

CBA Board Meeting – November 12, 2019 DRAFT

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 PM by Pres. Mehta.

Attending in person: Mehta, Mess, Moese, Campbell, Messinger, Outcalt, Williams, Meinking, and Orr. Also attending were Larry Newman, AJ Stephani, Isaac Stephani, Mike Burns, Robert “Salty” Roark, and Brenda Mehalko.

Minutes of the previous board meeting were unanimously approved.

Appointment of New Trustee

Pete Outcalt announced that he would resign as Trustee as of November 30, 2019. The Board announced that Brenda Mehalko will be the replacement Trustee serving the remaining term of Pete.

Education Committee Report

Larry Newman gave a report on the Education Committee. The Come and Play (CAP) games on Tuesday & Thursday afternoons have had 95 individuals participating this year with a typical minimum of 4 tables. The Committee will continue to explore whether CAP should have MP restricted games, run on different times, or run on different days. For the year to date, the Education has \$5,300 in expenses off set by \$4,800 in income.

The Board thanked Larry for the tremendous job he and the other Committee members are doing. The influx of new bridge players is encouraging.

Membership Committee Report

Steve Messinger reported that the new Unit ACBL members through October are 54, which is slightly better than 2018 numbers. Steve mentioned that attrition is a problem primarily due to members moving or for health reasons. Steve opined that making NLMs more comfortable playing duplicate would increase the likelihood of higher table counts.

Updates on NKy and Anderson

Brenda Mehalko reported that progress is being made on repair of the Elsmere facility, although the city of Elsmere is considering raising the rent from \$350/month to \$300/week. The NKy club is still negotiating with the city. Pres. Mehta continued to offer assistance from Unit 124 to support the NKy club.

Brenda also reported that the Anderson bridge club may have a new location for its games – the local American Legion – but the American Legion’s Board needs to meet and approve such use.

Financial Report

Treasurer Pam Campbell had previously sent the Board members the latest financials. There were no questions on the financials. They will be posted on the website.

Future NAP and GNT Games

Steve Moese reported that District 11 has awarded all future NAP District finals and 3 of the 4 GNT Flights (Open, A & B) finals to Cincinnati for the foreseeable future. The central location of the Cincinnati Bridge Center was a decisive factor in this decision.

2020 Board Elections

Salty Roark reported that 155 members voted in the elections, resulting in the re-election of Steve Moese and Tom Mess and the election of Mike Burns. The Board suggested that the absentee ballot process be improved for next year, although Salty said only one person used the absentee ballot. Brenda Mehalko suggested that the election process also should be made easier for the NKy and Anderson Bridge clubs, possibly through an improved absentee ballot process.

The Board thanked Salty for running the election process and hoped that he would run next year's election as well.

Mike Lipp Memorial Game

The Board recognized the tremendous dedication of Mike Lipp to the Cincinnati bridge community. He will be deeply missed.

In recognition of Mike, the Board unanimously approved a Mike Lipp Memorial Game to be held the evening of December 12, 2019 at the CBC. The Board waived any payment of rent fees for the use of the CBC. Lorna Davis, Reeta Brendamour, and Diane Travis generously agreed to be responsible for the Memorial Game. Proceeds from the Memorial Game, including any donations beyond the table fee, will be contributed to Mike's immediate family.

The Board also unanimously approved a Holiday Bonus of \$800 for Mike's service as the CBC Manager for 2019. The Board will be looking at options on replacing the CBC Manager and announce those plans when available.

Other Business

Steve Moese mentioned that sanction holders will need to start using ACBL Live for posting games in February, 2020. He also mentioned that we should look at pricing for sending emails via Pianola.

The date for the Holiday party will be December 14 at 1PM.

Adjournment of General Meeting

At 5:20PM, the general meeting of the Board was adjourned. Immediately following the general meeting, there was a short Executive session. The Executive session concluded at about 5:23PM with no further action required.

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Tom Mess
Secretary – Unit 124

CBA Annual Membership Meeting - November 12, 2019 DRAFT

The Annual Membership Meeting of Unit 124 – the Cincinnati Bridge Association, was called to order by Potter Orr – Vice President of the CBA – at about 5:40PM. Potter was requested by Pres. Mehta to run the Annual Meeting.

There were in excess of 52 CBA members at the meeting.

Moment of Silence for Departed CBA Members

Potter requested that there be a moment of silence for all departed CBA members, especially Mike Lipp.

Request for Courtesy

Potter mentioned that the Cincinnati Bridge Center has had the reputation for having mean players. Regardless if that reputation is deserved or not, Potter asked that CBA members agree to follow the “Play Nice” principles as reflected in the ACBL Poster and the Table Cards frequently used at the CBC. He noted that newer players are more likely to continue to play bridge at a friendly, welcoming club.

Membership Declining

There are fewer Unit 124 members versus last year. While primarily attributable to members moving or declining health, this emphasizes the need to have more members of the public playing bridge. The average age of Unit 124 members is over 70. This is not a phenomena limited to Cincinnati, but generally across many units. Unit 124 is also affected by having both snowbirds for the winter and summer birds for the summer.

NAP and GNT Games at CBC

Potter announced that for the foreseeable future, NAP district finals and GNT Open, A, and B sections will be played at the CBC - another reason to support our Unit.

Columbus Nationals

The NABC Tournament will be held in Columbus in March, 2020. Columbus is looking for volunteers to help during the tournament. The volunteers will help between scheduled games so you can play and volunteer on the same day. Pam Campbell has posted sign-up sheets at the CBC. She will coordinate the volunteer efforts from Unit 124.

Directors Needed

Potter mentioned that we need more directors in Unit 124. Any member in good standing can become a director by either attending ACBL classes (frequently offered at large Regionals) or through self-study and taking the director’s test. Anyone interested can contact any CBA Trustee for further information.

Treasurer’s Report

The CBA Treasurer, Pam Campbell, reported that despite declining membership, the CBA is in the black. Interested parties may review the Treasurer’s reports on the CBA website.

CBA and CBC Structure

Potter explained that the CBA is not structured like many other units. Unlike the Dayton ACBL Unit, which owns all of its games, the CBA only has the Tuesday PM game sanction. The other games sanctions held at the CBA are through individual Club Managers. Those Club Managers sign a Sublease Agreement with the CBA to rent space for games at the CBC.

One of the roles of the Unit Board of Trustees is to find directors who are willing to run games at the CBC without showing any favoritism. ACBL Policy does not encourage a unit to acquire more game sanctions.

Fire Code

A member asked how many individuals can be at the CBC without violating the local Fire Code. Potter responding that he was not sure of the limit, but the Board will find out and make that information available.

Nominations for Patty Eber and Jerry Steurenagle Awards

Potter called for members to make nominations for the two above Awards by December 1, 2019. The nominations for the Steurenagle Award can be sent to Debbie Cummings. The Eber Award can be submitted to Unit Board member.

Mike Lipp Memorial Game – December 12, 2019 (7PM)

Potter announced that there will be a Memorial Game for Mike Lipp on December 12. The proceeds from this game will directly benefit the immediate family of Mike.

Membership Proposal

There being a quorum at the Membership Meeting, Kay Mulford proposed that the Board increase the publicity for games such as the Annual Membership game. This proposal was adopted.

During discussions, members mentioned that the Anderson and NKy Bridge Clubs should receive notice as well as individual members. Steve Moese and Potter both pointed out that it is inefficient and costly to send individual letters via U.S. mail. Rather, the CBA communicates via its website and/or emails. If Unit members have not shared their emails or requested no emails, then the Unit is not able to communicate with those members through emails. Both Steve and Potter requested that members update their emails. The CBA does not sell its email list to anyone.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the Annual Meeting was adjourned at about 6:25PM.

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Tom Mess
Secretary – Unit 124