of which they were not a citizen at the time of first representing the USA.

## **XIII. NEW BUSINESS**

No new business was discussed.

## **XIV. SCHEDULING OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the USBF Board is scheduled for April 26 via conference call at 8:00 PM CST.

## **XV. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:00 PM CST.