

CBA Board Meeting Minutes – August 19, 2014

The meeting was called to order at 4:59 P.M. In attendance were John Meinking, Susan Wisner, A. J. Stephani, Steve Moese, Tom Mess, and Sonya Wilson with Barb Levinson attending by phone. A number of non-Board members were also in attendance.

Resignation of President Stephani

A.J. Stephani called the meeting to order and announced that he had resigned as President of the CBA, effective 8/16/14. Mr. Stephani stated that he resigned as President, but would continue to serve on the Board until the expiration of his term, 12/31/14. Mr. Stephani further stated that he resigned to provide a transition period to the new Board President and for personal reasons, noting his desire to spend more time with his son, Isaac, who is becoming more involved in ACBL sanctioned games. Mr. Stephani then turned over the meeting to the Vice-President, Steve Moese.

Suspension of Rules

Upon motion by Steve Moese and seconded by Tom Mess, the Board agreed to suspend its rules to address the vacancy caused by Mr. Stephani's resignation.

Election of New President

Upon motion by Tom Mess and seconded by John Meinking, Steve Moese was nominated as the successor President. No other nominations were made. The Board unanimously elected Mr. Moese as the next President. Mr. Moese accepted and thanked Mr. Stephani for his contributions to CBA and the ACBL, expressing his gratitude for Mr. Stephani's willingness to help with the smooth transition of the presidency.

Suspension of Rules

Upon motion by President Moese and seconded by Tom Mess, the Board agreed to suspend its rules to address a petition submitted to the CBA by Kay Mulford.

Kay Mulford Petition

Prior to Kay Mulford speaking in support of her petition, President Moese asked three clarifying questions:

1. Was the petition a complaint? Ms. Mulford responded that it was.
2. Did the complaint cover potential ethics or ACBL regulations violations? Ms. Mulford responded that it was and also violations of CBA's Constitution and By Laws.
3. Was the complaint directed to one or more of the persons present? Ms. Mulford replied it was a complaint directed to the entire Board, not any specific individual on the Board.

President Moese stated that it appeared that the petition constituted a complaint. As such, the complaint would follow the procedures established under the ACBL Code of Disciplinary Regulations (CDR). President Moese stated that there was appropriate ACBL jurisdiction and that he was the "Charging Official" as that term is used in the CDR. As the Charging Official, he would make the initial determination, which would be forwarded to the Unit Recorder for hearings and a determination by a disciplinary panel. President Moese stated that he would finalize his initial determination by August 25.

Ms. Mulford was then asked if she had any statements she wanted to make in support of her petition. Ms. Mulford stated that the petition explained her concerns, but that her focus was on wanting to solve problems.

President Moese thanked Ms. Mulford and stated that in addressing her complaint, he would adhere to:

1. The procedures established by the ACBL;
2. CBA's own Constitution and By Laws; and
3. Robert's Rules of Order

President Moese asked if any of the Board members had questions for Ms. Mulford. There were none.

At this point, Mr. Vince Netherwood was recognized by the Chair. Mr. Netherwood requested that this issue be discussed informally as friends rather than through the formal disciplinary process. Mr. Netherwood asked Ms. Mulford if she would formally withdraw her complaint. Ms. Mulford withdrew her complaint, reiterating that she was interested in solving problems. The Board and the non-Board attendees at the meeting, which numbered about 12, recognized that the complaint was withdrawn.

Further Discussions Based on Ms. Mulford's Petition

Both Mr. Netherwood and Ms. Adrienne Netherwood asked that the Board write a letter to the ACBL seeking guidance on whether the transition of sanctioned games to the CBA from retiring directors, which included a monetary payment to the retiring directors, was permitted. During these discussions, Mr. Norman Coombs pointed out that the key question was whether the Board had overreached its authority in the transition of the sanctioned games. President Moese stated that the Board would take the Netherwoods' recommendation under advisement. He also committed to getting back to Ms. Mulford and the Netherwoods on the action the Board would take.

At this point, the Board began to address its regular order of business.

Minutes

There was agreement to adopt the minutes of the July 15, 2014 meeting with the changes outgoing President Stephani had submitted to Secretary Levinson.

There was a question from the audience about why the Board was posting minutes in arrears. Mr. Stephani explained that the practice was to post minutes only after the minutes had been approved by the Board. For the May meeting, Secretary Barb Levinson submitted draft minutes to the Board via e-mail. Board members respond back to the Secretary with suggested changes. Since Ms. Levinson was not in attendance at the June meeting and could not share all the suggested changes, the Board asked that the May minutes be approved at the July meeting. At the July meeting, both the May and the June minutes were approved and posted on the CBA website within a few days after the meeting.

President's Report

Outgoing President Stephani formally declared that the Comer Committee was no longer necessary and thanked the Committee members for their work.

Outgoing President Stephani indicated that three Board Members, Ron Manne, Barb Levinson, and A.J. Stephani, would not be seeking another term on the Board. The Board agreed that last year's chair of the Nominating Committee, Joe Muenks, would be the chair for the upcoming October Board elections. President Moese asked all board members to nominate members so Mr. Muenks could approach them to determine their willingness to run.

President Moese and the Board agreed that improving the Sanction Holder/Board relationship was a top priority. The following motion of Tom Mess and seconded by Sonya Wilson was made:

The Executive Committee of the Board will meet with the CBC Sanction Holders a minimum of 4 times per year to a maximum of 12 times per year

Mr. Stephani suggested amending the motion to read that the Executive Committee *will attempt to schedule a meetings with the CBC Sanction Holders for a minimum of 4 times per year to a maximum of 12 times per year*. Mr. Mess and Ms. Wilson accepted the amendment. The motion, as amended, was approved by the Board.

Middletown Section Reserves Returned to CBA

Outgoing President Stephani reported that the funds from the Middletown Section Reserves were returned by Mary Clifton to the CBA. The amount was slightly more than \$1,800. Board member Sonya Wilson was thanked for her persistent efforts to have the reserves returned. Upon motion by President Moese and seconded by Susan Wisner, the following motion was adopted by the Board:

The CBA use the funds returned by Ms. Clifton to support the Northern Kentucky Sectional.

Loan of Old Duplimate

Outgoing President Stephani reported that Helen Ogle, who runs the Anderson Bridge Club, requested if the CBA had a used Duplimate that she could use to help her in preparing boards for the Club. The CBA currently has two used Duplimate, although both need reconditioning. Upon motion by John Meinking and seconded by Tom Mess, the following motion was adopted by the Board:

The CBA will loan a reconditioned Duplimate to Helen Ogle for her use in preparing boards for the Anderson Bridge Club.

It was suggested that both used Duplimate be reconditioned at the same time.

Game Cancellation for Dayton Regional

Outgoing President Stephani reported that the Dayton Regional is scheduled for September 2-7. Upon motion by John Meinking and seconded by President Moese, the Board adopted the following motion:

The Tuesday evening Cincinnati Bridge Center sanctioned game that is run by the CBA will be cancelled for September 2.

When queried about cancellation of other games during the Dayton Regional, the Board's consensus was that the individual Sanction Holders could make their own determination if the games should be cancelled, but the Board encouraged such cancellation.

Ongoing Ant Problem

There was a reported ongoing problem with ants at the CBC. The building exterminator thought the primary cause of the ants was from feeding cats just outside the building. Sanction holders will be reminded to not leave food outside for cats, although it was expressed that another building tenant could be at fault. The builder owner will be asked to remind all tenants to not leave exposed food outside the building. Several attendees also recommended the use of ant traps within the CBC.

Letter to ACBL

President Moese advised the Board that he wanted to work on a draft letter to the ACBL with the help of Tom Mess. He further advised the Board that he would call a special meeting of the Board to review the draft. He reiterated his commitment to get back to Ms. Mulford and the Netherwoods on any action by the Board.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Wisner reported that she continues to work on the splitting of accounting for the CBA and CBC activities. In addition, the CBA has made three additional preferred stock purchases and sold one preferred stock holding. It was estimated that when the CBA is preferred stock investment approach is fully implemented, the CBA should see income of about \$4,000/year versus the prior \$100/year.

John Meinking of the Finance Committee also reported that he has been working on a financial model on how to run the CBC as a self-sustaining entity. Using June 2013 to May 2014 figures, he noted that revenue declined about 2% while expenses increased 3%. He also noted that due to the member demographics, day sanctions are more favorable than night sanctions.

The Board made it clear that while the CBA needs to promote sanctioned games regardless of location within Unit 124, but the correct modeling for operation of the CBC is still important. The Board acknowledged that the future business model for the CBC cannot move forward until there is clarification of the issues raised by the Mulford petition and how it will handle the letter to the ACBL.

Education Committee

There was no formal Education Committee presentation, but President Moese mentioned the New to Bridge supervised play tended to add more new ACBL members than other newcomer bridge activities. The next New to Bridge is scheduled for 9/13/14. Tom Mess also mentioned that Mike is making progress on the introduction of bridge to the Intermediate School of Winton Woods and that there would be background checks for those CBA members working with the students.

Tournaments

It was reported that the 1st Northern Kentucky Sectional recently held was successful with over 200 tables. It was also reported that within the ACBL, team games (Swiss, KOs, and Compact KOs) are generally down. It is possible at the ACBL Nationals that the ACBL Board will lessen the masterpoints for team games while increasing points for pair games.

The NAP District 11 Finals will be held at the CBC on October 11 & 12. The Cincinnati Spooktacular Sectional will be held October 24-26, also at the CBC.

Outgoing President Stephani mentioned that the Horseshoe Casino in downtown Cincinnati was considered as an option for the Flying Pig Regional. Mr. Stephani checked with the Casino and found that the rental would be the same as the Sharonville Convention Center, but it would be at a center city location with no affordable hotels close by. This is unlike the Louisville Regional held at the Elizabethtown (Indiana) Horseshoe Casino where there is no rental fee for the hall usage due to a \$6,000 food commitment and the on-site hotel where the Casino makes its money.

Cleaning Committee

There has been a Cleaning Committee appointed to improve the overall cleaning at the CBC. President Moese advised the Committee that they have broad discretion to try different approaches for improving the cleaning issues.

The meeting was adjourned at about 6:42 p.m.

Tom Mess
Secretary *pro tempore*