

Meeting of the Board of Directors

Location Bully's Restaurant
2401 Camino Del Rio South, San Diego, CA 92108

Date & Time: Thursday, April 2nd 2015, 7:00 PM

Members Present: Warren Cederborg (Area I), David Lodge (Area II), Bill Grant & Andrew Loh (Area III), John Kissinger & Ron Lien (Area IV), Ken Monzingo (National Board Representative)

Members Absent: Teri Atkinson, Mo Anvari

Guests: Lesley Davis (Disciplinary Chair), Tom Shulman (Palm Springs Tournament Chair), Lamy Agiledis (San Diego Unit 539 President)

I. Call to Order

President Lodge called the meeting to order at 7:42 pm.

II. Introduction of Guests

Lamy Agiledis, the current San Diego Unit 539 President is going to be the Co Chair for the next San Diego Regional. Lamy has lived in San Diego for the past three years.

Lesley Davis is congratulated on her appointment to the National Ethical Oversight Committee. She is acting as Secretary at this evening's meeting in Mo's absence. District 22 had a second member appointed to a National committee namely Wafik Abdou from Bakersfield, appointed to the league's Competitions and Conventions Committee. The Board congratulated Wafik in his absence.

Tom Shulman, Tournament Chair for the Orange County Regional, has been appointed as Tournament Chair for the Palm Springs Regional. Tom has a wealth of experience successfully chairing Las Vegas Regionals for many years.

III. Approval of the Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting held in Riverside were approved after an amendment reflecting that the San Diego NABC is in 2017 and not 2016.

IV. President's Remarks and Question Period

President Lodge stated that he met with Unit Presidents in Area III on Wednesday, April 1st 2015. He reported that the meeting was successful and that it is a good process intergrating the Units. At both this Regional and the prior Regional in Riverside these meetings went well and were well received, helping the Units feel supported.

He noted that at the Riverside Regional there was much discussion about technology and the use of pre registration at tournaments. At this stage it is not beneficial to implement pre registration at Regionals. A second major topic is growth which will be addressed by Ron Lien.

Joel Hirsh has resigned as Editor of the Forum. Ken Monzingo will take over as editor in the interim. The need for a back up plan and a succession plan was discussed. Ken stated that we need to decide whether or not we should seek an in house editor. Also should we raise our advertisement rates?

V. Remarks by Guests

VI. Treasurer's Report

The Riverside Regional in February, 2015 was successful with a \$9,000 profit. At the Riverside Regional in June 2014 there were 1,051 tables. At the February 2015 Regional there were just under 1,500 tables.

Financially the District is sound. David Lodge discussed his commitment to put in place a review of the District's finances so as to provide Board recommendations and for succession purposes. He is identifying someone to perform a review three or four times a year. The cost would be six free plays at the Palm Springs Regional.

An extention has been filed for taxes. There is no cost to the District for tax preparation as this is done by David Lodge.

The District banks with Bank of America. There is \$30,000 in checking as well as CDs in excess of \$100,000. The funds in the CDs are earmarked for the San Diego NABC. The Treasurer reminded the Board however that these are District 22 funds.

VII. Secretary's Report no report.

VIII. Old Business

A. Strategic Plan/Mission Statement

Ron Lien stated that he is looking at grants, charities and scholarships. Regarding charities, on the ACBL website all the information is available but it is hard to navigate and implement. There is a need to raise awareness regarding what is available and how to apply. He mentioned that for charity games, odd numbers go to the ACBL charities whereas even numbers go to the Unit's own charities. He also gave the example of Dana Point being the only Unit to run a Junior Fund game in January.

He is working on a 'how to' template to raise awareness of the different grants, charities and scholarships available. He will test the template on his own Unit first and if successful, he will extend it to Units in the different areas through the District Reps. It was noted that when applying for a grant two years of audited financials are required.

David Lodge discussed that at Regionals when we run the Monday charity game, the funds go to ACBL. We can however earmark these to go to certain charities. He questioned that if we earmarked these as 'grassroots' would the funds come back to our District?

As to the second charity game at the Regional, we can determine where these funds should go, but we have not distributed these funds for the past few tournaments. We need to determine how we should decide to distribute these funds. For example, should the Tournament Chair decide on the charity or should the District decide on the charity?

B. Assistance to Units to Grow Membership

Ron spoke to the Balboa Unit about membership growth. The Unit is happy with new growth but there is no increase in membership due to deaths of older members. He suggested tips for growth such as a new member social to welcome new players in a non threatening environment; members to nominate potential members and introduce them to the game in a friendly way; reward local clubs/members for signing up new players; make contact with local colleges and universities; and offer Bridge In A Day, with a host at each table to make newcomers feel welcome.

Warren Cederborg suggested that if we want to build membership we need to do it right. There should be a complete package and follow up in place.

David Lodge shared that at the New Orleans NABC he and Nance attended Patty Tucker's Bridge In A Day, serving as mentors. He also discussed an email from John Grossman, District 17 President providing a detailed breakdown and approach. The Board discussed the need to choose a site to start such a program. John Kissinger suggested Orange County as a test site. Ron suggested a committee consisting of Andy, Warren, Teri and John.

C. Possibility of another Regional Tournament

David Lodge stated that we are not able to consider another Regional at this time.

IX. New Business

X. Committee Reports

1. Web Site

Andy Loh told the Board to spread the word about the District 22 website. Members should use it more especially as the Unit reports section in the Forum has been reduced. Also, a discussion blog has been added. Andy is hoping that the blog will attract intermediate/advanced players and become successful. The Board stressed the need to cater to newer players.

David Lodge thanked and congratulated Andy for keeping the content of the website fresh, noting a huge improvement.

2. Tournament

Bill Grant, Tournament Chair stated that as of the end of today, the San Diego Regional is down seventy tables in comparison to last year. The hotel room count however is good. He received a few complaints about the coupons being valid for one day only; a caddy at the team game involved in personal activities (studying); the condition of cards used at team games; and the coffee shop closing just as the game ends. He received positive feedback about supplies and the caddy teeshirts. David Lodge raised a concern that with new ownership the hotel has deteriorated and may hurt our Regional.

Gary Zeiger reported that the table count so far is 1209 and that the tournament may not hit 2000 tables. We are up against the Jewish holidays. There is a drop in the number of knock out teams. Gary requests that the District spend a little money to make sure that the boards are in the correct order. It will save time. Possible solutions would be to number each board on the side or draw a line with a magic marker down the side of the set of boards so that if a board is out of order you will see it in the line. Long term he is worried about the hotel. The playing site is good but the hotel is not willing to address complaints which raises a concern about attendance by out of town players.

Regarding the caddies, Gary is concerned that they are untrained and he is not sure how much the Caddy Master knows. On Tuesday morning the caddies were not up to par but since then with communication and training they are now performing better.

Ken Monzingo reported to the Board that he is going to Riverside to negotiate with the Mission Inn. He added that he has informed Teri Atkinson that she will soon be taking over Chairing the Riverside Regional.

Tom Shulman is exploring sites in Orange County. The current hotel in Irvine is good but there is insufficient space and we are unable to gain entry to the hotel early enough. The Costa Mesa Hilton is an option. It has lots of space, decent lighting and is a nicer hotel. It has very good rates, starting in 2017 at \$125/night with lots of comps.

3. GNT/NAOP's

John Kissinger reported that the players went to the New Orleans NABC and had a good time even though there were no great results. Not everyone has received their subsidies yet. The agreement was \$200 for fourth place finishers. When fourth place finishers moved up to third place the subsidy increased to \$300.

When the Board meets in September all the qualifying opportunities will be over. The finals will be in Orange County. He is trying to secure another location for Flights B & C, namely Palm Springs. He requests that the Board encourage teams to participate. The Board discussed promoting player participation in the GNT. Ken Monzingo stated that they are going to subsidize GNTs for the first two days.

4. Western Conference – no report.

5. Education, Membership & Club Relations – no report.

6. New Players Affairs – no report

7. Charity

Warren Cederborg reminded the Board that ACBL has funds for Charities with substantial dollars available. Ken Monzingo stated that in 2017 our District will receive \$20,000 from ACBL for Charity funding.

8. Discipline

Lesley Davis discussed the National Appeals Committee hearing which took place on March 9, 2015 at the New Orleans NABC in the matter of Sherry McHarg vs Unit 533. Lesley was present at that hearing. The Appeals Committee vacated the July 11th 2014 decision of the District 22 Disciplinary Committee stating that the District Disciplinary Committee shall review McHarg's complaint and decide whether or not to grant a hearing on the complaint. The District Disciplinary Committee subsequently reviewed McHarg's complaint and decided not to grant a hearing on the complaint finding that the case does not warrant any action.

David Lodge requests Ken Monzingo speak to Peter Rank about modifying the Code of Disciplinary Conduct, Section 9.1 as it is ambiguous as written leading to misinterpretation.

9. Appeals no report.

10. Goodwill

Warren Cederborg stated that the District must come up with names for Goodwill recipients.

XI. Other

Ken Monzingo discussed the 2017 San Diego NABC. He met with the Grand Hyatt San Diego and has secured \$145/night at the hotel which is an excellent rate especially since the hotel has been renovated. Ken met with potential volunteers and they discussed assigning duties. He has arranged two weeks of fund raisers namely June 29 – July 5, 2015 and July 4 – July 10, 2016 and wants the District to advertise these games and encourage players to participate.

The 2017 San Diego NABC will be Ken's swan song. Peter Rank will be putting on a spectacular show There's nothing Like a Game. There will be a Thanksgiving Dinner in line with the previous San Diego NABC where 300 tickets were sold.

XII. Adjournment

This meeting was adjourned at 10:40 pm.

The next meeting of the Board is to be held on September 7th, 2015 in Irvine. The exact location of the meeting will be provided at a later time.