

**MINUTES**  
**THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF**  
**THE UNITED STATES BRIDGE FEDERATION**  
**11/17/2009**  
**9PM EST**  
**VIA CONFERENCE CALL**

Directors Present: Bill Pollack, Steve Beatty, Mike Passell, Sylvia Moss, Joan Gerard

Others Present: Jan Martel, Barbara Nudelman, Howard Weinstein, Cheri Bjerkan, Marty Harris

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order by Bill Pollack at 9:03PM EST

**II. ATTENDANCE: ESTABLISH QUORUM**

The chairman 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 – MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 22, 2009**

The minutes were accepted and approved as submitted.

**IV. ELECTION UPDATE**

Bill reported that in an uncontested election Howard Weinstein and Cheri Bjerkan were newly elected to the Board for 3 year terms and Joan Gerard was reelected for a 3-year term. Bob Hamman and Bill Pollack were thanked for their service to the Board and it was explained that Bill will continue as president of the USBF without a vote.

Cheri and Howard were welcomed to the USBF Board effective January 1, 2010.

**V. APPROVAL OF AUDIT FIRM**

Barbara Nudelman asked the Board to approve the firm of Jackson, Himmel & Associates as our audit firm for 2009. The Board unanimously approved.

**VI. REVISED ELECTION PROCEDURES AND BYLAW CHANGES**

The Board unanimously approved the revised Election Procedures and changes to the Bylaws, effective immediately.

## **VII. USBF REGIONAL AT SEA**

Joan reported that the anticipated attendance for the USBF December Regional at Sea is anticipated at approximately 75 tables a session. Jayne Thomas, in conjunction with Alice Travel, is willing to do this again for the next two years. The dates are December 12-19, 2010, and December 4-11, 2011. A motion was made and carried unanimously to continue running this Regional at Sea for the next two years with Jayne Thomas in charge.

## **VIII. UPDATE ON WORLD SERIES OF BRIDGE – PHILADELPHIA 2010**

Bill reported that all is progressing well for the World Series of Bridge. An organizing committee has been formed, banners have been made and are being hung at all regional in the Northeast, insurance is being covered by the ACBL policy, Bruce Keidan and the Sprungs are in charge of promotion and publicity and Chris Compton and Bob Hamman are on target collecting the needed sponsorship money. The goal is to raise \$450,000. ACBL's commitment is \$100,000 (already paid to the USBF); \$130,000 additional is in the bank and there is a total of \$280,000 pledged to date.

## **IX. USBF REPRESENTATIVE ON WBF COUNCIL**

Bill asked the Board if anyone was interested in pursuing the idea of having a USBF representative as one of the five (5) representatives from North America. The USBF would have to be willing to pay this person's expenses to the meetings once a year, at a cost of about \$6,000. There was no interest at this time.

## **X. JUNIOR SUB-COMMITTEE REPORT**

Barbara, Jan, Joan and Bill reported the following:

- a. The decision was made to appoint Joe Stokes from Chicago as Junior Coordinator. This was approved by the Board unanimously.
- b. Howard Weinstein had sent the Board a report about the results and the behavior of the Junior teams in Beijing. The Board thanked Howard for captaining one of the teams and working with the others and accepted his report with appreciation.
- c. It was suggested that the Board would ask Bob Rosen to captain USAI for the Patino Cup in Philadelphia. Joan will call Bob to see if he is willing and report back to the Board.
- d. There was a discussion about Jim Mahaffey sponsoring a White House Junior team. The Board unanimously agreed that since we are not sponsoring a team for this event we will have nothing to do with who goes or how much funding those that are going will receive.

- e. Junior teams playing in the Rosenblum/McConnell in Philadelphia. The Board agreed that when the Junior team events start, there must be at least four (4) members of the Junior team seated at the table ready to play.

## **XI. OLD BUSINESS**

### **2010 AND TRIALS UPDATE**

- a. Barbara, Jan and Joan reported that after much discussion they recommend that the USBF no longer serve lunch at any of the Team trials. For Chicago in 2010, lunch will not be served the first 3 days but will be served after the Round Robin. It is a question of funds plus finding volunteers to do all the work. The Board unanimously approved this recommendation and the decision will be communicated to all the Trials committees when they meet in San Diego.
- b. Joan reported that we are able to make very good arrangements with the Green Valley Ranch in Las Vegas to host the Open Trials. The Trials will be held in 2011 and also in 2012 following the Cavendish, which ends on Mother's Day, the second Sunday in May. We will be able to share many of our tournament expenses with the Cavendish. The contract will have a clause that allows us not to return in 2012 if either the Cavendish Tournament or we are unhappy that we are there. The Board gave the go ahead to sign these contracts unanimously.
- c. Increased entry fees were discussed and it was determined that we did not have to raise entries at this time.

## **XII. NEW BUSINESS**

- a. Barbara reported that thanks to Sylvia we received a check from UPS to cover the additional cost of shipping screens and other equipment to the Women's Trials because the original shipment was lost. The check was for the full amount of \$4,300. The Board thanked Sylvia for her efforts in recovering this money.
- b. Bill brought up the question as to whether there was a possibility that one or more USA players might be barred from participating in WBF events due to temporary hygiene issues in Brazil. Joan responded that while there were definitely problems in Brazil they had been worked out and Joan was not aware that anything had been said about any of the USA players not being able to represent the USA in the future.

## **XIII. SCHEDULING OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting was scheduled for Tuesday, January 19, 2010, at 9PM EST by conference call.

## **XIV. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:20 PM.