

MINUTES
THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF
THE UNITED STATES BRIDGE FEDERATION
MONDAY, JULY 24, 2017
11:00 AM EDT
TORONTO

Directors Present: Dave Caprera (by phone), Marty Fleisher, Bob Katz (by phone), Greg Humphreys (by phone), Brad Moss, Beth Palmer, Josh Parker (by phone);

Others Present: Jan Martel, McKenzie Myers, Joe Stokes, Stan Subeck, Howard Weinstein, Gianarrigo Rona, WBF President, Yves Aubry, EBL President, Josef Harsanyi, EBL Treasurer.

ACBL Representatives: Mark Aquino, Bonnie Bagley, Bob Heller, Al Levy, Ken Monzingo, Suzi Subeck, Merlin Vilhauer, Jay Whipple.

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by President Marty Fleisher at 11:00 am EDT.

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. ACBL/WBF DISCUSSION

Bob Heller reported that the ACBL Board passed the motion to transfer responsibility for payment of WBF dues to the USBF, CBF & MBF. ACBL will continue to provide direct subsidies to the NBOs for part of the dues, in a smaller amount each year. In addition, ACBL will support the NBOs in their efforts to raise additional money to pay the dues. ACBL will continue to run International Fund games and to collect \$1.50 per session for the International Fund from NABC+ games and distribute the International Fund money to the NBOs. Heller also noted that the Board of Governors has mandated that the Board of Directors reconsider the motion at its next meeting, so it is not final.

Although WBF governance issues were not addressed by the motion passed at this meeting, the Board will be discussing those issues at its San Diego meeting and encouraged the NBOs to make proposals for how that should be handled. Ken Monzingo, the proponent of the motion, said that it was his intention that governance also pass to the NBOs.

Marty Fleisher asked the WBF representatives whether there was any possibility that WBF dues would be reduced, and Al Levy explained that WBF fixed expenses are approximately \$650,000 per year and the income from dues is

approximately \$650,000, so those two items are in balance and therefore it is unlikely that dues will be reduced. Gianarrigo Rona added that the WBF is reviewing the dues structure, and also discussed the fact that the agreement between WBF and Zone 2 is that if WBF membership from Zone 2 drops below 140,000, the US loses its second Bermuda Bowl, Venice Cup & Senior Bowl teams.

IV. HUA YUAN TOURNAMENT

The organizers of the 2017 Hua Yuan tournament, to be held in Beijing in October, invited the USBF women's team that won the World Women's Teams in Wroclaw in 2016. Although not all 6 of the players on the team are able to go to China, 4 of them are and they have replaced the two who cannot go with 2 other experts. The USBF Hua Yuan team will be Janice Seamon-Molson & Lynn Deas, Kerri Sanborn & Irina Levitina, and Sylvia Shi & Pamela Granovetter.

V. 2017 USBCS

Jan reported that although final numbers are not yet in, because there are still ACBL bills for shipping and equipment rental to come, the loss for all 3 events should be somewhere in the \$10,000-15,000 range. USBF purchased some equipment this year and we hope that will result in lower costs and therefore less loss in future years.

VI. 2018 WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP DISCUSSION

USBF will need to raise \$200,000 to pay to WBF for the 2018 World Championships. USBF will also have to provide a few volunteers to help with registration and will assist WBF in finding Vugraph operators, caddies and other support staff (WBF will provide room & board & compensation).

Al Levy explained that the World Championship is at the Marriott World Center, which is significantly better than the Swan & Dolphin in terms of parking and convenience. There will be some 1 & 2 day WBF secondary world championship events for those not wanting to play in the main events.

VII. NEXT MEETING

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

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Marty thanked the ACBL Board members & world representatives who attended for their interest and participation. The meeting was adjourned at 11:48 pm EDT.