

MINUTES
THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF
THE UNITED STATES BRIDGE FEDERATION
MONDAY, JULY 21, 2014
10:30 AM PDT
LAS VEGAS, NV

Directors Present: Cheri Bjerkan, Marty Fleisher (by phone), Bob Katz, Sylvia Moss, Sue Picus (part of meeting), Howard Weinstein, Jonathan Weinstein (by phone)

Others Present: Bonnie Bagley, Richard DeMartino, Robert Hartman, Bob Heller, Russ Jones, Al Levy, Jan Martel, Ken Monzingo, Dan Morse, Barbara Nudelman, Jeff Polisner, Gianarrigo Rona, Stan Subeck, Jay Whipple

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by President, Howard Weinstein at 10:30 am PDT.

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 OF APRIL 13 MEETING

The Board unanimously approved the minutes of the April 13 Board meeting.

IV. REPORT ON STATUS OF BALI SENIOR TEAMS

WBF appeals have been exhausted, and the German pair has been suspended in accordance with the ruling of the WBF Disciplinary Committee in Dallas. The WBF Executive Committee will decide about the Senior Team title at its regularly scheduled meeting in Sanya.

V. APPROVAL OF ACBL AS WBF ZONAL ORGANIZATION

The Board unanimously approved ACBL as the Zonal Organization for Zone 2.

The Board and ACBL Board member guests then discussed the choice of WBF representatives from Zone 2. In the past, ACBL representatives have been ACBL Board members. At the ACBL meetings in Las Vegas, Bob Heller proposed a motion that no more than 3 of the 5 Zone 2 representatives should be ACBL Board members. After discussion, the motion was withdrawn, but the ACBL Board decided to solicit ACBL members who are not Board members to apply for

appointment as WBF representatives. The Board and ACBL Board members discussed the desirability of having more diverse representation to WBF

VI. NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Howard has appointed Cheri Bjerkan (Chair), David Berkowitz, Sylvia Moss, Janice Seamon-Molson & Barry Rigal as the 2014 nominating committee. The committee has started to look for potential candidates for the two Board vacancies this year and will interview candidates in August. Jan has posted the election information and timeline on the USBF website.

VII. JUNIOR FUNDING

Robert Hartman reported that ACBL management, after consultation with Board members, had recommended that ACBL fund USBF Junior activities in 2015 with \$24,000. This will not be enough to cover the costs of a face to face Trials and we will ask ACBL to reconsider as well as looking for alternative sources of funding, because it is the strong opinion of the USBF Junior committee that having a face to face Trials & Training week this year was a very positive step and should be continued.

ACBL is trying to get more bridge on college campuses. Revamping the Collegiate Championship with better Conditions of Contest and a higher prize (has been \$2000 scholarship; increasing to \$20,000).

ACBL has an online learn to play program that will be launched later this year.

VIII. REPORT OF VOTES

The Board discussed listing the names of people who voted for and against motions in future minutes and unanimously agreed to do so from this meeting forward.

IX. USBF REGIONAL

Bob Heller explained the reasons behind his motion to discontinue the USBF Regional sanction: ACBL has a very careful procedure for determining what Regional sanctions should be granted and the USBF Regional is not consistent with those procedures. The Board discussed the Regional. It was originally USBF's intention to run the Regional, but that proved impractical and for the last 8 years, we have "sold" the sanction to different Districts and Units that wanted to run the Regional. The monetary return has been relatively small except in two years when the Regional was a Regional at Sea (it is now in the \$1500-2000 range each year) and there is relatively little publicity for USBF from the Regional. It was the sense of the Board that the USBF Regional is not of substantial importance to USBF and USBF would not oppose having the sanction cancelled.

X. FINANCIAL COMMITTEE

The Board unanimously affirmed its approval of the Financial Committee report (Jonathan Weinstein was not present for this vote). The committee is proceeding to implement its suggested changes. Stan presented a year to date financial statement as of June 30. The Board discussed the fact that we have a \$200,000 commitment to support the World Championship in 2018 and will have to work on fund raising for that soon.

XI. SPORTACCORD

George had assured WBF President Rona that we would try to send a better Open team to the SportAccord. In order to accomplish this, the SportAccord committee actively solicited potential Open teams. The SportAccord event is in Beijing, starting on December 10 (the Fall NABC ends on December 7). The only team that expressed interest in going is Curtis Cheek, Huub Bertens, John Kranyak, Vince Demuy, Justin Lall & Kevin Bathurst. WBF President Rona approved of this team and they will be the USBF team for the SportAccord event. The SportAccord committee will proceed with selection of the Women's team using the same method that has been used in the past (ask pairs to self-nominate and then have all women who have played in the finals of the last five Women's USBC's vote).

XII. ITTC, WITTC, SITTC MATTERS

The Conditions of Contest for all three USBCs are in good shape, thanks to a lot of work over many years. The WITTC has concerns about NABC events.

XIII. FUTURE INVOLVEMENT IN BUFFETT CUP

The Board discussed whether USBF should be involved in the Buffett Cup in the future. Howard, Cheri, Marty & Sylvia expressed their opinions that the USBF should not be significantly involved. Bob & Sue think that the Buffett Cup is sufficiently important as publicity for bridge that USBF should consider supporting and even running it in the future, especially if we can get better publicity for it. Howard asked the ACBL Board members present whether ACBL might become involved and they did not think that would happen. The Board will not do anything about the Buffett Cup at this time.

XIV. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be by conference call at a time to be scheduled on Doodle.

XV. ADJOURNMENT

Howard thanked the ACBL Board members who attended for their interest and participation. The meeting was adjourned at 12:12 pm PDT.