

**ACBL Unit 479
Board Meeting Minutes
December 8, 2019**

Present: Directors: Bing Kibbey, John Wolf, Carole Schmitz, Dave Partridge, Carl Scheffler, Betsy Ovitt.
Absent: Denise Cox, Don Marsh, Ellen McCumsey , Susie Leo **Guests:** Jon Neimand, Leigh Wells, Judy Nevell.

Meeting Called to Order at 11:30 by Bing Kibbey.

Minutes of November 10, 2019, were approved as amended.

Treasurer's Report

Carole sent out the Treasurer reports before the meeting, including copies of the November bank statements. The general report was approved as presented. This report showed a total bank balance of \$14,235.27

Action: Carole

Item: Open to December

Old Business

Increasing Membership- Susie

Susie reported that the Mentor-Mentee game is in process and will happen January 17. The 299er game is held the 2nd and 4th Mondays of the month at 9:30.

Action: Susie

Item: Closed

2020 Unit Board Election -Bing

There will be 5 openings for the Unit Board next year. People who are willing to be nominated are Carl Scheffler, Joyce Spence, Diane Bricker and Betsy Ovitt. We need a fifth candidate and Betsy will contact Suz.

Action: Betsy

Item: Open to January

Orientation Manual

The suggestion was made to post the Orientation Manual to the website.

Action: Dave to Post

Item: Closed

New Business

2021 Regional Conflict - Judy

Judy raised the concern that our 2021 Regional to be held in Eugene is usually the first week in August and that is the same time for the World Track Meet to be held here August 6-15. We will notify the District that we probably ought to avoid 10 days before the meet through August 16 as dates for the Regional.

Action: Bing to email Mac, Jeff Jacobs, Marilyn and Marie Ashton

Item: Closed

Unit Game Attendance - Judy

Unit Game Attendance is quite low. It is a fact that if there are only 3 tables, the Unit loses money on the game. The question is whether it is lack of food, day of week, too high a level of competition, or what that keeps folks away. It was decided to send a survey to members to find out what the issues are.

Action: Betsy to send proposed questions to Board for input and send survey **Item: Open**

Unit Party – Betsy

Betsy has met with Shadow Hills and the room charge will be \$650 for all day (same as last year) and the menu will be Pastries, BBQ Chicken, Beef Brisket, Pasta Primavera, Green Salad, Cole Slaw, Corn Bread, and Desserts. The cost is \$38 per person. The Unit usually subsidizes some of the Party cost. It was decided that the Unit will pay \$8 per person and the room charge. The cost will be \$30 per person for the party.

Action: Betsy **Item: Open**

Letter to Laurie

The Board has worked on a letter that has been sent to Laurie Rowe. The topic is how to help the District and ACBL improve their financials. Letter is attached.

Action: None **Item: Closed**

November 20, 2019

To: Laurie Rowe, President District 20

From: Unit 479 Board

Dear Laurie,

Your request for input regarding the financial problems within District 20 has generated significant conversation in our unit. These discussions have led not only to concerns at the district level, but the national level as well. Our suggestions below are an attempt to begin a broader dialogue about the governance of ACBL as whole.

Our first concerns deal directly with District 20:

- A thorough evaluation of staffing required for the planning and running of regionals should be undertaken, with the goals of efficiency and effectiveness.
- It is time to review the number of free plays that are given at tournaments. They should they be reduced or even eliminated all together.
- We support District 20 being a leader in the elimination of all gifts at tournaments (other than, perhaps, stickers). That would include eliminating the bad beer, ice cream, and hotdogs, as well as random souvenirs.
- Hotel rooms should be provided only to people for whom attendance is required to administer the tournament. The hospitality room at regionals should be eliminated.
- Itemized District financials should be published in The Trumpet, preferably biannually.
- District financial support for GNT and NAP winners seem excessive. Are these subsidies appropriate? Should they be eliminated?

Before table fees are raised, we would like to be assured that district administration is looking at all areas of budget management, and making decisions that are in the best interests of all members in District 20.

At the national level, our concerns are even greater.

- There are significant recent instances where mismanagement has been quite costly to the organization. We are very concerned that the ACBL spent over a million dollars to update the ACBL Score program and has nothing to show for it. Furthermore, a recent CEO hire buyout ended in another million plus dollar drain on the organization. We are aware of additional pending lawsuits that may be equally costly to the ACBL.
- We understand the organization is currently taking a look at a significant restructuring. Clearly this needs to happen.

Good of the Club

Partnership Chair Online Potential – Leigh Wells

Leigh addressed the issue that there is Online Potential for the Partnership function for the Sectional and the Regional through the ACBL website. He is very willing to serve as the on site partnership person, but does not have the tech expertise to manage the on-line electronic partnership function. Dave suggested that we have an email that is partnership@ebc.net so that the function resides with the website versus a personal email. It was also suggested that the Google Group that Ralph owns should also be modified so ownership does not sit with one person.

Action: Leigh and Dave and Ralph

Item: Open to January

Meeting adjourned at 12:15

Respectfully Submitted,

Betsy Ovitt

Secretary

Next meeting January 12, 2020 @ 11:30.