



Minutes of the District 17 Board of Directors Meeting Denver, CO – May 23, 2024

(subject to approval at the next Board meeting)

Present: Liz Hamilton (President), Cindy Shoemaker (National Board), Dave Baglee, Bill Curtis, Kitty Larson, JoAnne Lowe, Jennifer O’Neill, Bill Phillips, Steve Reynolds, Sharon Smith

THE PRESIDENT CALLED THE MEETING TO ORDER AT 8:00 AM MDT

Approval of January 29, 2024 Meeting Minutes

Bill Phillips

Correction to minutes: *The amount of money coming to District 17 from STaC events has yet to be determined.* Motion by Jennifer O’Neill to approve the minutes as amended. Seconded by Liz Hamilton. Carried unanimously.

Treasurer’s Report

Jennifer O’Neill

Motion to approve the treasurer’s report by Jennifer O’Neill. Seconded by Steve Reynolds. Carried unanimously.

National Board Report

Cindy Shoemaker

EDGAR, a cheating-detection algorithm designed to flag illegal exchange of information while playing online, is being implemented in stages by district. It has not yet been implemented for players in District 17. The rate of illegal online activity is probably somewhere around 2%. There was a discussion of what the consequences should be for players who have been judged to be cheating. Several board members expressed the view that the punishment should be expulsion.

OLD BUSINESS

ACBL / District 17 Charity Grant Awards

Liz Hamilton

A list and description of grant requests was distributed to board members prior to the meeting. It was decided that each board member could choose five charities to support from the list. After several iterations the list of 18 was pared to five. Motion by Sharon Smith to award \$2,000 each to grant requests submitted by Units 351 for Assistance League of East Valley, 354 for Arizona Humane Society, 360 for Mt. Carmel Veterans Services, 361 for Denver Kids, and 421 for Needs Inc. Seconded by Dave Baglee. Carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

Meeting Support Document Procedures

Liz Hamilton

Motion by Liz Hamilton that support documents distributed prior to meetings will normally be limited to the agenda, minutes of the last meeting, treasurer's report, and national board report. Additional documents may be distributed in advance if pertinent to an item that will be coming up for a vote. Seconded by Dave Baglee. Carried unanimously.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Communications

Cindy Shoemaker

Cindy stated that she needs first-generation photos for inclusion in the Buzz. She will reject photos that are not of acceptable quality for online publication. A recent study of District 17 website analytics that the site is being visited frequently, that website use is increasing, and that the most commonly visited page is the tournament calendar.

Education

Sharon Smith

The teacher list for District 17 has increased from about 70 to over 100. ACBL provides \$250 for publicizing local opportunities to learn bridge, but few are applying for the funds. Apparently, the availability of the program is not well known.

Elections

Kitty Larson

No report.

Goodwill

Liz Hamilton

Motion by Liz Hamilton to appoint Steve Reynolds as chair of the Goodwill Committee. Seconded by JoAnne Lowe. Carried unanimously. There was a discussion about the timeframe for goodwill award nominations, approvals, and publication. Steve will prepare a recommendation and send it to board members for consideration. The recommendation will be discussed and voted on at the upcoming board meeting in Taos.

GNT

Bill Curtis

District 17 finals are being held at the Denver Regional tournament. There are five teams in Flight A, six teams in Flight B, and nine teams in Flight C.

Grants

Kitty Larson

No grant requests have been submitted.

NAP

Liz Hamilton

District 17 finals will be held at the upcoming Taos Regional tournament.

Regional Tournaments

Liz Hamilton

Planning for 2025 District 17 regional tournaments is ongoing. Problems have arisen with the Marriott Hotel in Albuquerque that prevent the January 2025 regional from being held there. Negotiations with the Crowne Plaza Hotel to hold the tournament at that venue on the same dates as originally planned are underway. Plans for the 2025 Tucson Regional are close to being finalized. Julie Bosserman is the tournament chair for the upcoming 2024 Phoenix Regional. Planning for the 2025 Denver Regional will begin soon.. Planning for the upcoming Taos Regional is going well. There may be a regional tournament in Taos 2025 as well.

STaC

Liz Hamilton

There is some concern that the increased cost may reduce participation.

Tournament Coordination

JoAnne Lowe

JoAnne is now receiving more timely information from ACBL regarding tournament flyers.

Tournament Supplies

Bill Phillips

Fifty Bridgemates and one server were rented by the Roadrunner Sectional tournament held in Chandler AZ in March 2024. These items are currently being stored by Jennifer O’Neill. They will be rented by the Kachina Sectional tournament to be held in November 2024.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn by JoAnne Lowe. Seconded by Bill Curtis. Carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 12:10 PM MDT.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, September 25, 2024 from 9 AM to 1 PM, at the Taos Regional

Respectfully submitted,
William D. Phillips
Scribe