

**MINUTES**  
**THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF**  
**THE UNITED STATES BRIDGE FEDERATION**  
**12/17/07**  
**8 PM CST**  
**VIA CONFERENCE CALL**

Directors Present: Jan Martel, Steve Beatty, Joan Gerard, Bob Hamman, Lou Ann O'Rourke, Rose Meltzer; Bill Pollack

Others Present: Barbara Nudelman, George Jacobs, Gary Blaiss

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order by Jan Martel at 8:03pm CST

**II. ATTENDANCE: ESTABLISH QUORUM**

The chairman noted that a majority of the directors were present at the meeting, thus establishing a quorum for the purpose of transacting business by the Board.

**III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - MEETING OF 11/13/07**

The minutes were accepted and approved as submitted.

**IV. REPORT ON ELECTIONS**

Nominating committee slate has been posted on website. Last day for petition candidates was December 3<sup>rd</sup> and no petitions were received. Therefore, the two candidates nominated by the Nominating Committee have been elected. The Board welcomed George Jacobs as a new member of the Board and noted the pleasure of having Steve Beatty as a continuing Board member. The Board unanimously thanked Lou Ann for her year of service on this Board. Lou Ann thanked the Board for having put their trust in her and having elected her to fill out an unexpired term.

**V. PREPARING FOR NEXT YEAR'S ELECTION**

It was suggested that before next year's election the Board should analyze what it plans to accomplish in the near future and what skills we would need in members of the Board to achieve this goal. The Board agreed to discuss this at a meeting prior to when the Nominating Committee meets so that it would be able to give better direction to the Nominating Committee.

## **VI. SOLOWAY TROPHY**

The ACBL will award a Soloway Trophy to the winner of the Player of the Year starting in 2008. There is an Ira J. Corn Trophy designated by the ACBL for the winners of the Open Team Trials and the USBF will start presenting this trophy to the winners of the 2008 Trials in Florida.

## **VII. COMMITTEES TO REVISE GADP AND TO DRAFT AGREEMENT FOR PLAYERS TO SIGN**

It has become obvious that we need to appoint committees to revise our Grievance, Appeals and Disciplinary Procedures. Additionally it was agreed that we need to draft a Code of Conduct or Players' Agreement or perhaps some other name, that all players nominated to represent the US in WBF events will sign. There was general agreement that this should also include those players that will play in the Transnational events and the Rosenblum. The Grievance Committee will be chaired by Joan and will include Rose, Barbara, Steve, Sol Weinstein and Gary Blaiss. The Player's Agreement Committee will be chaired by Rose and will likely include Ken Cohen and Russ Ekeblad. Rose, Barbara and Joan agreed to serve on a committee that will look at the election regulations and the bylaws as they relate to membership as a board member.

## **VIII. NEW ATTORNEY**

Peter Rank has resigned as attorney for the USBF. He stated conflicts with his position as ACBL counsel as his reason. It was generally agreed that we need to find a new attorney. Steve was appointed chair of the Search Committee with George, Joan and Jan on the committee. Jan will ask Peter to give the committee a report as to what type of skills we need.

## **IX. VENICE CUP 2007 ISSUE**

It was unanimously agreed that we wanted to send a gift to Allan Falk for stepping in as our attorney when Peter Rank was working with the Hearing Panel. Allan had done all his work pro bono. The Board also voted to send Peter a gift as a thank you for his years of work and for doing the work for the Venice Cup issue pro bono. A letter of thanks was written by Jan on behalf of the USBF to both Allan and Peter.

## **X. OLD BUSINESS**

USBF Regional - Barbara reported that Jayne Thomas is able to sign contracts to have a USBF Regional on a cruise ship in 2009. A motion was made and seconded to tell Jayne to go ahead and sign the contract and that the USBF wants to be paid \$2.50 a table. Motion passed unanimously

**XI. NEW BUSINESS**

A. There has been a request from the Senior Trials Committee to start the 2008 Trials on Tuesday instead of Monday. Joan said that she will ask the hotel if this is possible and get back to Jan.

B. Report from Jan on Junior Committee meeting in San Francisco.

Jan reported that the meeting which was graciously funded with pizza and soda in Rose's suite was very well attended. It was decided that the juniors would like to have 2 separate Trials in Las Vegas. The 2006 Gold Medalists will be the team to represent the US in the Mind Sports Olympic Junior Event (up to 28 years of age) Then there will be one trials for under 26 which those that are under 21 must play in. These Trials will be held the Tuesday and Wednesday preceding the NABC. Another Trials for the FISU teams (18-28 years of age) will be held on the 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday and Sunday of the NABC so that the ACBL college competition will be over. To play in the FISU Trials a player must be affiliated with a recognized college or university.

C. Jan reported that she has started a forum for Juniors on BBO.

**XII.** The Board then went into Executive Session.

**XIII. SCHEDULING OF NEXT MEETING**

The Board came out of Executive Session and scheduled the next meeting for Thursday, January 24, 2008 at 8:00pm CST via conference call.

**XIV. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:30pm CST.