

MINUTES
THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF
THE UNITED STATES BRIDGE FEDERATION
3/16/2006
8 PM CST
VIA CONFERENCE CALL

Directors Present: Steve Beatty, Jan Martel, Rose Meltzer, Bill Pollack and Shawn Quinn; Absent: Bob Hamman, Arnold Jones

Others Present: Joan Gerard, Barbara Nudelman, Peter Rank, Gary Blaiss,

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Jan Martel at 8:01 CST

II. ATTENDANCE: ESTABLISH QUORUM

The chairman 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 – MEETING OF JANUARY 26

The minutes were accepted and approved as submitted.

IV. MAHAFFEY FUND

Barbara Nudelman explained the purpose of the Mahaffey Fund and what has been done with scholarships for Juniors who teach bridge lessons at high schools and colleges. Peter explained that the Committee that is charged with managing the fund is to have two members appointed by Mahaffey (those are Barbara Nudelman and Jayne Thomas), the ACBL Director of Junior programs, currently Charlotte Blaiss, and two members appointed by the USBF President. Jan asked that anyone who was interested in serving, or had any recommendations for people to serve, please email her.

V. BILLS FROM ACBL TO USBF

The Board decided that as soon as Barbara is able to start paying bills, we would ask ACBL to submit bills to Barbara, Steve and Jan and Barbara would pay them as soon as either Steve or Jan authorized payment. Formally, the bills should be submitted to the USBF Assistant Treasurer, Treasurer and President.

VI. JUNIOR TEAMS

Joan reported on the outstanding fund-raising that has been done. We still need to raise more money, but we should have enough to send 4 teams to Thailand and also to send 30 pairs to the Camp and World Pairs events in Slovakia. We are all extremely grateful to the wonderful people who have donated money to the USBF Junior program. We will try to get an ACBL Bulletin story on them. We will recognize them on our website (Jan and Joan will work on a recognition page and then get help converting from Word to "web.") We will also invite all of them to the Junior Reception that Rose is graciously hosting in her suite between sessions on the first Saturday in Dallas. In addition, we will send them reports of the teams' performance in Thailand, either by email or by sending hard copy of the Daily Bulletins after the event. I think "we" in that sentence is Charlotte.

Rose reported that she has formed a committee to look into the New Year's Eve drinking incident in Atlanta, in response to the complaint made by USBF member Bruce Reeve. Jan will send an email to Bruce informing him that we have formed such a committee.

VII. CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE REVIEW OF TEAMS

The members of the Board were generally in agreement that we should have the Credentials Committee review teams before we approved them, but the matter was tabled until our next meeting so that we could get input from a few other people.

The Board agreed that we should continue to send Junior Team members' names to the Credentials Committee, but should explain that we recognize that the Credentials Committee members may not know the Juniors as well as they know players who have been around longer, and if it is necessary to make any additional investigation, we will do so by discussing the players with Charlotte and with the other members of the Junior Committee.

VIII. RECOGNIZE CONTRIBUTORS IN SOME WAY?

Covered in Junior discussion.

IX. DUES

The Board agreed to offer members the option of paying dues for three years at a time for the reduced price of \$130. For people who have already paid for 2006, they can pay an additional \$80 for 2007 and 2008.

X. VERONA

The Board appreciates Joan's willingness to represent us at the WBF Congress. We will pass on to anyone we know that they should reserve rooms and should

give Rena the names of all players on their teams or pairs, so that she can submit the entry to WBF.

XI. OLD BUSINESS

The resolution passed at our last meeting regarding handling of funds by the Assistant Treasurer was revised to read as follows:

Resolution: The USBF Board of Directors authorizes Barbara Nudelman to open a checking account or combined checking and investment account to hold USBF funds if she finds that is necessary, and to transfer up to \$10,000 of USBF funds to the new account without additional action by the Board. The USBF Board of Directors authorizes Barbara to become a person who can write checks on the existing USBF accounts. The USBF Board of Directors further authorizes Barbara Nudelman to sign USBF checks in an amount not to exceed \$500 without prior approval, to sign USBF checks in an amount not to exceed \$5000 with the approval of one member of the Executive Committee. Checks in excess of \$5000 require two signatures which may be any two of the Assistant Treasurer, the President, the Vice President and the Treasurer.

XII. NEW BUSINESS

We have been asked to send a "National" team to a tournament in Turkey Sept. 13-17. The tournament organizers will pay the team's expenses, with the exception of travel. We will send an email (Jan to draft, Rose to review, Rena to send) to our members asking them to send an "expression of interest" to Rose if they want to go. Rose will report back and we will decide how to proceed based on how many pairs or teams have expressed interest.

Gary suggested that we should review our election procedures with a view to streamlining them and also that we should consider whether we want to change the remaining ABA seat to an At Large seat, or possibly eliminate that seat and reduce the Board from 7 members to 6. In addition, we need to try to find people who are interested in serving on the Board. We will discuss this at our next meeting after everyone has had a chance to consider it.

XIII. SCHEDULING OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting was scheduled for Tuesday, May 16 at 8:00 fCST via conference call.

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.