

**MINUTES
THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF
THE UNITED STATES BRIDGE FEDERATION
01/11/05
8:00 PM CST
VIA CONFERENCE CALL**

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by out-going President Chris Compton

Attendance: Establish a Quorum

Present were: Chris Compton, Jan Martel, Rose Meltzer, Bill Pollack, Steve Beatty, Shawn Quinn,
Marvin Comer, Arnold Jones, Bob Hamman
Also Present: Peter Rank, Gary Blaiss, Mike Becker and Rena Hetzaer

Compton declared a Quorum

Malcolm Brachman

Compton informed the board of the passing of Malcolm Brachman earlier in the day and said that it was not yet known where donations in honor of Malcolm should be sent.

Approval of Minutes - Meeting of 12/09/04

The minutes of the December 9, 2004 were approved.

President's Statement

Out-going President Compton thanked the board members for their hard work as well as staff support Gary Blaiss and Rena Hetzer.

Compton called attention to his written report which offered his thoughts regarding the present status of the USBF and future decisions and objectives facing the newly constituted 2005 USBF Board. In particular he commented that the rank and file ACBL member as well as the public at large was receptive to the idea of supporting efforts to obtain recognition as an Olympic sport but significantly less receptive to the idea of subsidizing players representing the United States in international competition. He suggested that marketing efforts should keep this in mind.

Election of Officers for 2005

Nominations were called for and one by one the following unopposed candidates were elected by acclamation as officers of the 2005 USBF Board:

President	Jan Martel
Vice President	Bill Pollack
Treasurer	Steve Beatty
Secretary	Arnold Jones

Approval of 2005 USSBC Conditions of Contest

Deferred to the next meeting.

Financial Report for the Dallas USBF Regional

Compton referred the board to the report of the USBF Dallas Regional held in November. He pointed out that due to the unanticipated low table count the local unit has agreed not to take a share of certain parts of the revenues. Additionally, Compton pointed out that the reported \$9,000 registration gifts expense included an ongoing inventory of generic gifts to be given at future USBF events distorting somewhat the bottom line profit number of \$4,000 for this event.

Also, Compton reminded the Board that Jim Bauer of Dallas, TX had won the section top prize of 2 Airline Tickets (DFW to Atlanta) and 4 nights lodging at the Atlanta Hyatt during the 2005 Summer NABC.

ACBL Revised Renewal Form and possible effect on \$1.95 Check-off

Gary Blaiss discussed the revised ACBL membership renewal form regarding the presentation of the renewing member's option to donate the \$1.95 to the USBF and paying an amount to include this donation. At the time of this discussion it was thought that the renewing member would have to literally "write in" the \$1.95 and then manually arrive at the total to pay. Hamman and others stated that this would have a serious negative effect on revenues generated from the \$1.95 check-off – perhaps a 50% reduction or greater.

The board agreed that Hamman would contact ACBL CEO Jay Baum directly in an effort to lobby for retention of the present format of the ACBL membership renewal form in regard to the \$1.95 check-off. Subsequent to the meeting, at ACBL Headquarters the following morning, it was learned that while writing in the \$1.95 and totaling numbers were not required, the new form would require selecting a total amount to be paid. The presentation on the new form (for members with a US address or members with dual addresses, one Canadian and one US) is as follows:

ACBL Regular Dues Only	35.00	(Bold on the form as shown here)
Additional options:		
ACBL Dues with Educational Foundation donation (\$2/yr.) Supports junior bridge education and scholarships	37.00	(Bold and non-bold as depicted here)
ACBL Dues with U.S. Bridge Federation donation (\$1.95/yr.) Supports U.S. players in international competition	36.95	(Bold and non-bold as depicted here)
ACBL Dues with Educational Foundation & U.S. Bridge Federation donation	38.95	(Bold and non-bold as depicted here)

Bulletin Postage (optional)

Members with a mailing address outside the United States, Canada, Mexico and Bermuda must pay an additional \$20 Per year to receive The Bridge Bulletin

Canadian Bridge Federation Dues (optional)

Our records indicate that you use dual addresses for mailing Purposes and one of these addresses is Canadian. Please add An additional \$7.60 per year if you wish to pay your CBF dues.

Further down on the form, on the portion to be returned with payment, there is a box entitled "Amount Enclosed" where the renewing member is expected to write in the amount selected to pay – Dues only, dues plus 1.95, dues plus 2.00, due plus both 1.95 and 2.00 and finally, dues plus whatever plus Canadian Bridge Federation membership dues of \$7.60.

NOTE: The renewal form also has a column of numbers showing totals if the member is opting to rejoin for 3 years instead of one.

"Snapshot" of USBF Finances (Trials, International Fund, \$1.95 Checkoff, Administrative)

Compton discussed briefly this report of previous and projected revenue and expenses pointing out that any drastic reduction in the \$1.95 check-off revenues would significantly increase the shortfall of revenues compared to projected expenses.

As mentioned earlier in the meeting there is a need to generate more revenue and/or obtain corporate sponsorship if the USBF is to fulfill its goal of fully or almost fully paying basic expenses (travel, hotel, per diem) for our US teams competing in world championships.

Tsunami Relief

After some discussion it was agreed that a letter from the USBF president to the Indonesian Bridge Federation expressing condolences would be the proper response. Also, it was agreed that ACBL was the proper body to respond to the solicitation from Mark and Anna Gudge to have ACBL clubs participate in the special game they have organize to benefit the Tsunami victims.

Dress Code

Meltzer and Quinn will present suggestions for dress code guidelines at the next board meeting. It was agreed that any such guidelines would be presented to our international teams via a letter whenever the members of those teams were known.

USBF Position on World Championship Sites on US State Department Warning List

It is uncertain whether or not the WBF is expecting a formal expression of the USBF position on this matter. Perhaps no further action is required or desired. Hetzer and/or Martel will research the minutes and distribute to the board any previous resolutions on this matter. With that information in hand, the Board will consider the subject at the next meeting.

Report from the Augmentation Committee

Compton reported that the Committee had met twice and deliberated approximately two hours time. However, the committee is not yet ready to make recommendations to the Board. Compton did report that in general the committee was in favor of subjectivity when considering a candidate for augmentation. They have scheduled their next meeting for Tuesday, February 22.

Old Business

Hetzer will order new letterhead reflecting the 2005 board members and officers. Additionally, Hetzer will prepare and distribute to the board a new contact list of board members and support staff

New Business

Quinn expressed her concern regarding the deportment of juniors who represent the United States in international competition, feeling that efforts to market bridge in schools could be negatively affected by media reports of unacceptable public behavior of our juniors. She felt that there was an onus on these juniors to be role models for other young people whom we wish to entice into learning and playing bridge. This matter will be referred to the Junior Committee for its recommendation, with the expectation that a code of conduct as well as proper attire will be developed. The expectations regarding conduct and apparel will then be communicated to US Junior Team members when they are selected.

Quinn also expressed her opinion that there was a need not only for a Marketing Committee but also a need to hire a professional organization to market the USBF with an eye toward awareness of who and what the organization is and what its goals and aspirations are.

President Martel appointed Quinn to serve as chair of a Marketing Committee. Meltzer and Beatty agreed to serve on the committee. Quinn suggested that Barbara Nudelman, Donna Compton and Becky Rogers might be willing to serve on such a committee and it was agreed that they should be invited to do so.

Rank offered the opinion that it would be in the USBF's interest to have a member of its board attend the meeting of the ACBL Board's International Events sub-committee at each of the three NABCs prior to the start of the tournament. Additionally, Rank felt that person should be present during the full board meeting when the sub-committee's report was presented.

Quinn volunteer to do so and the board agreed to pay the additional nights lodging expense incurred by Quinn due to her attendance at these meetings.

It was also suggested by Rank that a written report from the USBF board to the ACBL board be presented at each ACBL board meeting. Rank will speak to ACBL 2005 President regarding such a report being placed on the Agenda.

Scheduling of Next Meeting

The next meeting was scheduled for Wednesday, March 2, 2005 at 8:00 PM CST, 6:00 PM California time.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned.