

DISTRICT 22 BOARD MEETING (s)
DECEMBER 11, 2024—7:30pm & 10:15pm

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

- Lamy Agelidis (presiding)
- Millie Garrison
- Vicki Graves
- David Lodge
- Paul Markovitz
- Richard Picheny
- Subba Ravipudi

ABSENT:

- Christine Denny
- Frank Swanson
- Gary Waldron

GUESTS:

- Margot Hennings, ACBL President
- Ken Horwedel, Director in Charge

VIA EMAIL VOTE PRIOR TO THE MEETING:

The minutes of the October 26, 2024, meeting were approved.

DISCUSSION:

Lamy announced that Janet Crossley had been elected to replace Frank Swanson as a representative of Area 1 and that Richard had been re-elected to his position representing Area 4. She also said that Subba Ravipudi was stepping down and recommended that Bill Shane replace him for the remainder of his tour as the Area 2 rep. Christine Denny is also stepping down and Lamy recommended Alan Turner as the Area 3 representative for the remainder of Christine's term. The Board agreed with these replacement appointees. In addition, Cornelia Gould will replace Gary Waldron in the Advisory Council Rotation position.

Richard covered the District's financial positions noting \$188,441 in cash as of December 7. Year to date we are operating at a loss of \$41,919 but the Palm Springs regional should offset part of that deficit. He added that he wanted the District to donate the \$350 made in Nancy Erickson's honor to Mitch Dunitz' junior educational efforts at the ACBL level. David suggested that Richard send out financials in advance of the board meeting in the future and Richard agreed to do so.

Lamya next reported that financials from our San Diego Regional reflect a \$3.4k loss, those from the Labor Day Regional reflect a loss of \$23k and Ventura reported a \$7.3k profit. Ken said he projected 1800 tables at best in Palm Springs (as compared with 2020 in 2023) which was to be expected given that the NABC ended the day before this started. He said the proximity in date and geography of the NABC's in 2025 & 2026 should be a negative to the Palm Springs regional for the next two years as well. Lamya said that she still believed the tournament would show a profit.

Lamya said all four of our 2025 regionals have hotel contracts in place and 2026 is also set in Ventura. San Diego and the Labor Day regional are at high risk of being successfully negotiated beyond 2025 as there is limited availability of venues that meet requirements and both parking and room rates are high.

Richard said he believed the board should reverse its 2023 decision to cancel the 2026 Palm Springs Regional because of the resource conflicts with the San Diego NABC— i.e. we'd seen the impact of canceled regionals in the Labor Day results and Palm Springs has always been the district's money maker. Vicki suggested that we would surely be able to find people to chair it in Lamya's absence and moved to re-instate it. Richard seconded the motion and all approved. Lamya said she would work with the Westin on putting the contract back in place for 2026.

Lamya talked about potential changes to the schedule in 2025. Tournament goers prefer one-day bracketed round robins while the pros prefer 2-day Soloway events with no competing 1 day bracketed events. Although the scheduled Mini-Soloways did not make in our last three regionals, the plan is to run two such events at each regional in 2025 with no competing one day bracketed team game. Lamya also said ACBL plans to introduce a trial of Bracketed Pairs events in 2025...our test site might be San Diego.

Vicki noted that the table count in the 0-300 pairs events this week to date have been approximately four per session and wondered about increasing the MP limit for this event--noting that the Duncan center can count 15 tables in the 0-750 games many days each week and yet she saw very few of these players here at the tournament. Ken said there is evidence that increasing the MP limit does not appear to draw more players to these games. The card fees as compared to those at clubs was discussed as another possible barrier to drawing limited masterpoint players to the tournament experience. Ken did say that generally he thought starting on Mondays at 10am & 3pm rather than 2pm & 7pm would increase attendance that day.

Paul talked about the efforts he had made to find a bus that could take players from Area 1 to the Labor Day Regional because traffic enroute is viewed to be a deterrent to tournament attendance. He'd found a 54-seat bus for \$2200 and wondered about a charge to each rider of \$100. There had not been sufficient time to finalize a contract and publicize this for 2024 but he will work on a potential contract so that we could try this in 2025.

Margot said that a major priority for ACBL in 2025 will be an effort to improve attendance and profitability at tournaments. Their analysis will include staffing,

schedules, scheduling (how long/when/where), and types of events for all tournament types.

Reporting as our regional representative on the ACBL board, David said that his focus is predominantly on IT issues at ACBL, Face to Face v. Online bridge, and ACBL's relationship with BBO.

As a follow-up to the discussion about attendance at the GNT/NAP events at our October meeting, Lamya reported data for the district's GNT finals table counts as 8 in 2022, 10 in 2023 & 7 in 2024 and for the NAP finals as 8 in 2022, 8.5 in 2023 & TBD in 2024. This includes all flights. David said he and Lou were going to pursue ideas from successful programs in January. The issue of re-instituting stipends from the district for GNT teams who win the right to go to Nationals was discussed. The district's stipend at one time was \$2000 per team. It was noted that ACBL provides a stipend to attend Nationals for NAP pairs (\$700 per person for 1st place in each bracket and \$300 each for 2nd place) but nothing for the GNT competitors. There was general agreement that we should again provide stipends but that it was too late to do so in 2025. The discussion was tabled to be part of subsequent discussions on how to improve event participation.

As another follow-up from October, Lamya said Cornelia had advised D21 that we were not interested in shared STaCs in 2025 but she did not know if Christine had told D23 that we would run shared STaCs with them only if there is revenue sharing. She said she would follow-up with D23. The 2025 STaCs have not been calendared as yet pending this decision. David said he believed Frank should seek these sanctions now (May 5-11-Royal, August 18-24 & November 17-23-Royal).

Millie reported on the significant strides that had been made in supporting units' education programs in 2024. Six funding proposals had been approved totaling almost \$5000, interviews with successful recipients had been published in the D22 Connection and strategies had been shared with other units. Evaluation criteria have been developed to help judge and compare proposals. Millie also noted that D22, in cooperation with ACBL, is hosting a teacher training workshop at the Duncan Bridge Center on December 14-15. Nineteen have signed up.

Lamya said that the district had unexpectedly received \$10,000 from the ACBL Charity Foundation for up to five non-bridge related non-profit organizations of our choice. She thanked Millie for quickly making the necessary choices. We donated \$3,333 each to the Osher Lifelong Learning Institutes at UC Irvine, the Osher Lifelong Learning Institutes at UC San Diego and the Oasis in Rancho Bernardo. Lamya asked Margot how often the district might get such grants to disburse and she said every few years.

Richard said that the board had not increased compensation for Sergio Mendivil since pre-COVID and he covers all his expenses (truck/gas etc.) from the amount we give him. Paul moved that we give Sergio a pay increase starting in 2025 in recognition of the single-handed effort he puts in to transporting our tournament supplies and securing them. Richard seconded the motion and it was approved.

Subba requested that we name an event at the Labor Day Regional in 2025 in honor of Ron Lien who had worked tirelessly to make this event a success for many years. The board agreed to do this.

Lamya reported on the 2026 NABC to be held in San Diego. She still needs a Program/Restaurant guide lead, an Information Chair, a Publicity/Promotion Chair & a Sponsorship/Fundraising Chair. There were 12 participating clubs (252 tables) at the NABC fundraiser November 4-11 and \$1000+ revenue was generated. Dates need to be set for 2025 & 2026. An interim logo is pending ACBL approval and she has added the "NABC Corner" column to the D22 Connection.

As Chair of the ACBL Committee, Lamya announced that Joan Murdoch from Unit 542 in Santa Barbara had been selected as ACBL's Goodwill Member of the Year for 2024! She also said that Millie and Vicki had been named to the ACBL Goodwill Committee. All would be invited to attend a reception at the Philadelphia NABC.

THIS MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT 10:15 AND FOLLOWED IMMEDIATELY BY A MEETING OF THE 2025 BOARD MEMBER WHO WERE PRESENT. (Lamya, Millie, Vicki, David, Paul & Richard).

Lamya said that the purpose of this meeting was to elect officers for 2025. She recommended that Richard be President, that she remain as Vice President and that Vicki remain as Secretary. She said that Richard had agreed to remain as Treasurer until a new board member could be trained.

This recommendation was approved.

The meeting adjourned at 10:30pm.

Submitted by Vicki Graves.