

MINUTES
THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF
THE UNITED STATES BRIDGE FEDERATION
MONDAY, DECEMBER 1, 2014
10:00 AM EST
PROVIDENCE

Directors Present: Cheri Bjerkan, Marty Fleisher, Bob Katz, Sylvia Moss, Sue Picus, Howard Weinstein, Jonathan Weinstein (by phone)

Others Present: Jan Martel, Stan Subeck, Brad Moss, Josh Parker (by phone), Joe Stokes;
ACBL Representatives: Sharon Anderson, Dennis Carmin, Sharon Fairchild, Robert Hartman, Ken Monzingo (part of meeting), Dan Morse, Merlin Vilhauer
Others: Billy Rosenbaum

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by President Howard Weinstein at 10:00 am EST.

II. ATTENDANCE: ESTABLISH QUORUM

The president noted that at least 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 OF AUGUST 25 MEETING

The Board unanimously approved the minutes of the August 25 Board meeting.

IV. NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

Cheri Bjerkan reported that the nominating committee had discussed procedures and proposed that people who had served one term on the Board should be evaluated by the nominating committee in the same way as new candidates. The Board agreed with that concept and left it to the committee to implement.

V. FINANCIAL REPORT

Stan presented the financial report through September. He also reported that we have transferred our banking to Chase Bank. Stan, Jan & Joe can all make payments from the Chase account.

VI. TRIALS SECURITY ISSUES

Howard suggested that we implement more extensive wandering and other methods to prevent people using electronic devices. There was some discussion of how chess players have used electronic devices for cheating. The Board and guests discussed the importance of preventing electronic cheating. Sylvia suggested that we should form a committee to look into this. Robert Hartman reported that ACBL might be forming a committee to work on this and the Board agreed that a joint committee should work on this.

VII. JUNIORS

The ACBL Board modified the motion submitted by management to provide that ACBL would distribute \$50,000 per year to USBF for Juniors. The USBF Junior fund currently has about \$98,000. Howard suggested that there should be more integration between ACBL and USBF in the Junior area. Robert Hartman raised the fact that there are many different Junior programs, including bridge in schools and there's debate between spending money on top level bridge vs. "grass roots." Brad Moss discussed the fact that the Junior program has been very successful in ways that aren't obvious, in terms of how Juniors who have competed internationally form friendships with players from other countries and develop their bridge abilities better. Sharon Anderson suggested that we need to work on methodology and how to attract and develop young players.

Howard raised the question of play requirements and numbers of players on the team. Stan suggested that one way to solve some of the problems is to encourage teams to compete in the Trials as 6. Marty asked what is our goal in sending teams to World Championship – to win or something else? And who is supposed to make the decision of what our goal is, ACBL or USBF? Hartman and ACBL Board members present suggested that it is USBF's role to decide on goals. There was general agreement that we need to send 6 person teams to the World Championship. Howard appointed Marty to chair a committee to consider the plusses and minuses of different approaches to this issue.

VIII. DEPARTING BOARD MEMBERS

Howard thanked Sylvia and Jonathan for their service on the Board.

IX. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be in early January by conference call at a time to be scheduled online.

X. ADJOURNMENT

Howard thanked the ACBL Board members who attended for their interest and participation. The meeting was adjourned at 11:45 pm EST.