

ACBL Unit 507 Zoom Board Meeting

August 11, 2020, 5:30 pm

Minutes

In attendance: Stu Goodgold, Mich Ravera, Karen O'Connell, Lynn Bartz, Bob Dean, Judy Fisher, Doug Hong, Mike Hughes, Mischel Postas, Ray Yuenger.

In Stu's planned absence, Mich called the meeting to order and introduced Jackie Zayac, the incumbent who is running for reelection as Director of District 21. She spoke and answered questions from Board members for 12 minutes.

At the conclusion of her presentation, Stu joined the meeting and presided over the rest of it.

The Board approved last month's **minutes** by unanimous consent.

The Board received the monthly **financial reports** and thanked the Treasurer, Karen.

Several, but not all, board members had received an email from Sigrid Price supporting Stu's candidacy for District Director. Some questioned whether a person who is a Unit President and the District Vice-President should be engaged in email campaigning.

Old Business

Ray explained that the unit had received a bill to continue its **Pianola** subscription for six more months at \$60 a month. Ray reviewed the history of the Pianola subscription, which began with an extended free trial period, then a six-month subscription paid by the Unit, then a subscription extension shared with the club owners, then another extension paid for by the Unit. The only current use of Pianola is its mass email feature and the Unit has virtually nothing to promote by mass email without any sectionals or unit games. The Unit does have an obligation to notify its members of an annual membership meeting.

Ray reviewed the records of Pianola messages and explained that its only recent use had been by Lynn Yokel about once every three weeks to promote online games at the virtual San Jose Bridge Club. Judy said she would speak to the owners about sharing the cost of a continuing subscription.

Ray explained that the monthly cost is based on the monthly table count, so it might be reduced for a lower table count.

Mich made a motion that was seconded and passed for Ray to inquire about obtaining a reduced monthly subscription rate based on a lower table count.

The Board discussed the likelihood of holding a face-to-face **annual membership meeting**. The consensus was that it was not likely we could hold one before the end of the year, and so the best alternative is to schedule a virtual membership meeting on Zoom concurrent with the regularly scheduled October Unit Board meeting. Ray will schedule the meeting and Stu will give the membership 30 days' notice of the meeting. If a quorum appears, the members will be free to make motions.

Mischel reported the **membership** changes. The unit added 10 new members, but 5 members transferred out. There was discussion about how it is technically the job of the membership chair to contact every member whose ACBL membership has lapsed to learn why and inform the ACBL. However, it is a thankless task that hasn't been performed by a membership chair for over a decade.

Ray reported that he had contacted a process server and learned the cost of serving the Bridge Center's former landlord with the club owners' **petition to compel arbitration** seeking return of their security deposit and final month's rent. Judy said she had agreed to pay the cost of serving process.

District and National Reports

Ray reported that the Santa Clara and Sparks/Reno regionals had been cancelled and the next District 21 Board meeting would be held online during what would have been the Santa Clara regional. Ray has been named one of two Advisors to the ACBL's new Online Ethical Oversight Committee.

Stu reported that the ACBL had been able to reduce its costs significantly by furloughing 40% of their staff and was making some money on online regionals and the table fees from virtual clubs. However, there is about half as much bridge being played online as there was face-to-face. The ACBL membership was barely down.

The ACBL told Stu that he could not run simultaneously for District Director and President of the Board of Governors, so he withdrew from the second race.

New business

There was some discussion out of order during Stu's Board of Governors' report about Lynn Bartz's concern that the ACBL is furloughing employees while continuing to give money away to nonbridge charities. There was some discussion about how the Unit can get the charitable efforts of District 21 and the ACBL to change.

Mich suggested that the Secretary, Anne, could send the Board's motion to the District 21 President, Ray, noting that Ray was acting as Secretary for this meeting.

Under the topic of new business, Mich made a motion to instruct the Secretary to address the District Board that it is the wish and intent of Unit 507 that no money be given to

nonbridge charities from general funds by the District or the national ACBL. The motion passed.

Ray said he will update the online Board minutes.

Recognizing that the **next meeting** is scheduled for September 8, Stu declared the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Ray Yuenger