

CALL TO ORDER

In attendance:

- Board members: George Crawford, Peter Hepokoski, Nancy Jonske, Ginny Kopacz, Katherine Morris, and Chuck Swart. (Amy Casanova was absent)
- Molly Harris (Representative to District 20 Board).
- Alan Johnson (Tournament Manager).
- Judy Kay (Treasurer).
- Bill Moore and Merlin Vilhauer, guests.

Nancy called the meeting to order at 5:29 PM.

The minutes of the April 17 meeting were approved as distributed.

The May 31 treasurer's report, distributed in advance of the meeting, was not discussed.

OLD BUSINESS

Thank you: Marie Pinch has sent a card thanking the Board for the gift certificate we presented her in appreciation for her extraordinary Board service.

District 20: Molly reported that the Sunriver Regional was a big success, with the number of tables exceeding forecast. The Medford Regional in August will include a special focus on new and intermediate players.

Charity funds: Nancy circulated a letter she is sending to Merlin documenting the Board's earlier decision that ACBL charity funds allocated to our unit be donated to the Oregon Food Bank.

May 2014 Sectional: Alan distributed attendance statistics and a tournament income report. There were 209 tables this year vs. 250 in 2013. Our discussion identified two possible factors for the drop-off: calendar proximity to the Sunriver Regional, and that we held the tournament on Memorial Day weekend. Whenever possible we avoid scheduling the tournament for Memorial Day weekend, but some years it is our only feasible choice.

Armory staff at this tournament cited a checklist of our responsibilities, which included mopping restrooms. Alan will check our contract and discuss with Armory management to clarify.

Future Sectionals: Dates and the Kliever Armory are set for our 2015 Sectionals. Alan will be providing the Board with possible 2016 dates.

We discussed what alternatives we have to the Kliever Armory, which is not popular with some players. Other locations would likely involve: less space, higher rent, complications in guaranteeing the space sufficiently far in advance, and/or players having to pay for things like parking and coffee. Nancy will recruit a committee to address alternatives. Anyone who is interested in serving on such a committee or has suggestions for potential alternative tournament sites should let Nancy know.

Tournament hospitality: One issue with our policy of providing free-play coupons to players who bring food to the tournament is that often the retail cost of their donated food is less than the value of the free play. Katherine will draft a notice for the OBTY (and run it past Ginny) stating our expectation that a donor's food cost should be at least as great as the cost of a round of play in order for the donor to be provided with free play.

Catlin Gabel: Nancy reported that bridge classes at Catlin have continued to go well. (Recent topics included Michaels and Unusual No Trump.) We have been invited back for next year.

Novice games: Ginny reported that she has visited games frequented by newer players (MAC, PGC, Wednesday's game at the Ace) to explain tournaments and masterpoints, and she would be happy to do so at other games/lessons.

Unit Games: We have informed all sites of our April decision regarding allocation of Unit Games. Jan Yocom sent us a thank-you note. Sites have not been holding as many Unit Games as they could; Nancy will facilitate discussion with them regarding the opportunities, including NLM and Seniors events.

Battle of the Willamette: This event has so far not been scheduled for 2014. In the past attendance has sometimes been an issue, as at least seven tables are needed at each site. One idea is to raise the MP range from the current 0-299 to 0-499 or even 0-999. Nancy will contact the Ace of Clubs and the Portland Bridge Center encouraging them to pursue resumption of this event.

IMP Pairs: Nancy has communicated to the Ace of Clubs and the Portland Bridge Center that we encourage them to experiment with IMP Pairs games.

Unit directory: Chuck reported that he and Amy are making plans to prepare a new unit directory.

NEW BUSINESS

Education outreach ideas: We would like to reach more adults. There is an ACBL program called Learn Bridge In A Day, which may be an option as an intro class (which Vancouver does quarterly). We would also like to be able to reach into the public schools. Reno has a program for the public schools, for which it pays teachers.

Summer Bridge Camp. The Ace will allow us to use their classroom the weeks of June 23 and July 28 for youth bridge education. Class time will be from 3-5pm. Nancy, Molly, Ginny, and Marie will be available to offer continuation of the Catlin program, or work with new students, depending on enrollment. Next year, if we wish, we can participate in Catlin's Summer Camp program, which is open to all students. They offer all-day programs and would give us a slot to teach bridge.

Unit email address: Amy has created a unit email address. We need to confirm it is working.

Facebook page: The ACBL is encouraging us to create a Facebook page. Katherine will look into this.

Partnership procedures: Chuck reported that the partnership process at the May Sectional did not go as well as he'd like. He is considering recruiting volunteers, perhaps one with 0-5 MP and one with 5-200 MP, who would agree to remain available in case there is an odd number of un-partnered players as a session begins; in consideration, the volunteers could be given a free play.

Merlin will send Chuck information about a website tool that facilitates the arrangement of partnerships.

CLOSE OF MEETING

The next meeting will be Thursday, July 10, 2014 at 5:30 PM at the Ace of Clubs.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:06 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Peter

Peter Hepokoski, Secretary