

Attendance: Nalin Mehta, Potter Orr, Pam Campbell, Steve Moese, Mike Burns, Steve Messenger, Tom Mess, Brenda Mehalko, John Williams

Also: Isaac Stephani, Ani Pandit, Deb Cummings, Cordell Coy, Jodie Kiefer, AJ Stephani

Next Board Meeting Tuesday November 10, 2020 4:30 – 5:30 PM;
Membership Meeting Tuesday November 10, 2020 5:30 – 6:30 PM

The Zoom Conference was held starting 4:33 PM. Steve Moese confirmed a quorum is present.

President's Report

President Mehta welcomed the attendees.

Minutes were adopted as written with no dissent.

Hopes that things will get better after August were not realized. We do not see when we can reopen. Cannot predict when we are able to have a face to face game. Safety of our players is more critical than the game itself.

Treasurer's Report

No report – expenses unchanged.

\$4271.80 monthly rent due at the end of the month for the following month.

\$41832.12 Bank Balance.

Tom Mess (Finance Committee) – We will add funds to cash on hand when the balance reaches \$20-25K range. Won't need before first of the year (2021). Pam will advise the Finance Committee. Income from SYC and Pam's VCG games (donated to the CBA).

Education Committee Report (Tom Mess)

Larry Newman finished the Spring OLLI Classes via Zoom.

Fall OLLI classes have 13 people. Intend to have winter and Spring Classes (102 and 103). Some people are unfamiliar with playing cards at all.

ACTION: Tom Mess to talk with Larry Newman about enrolling OLLI Students as guest members, including past OLLI participants.

No known restrictions about inviting OLLI students to memberships.

Membership Committee Report

What can we do to improve member retention?

Not sure money is the issue or stopper for memberships. Not sure what Guest memberships will do for us. Our new members don't lack money. They want social interaction.

A lot of our members just don't check the website.

New member are comfortable playing with robots but not with online strangers.

ACTION: Steve Messinger to investigate creating a phone tree for members to engage members.

Old Business

Mentor Program

John sent an update by email. 10 pairs so far – awaiting confirmation.

One person would want a special M/M game. We don't have enough people in our regular games, and not enough M/M pairs for a stand-alone game.
4 is Enough can serve as a M/M game. Will keep the M/M pairing open-ended.

2020 Election Status Update – Plans & Decision to Proceed

Board Extension through 2021? All outgoing members agreed to serve if no one else is elected. Lew Temples is not present.

ACTION: Lew Temples will send update by email tomorrow to the Board of Directors.

Nalin asked Board members to get names to Lew for members interested in running for the board.

VCG participation – anything the Unit can do? Stardust Week did not help us. Should we do a survey?

ACTION: Steve Moese to propose a survey for Board Review before sending out.

Reasons why not playing. Help us to know how solve their issues. Need to have a way to engage members (especially under 300 MPs) so that they engage their friends – a networking approach to spur engagement.

People want the social interaction. Online doesn't provide that.

Might help to use real names on BBO. We could consider including the BBO Handles in the Member directory. Difficulty will be in getting the BBO data for each ACBL member.

Head of the Class Promotion – We thank Cordell and the NKBC for their generosity and for promoting online bridge in Unit 124.

Medallion Winners - The Board thanks Brenda Mehalko and Pam Campbell for organizing the awards distribution. Pam will contact Cecilia about pewter cups. The Board does not want Cecilia to be calling other new LMs and asking them to forgo their award. This is a long standing Cincinnati Tradition.

New Business

Food Pantry

Donate expiring food. Creamer, Sugar, Hot Chocolate, Coffee.

Board will donate the creamer now. All other items will be left until we reopen.

Membership Meeting in November

ACTION: Pam Campbell to get Steve Moese the Zoom Meeting Registration – Steve will send to Membership via Pianola. Target email to members by Oct 10 at the latest.

No game after the membership meeting.

Unit 124 Membership – Down 5.15% versus 1 Year ago.

Gains 4.75% (ACBL 5.81%) but losses 9.04% (ACBL 8.68%)

Flying Pig 2021 – Updates

2021 Flying pig on calendar – rescheduled to Sunday through Thursday. June 6-10, 2021.

5 days instead of 7 days. Will be easier to do it for 5 days.

ACBL cancelled tournaments through February next year.

ACBL Help to Units?

No rescue plan – no formal request from anyone (except for large for-profit clubs).

ACBL doesn't know how many other units are in the same situation Unit 124 is in. Don't know how many Units hold long term liabilities. Estimate 20-25 Units do this. No good data.

Charlotte, Louisiana, others are in our situation. Dayton and Louisville are somewhat similar. (Dayton runs all the games themselves).

How the Unit run bridge center model changes post Covid-19 is an interesting question. There are scenarios where Units might have to assume risk in order to support the return of face-to-face bridge.

ACTION: Steve Moese will look into learning about what Units are losing money to bridge facilities.

Walking away from the lease is prohibitively expensive. We will assess the need for renegotiating the lease in March 2021 when reopening the center will be clearer.

Website Recommendations:

Board agreed to suspend the Google Calendar until face to face bridge reopens. Steve Moese told everyone that he needs 1 week from getting all the game planning data (special games designated in advance) to posting the content to the google calendar. He said the Google calendar will be blank in 2021 until unit clubs reopen.

ACBL planning \$25 flat fee for all clubs. Bad for small once a week club.

Board shelved the decision to discontinue local game result reporting CBC/AND/Erie Bells/Women's Interclub Results in addition to LIVE4CLUBS (and Common Game where applicable). Concern about slow response from LIVE4CLUBS.

ACTION: Steve Moese to follow up with ACBL IT to learn what expected time to publish is for ACBL Live4Clubs once they receive club results. Is it the same as BBO or is it faster with ACBLScore (or similar reporting applications?).

Board agreed that the next issue of the ALERT will be end of January 2021.

Executive Session – 6:19 PM – 6:29 PM.

Normal session resumed.

Steve Moese thanked Mike Burns for his effort to run the bridge quiz every week among I/N players and local experts.

Meeting Adjourned - 6:36 PM

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