

The meeting was called order at 3 PM.

In attendance: Nalin Mehta, Steve Messinger, Pete Outcalt, John Meinking, Potter Orrr, John Williams, Steve Moese. Also in attendance by telephone: Pam Campbell, Tom Mess

Since two club managers (Debbie Cummings and Debbie Wiest) came to speak to the board, their issue was placed at the top of the agenda. They reported that the sense of the independent club managers who run their games at CBC was that after 8 years the entry fee charged for games at CBC should be raised from \$7 to \$8 effective July 1, 2019. There was discussion about splitting the increase between the club managers and the CBA (landlord). The board recognized that they did not control what club managers charge for their own games. They further stated that any increase in rent for space at CBC would only come at the beginning of 2020 after the board had a chance to study the finances. They were asked for an announcement that would be put on the website.

A.J. Stephani reported on the recently finished flying pig regional. The table count for the tournament was down by about 85 tables or 7%. This decline is on a par with the results of most regionals held east of the Mississippi. Questioned about the reasons for this decline, A.J. cited the reasons given by ACBL: general aging of the bridge playing population, reluctance of older players to travel to tournaments and an additional reluctance of those who travel to go more than a certain number of miles. Despite the decline in table count, A.J. believes that the tournament will show a profit in the neighborhood of \$20,000. A.J. is trying to assemble a consortium of tournament chairpersons from this area of the country to see if they can devise plans to reverse this trend. Despite the reduction in attendance the tournament was considered a success with fewer problems with the venue than last year. This was despite the fact that extensive remodeling of the Ramada was underway. In February of next year the hotel will be acquired and become part of Marriott. Our contract with the hotel has only one more year to go and A.J. and Nalin (he is a friend of the owners) plan to meet with hotel management in August to negotiate a new contract before the acquisition by Marriott. Suggestions were made about asking for five years with an additional option beyond that, but that will be part of the negotiation of a new contract. Nalin asked that the board used for team games be checked especially carefully before the next tournament as some of the decks need replacement. Steve Moese asked that any sets of red duplicate boards that we own be replaced since the red boards confuse players as to who is vulnerable. Potter Orrr offered to trade two sets of boards that he uses for teaching for two sets of red boards. Nalin and the board gave their congratulations and thanks to A.J. and his volunteers for a successful tournament.

Since presentations of our guests were complete, motion was made, seconded and adopted to approve the minutes of the previous meeting as distributed.

Steve Moese reported that the executive committee and reviewed the new proposed compensation schedule and approved all but 10 items. The executive committee deferred on these 10 items since members of the committee had conflicts of interest about them. The items skipped and presented to the full board included compensation for the president, treasurer, technology coordinator, webmaster, alert editor, alert contributors, CBC game director, board members and the CBC manager. Each of these items were displayed for the board and on a

motion by John Williams seconded by John Meinking were accepted as presented. The board thanks Steve Moese for his work on this project.

Steve Messinger reported for the membership committee. The committee is currently under budget but there's been a drop-off in the number of new members recruited in the last two months. The committee has organized several new to duplicate classes and the education committee has done a new to duplicate at least one of the come and play sessions. The committee has not received a call from ACBL social media committee on their efforts. They have tried an online advertisement in Next Door with no response. A list has been made of the unclaimed name badges waiting at the bridge center and the committee will try contacting these people. There was a discussion of Double Dummy, a film promoting bridge. It is available to rent to show in a movie theater or to buy for streaming. It was recommended that the membership committee buy a copy of the film (\$16) to decide if it is worth it. The membership committee is also running an NLM sectional tournament October 4 and 5.

Education committee did not have a report to present but one will be requested from Committee Chairman. John Meinking did mention that the education committee had \$500 in his budget to procure materials for a newcomer library that was not presently being used. Pres. Nalin agreed to follow up with the committee.

Steve Moese reported on the recent Best Practices workshop conducted in conjunction with the regional. 18 students took the course including 10 from our district, five from Canada, two from Illinois and one from Michigan. We were fortunate to have both an instructor and the teacher of instructors in Cincinnati to present the course. The emphasis of the course was for teachers to understand the basic principles. There were some questions about the length of the course and a suggestion that the ACBL spend some time asking the teachers what resources would be a help. Steve Moese reported that he might've gone slightly over budget by spending money to take the ACBL personnel to dinner. In the end he recommended that we not automatically repeat the course in our next regional. Instead, he suggested that we might encourage those running other regionals in our district to give the course. In the end the workshop should approximately breakeven from a financial point of view. The leftover hospitality food from the workshop was subsequently used and consumed at the Flying Pig Regional.

Finance report was given by Pam Campbell: Pam agreed with A.J.'s assessment that the financial result of the regional. The regional was fortunate to have received a number of donations for hospitality both in money and in kind. The Robert Todd seminar held in conjunction with the regional was successful and everyone liked the seminar and it will probably come out at approximately breakeven. Pam was one of the people organizing this seminar and she recommended that it not be repeated as the organizers had to exert an enormous amount of effort to get enough students to make it break even.

Longest day: Pam Campbell reported that a check from Robert Brown on behalf of his opportunity to partner with Robert Todd which was initially going to be given to CBA was instead made out directly to the local Alzheimer's Association. The board discussed what contribution CBA might make directly to the local Alzheimer's Association and it was decided

to repeat last year's donation of \$500 on motion made by John Meinking and seconded by Steve Moese. The motion passed.

Mentor mentee update: the board thanked John Williams for his efforts in particular having been drafted at the last moment. John reported that the first three events were well attended with 24, 18 and 24 pairs. He noted that September 10 was scheduled as the final mentor mentee game and that happens to fall on the first day of the Dayton regional. John will suggest a changed date and communicate to us. He noted that the education committee might be considering running a mentor mentee program next winter. Finally, John announced to the board the final decision on who could play in the Tuesday night games when there is a mentor mentee game was as follows: any mentor mentee pair would be eligible as well as any pair who would normally be eligible for the Tuesday night game.

John Meinking displayed a webpage he had created specifically to promote the CBC and asked that it be incorporated into the current unit website. This request had come from the meeting of CBC directors. Webmasters Moese and Orr will work on the best way to integrate this page.

The question was asked about the fate of our Play Nice table cards. Steve Moese displayed the new version which prints on legal size (11 x 14) paper. These new versions are currently in production at A-to-Z printing with Mike Lipp in charge of finishing the project. There was further discussion about trying to assure that game directors point out these new table cards to the players at the beginning of each game.

Pres. Mehta discussed the March 2020 NABC in Columbus. Pam Campbell is the local volunteer coordinator for this event. Judy Williamson from Columbus will be contacting her to arrange for volunteers to fill slots at the tournament. Anytime a district hosts an NABC local units are expected to provide volunteers for jobs like registration, partnership etc.. He also mentioned the document that Columbus had provided about event sponsorship at the end ABC. Steve Moese will get an electronic copy to post on our website.

Pres. Mehta reminded everyone that there is a comment box at the front of the room (to which he has the only key).

Pres. Mehta also asked what to do with certificates from awards night that had not yet been collected. Suggestion was made to hold onto them. John Meinking asked about the plaques that had not yet been updated and it sounded like volunteering noises so he will take care of having that done.

John Williams asked about distributing flyers for the spectacular to other clubs and units in the district and it was suggested that he ask A.J. who had been tournament chair for some number of years.

Present Mehta also announced his intention to try and get more participation in our board meetings from other clubs in the district, notably Anderson and Northern Kentucky. Other members noted that we have tried to get people from those games to run for our board with little luck lately.

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Meeting was adjourned at 4:43 PM

Potter Orr-fill-in secretary