

MINUTES
THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF
THE UNITED STATES BRIDGE FEDERATION

10/24/2006
8 PM CDT

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by President Martel at 8:05 PM CST.

II. ATTENDANCE: ESTABLISH QUORUM

Directors present: Steve Beatty, Jan Martel, Rose Meltzer, Bill Pollack, and Shawn Quinn. Directors absent: Arnold Jones and Bob Hamman. Others present: Gary Blaiss, Joan Gerard, Barbara Nudelman and Peter Rank. Also present for the discussion of item VII below were Chris Compton and John Van Ness.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 6

The Board unanimously approved the minutes of Sept. 6, 2006.

IV. BYLAWS AMENDMENT

The Bylaw amendment changing the Board composition from 2 Athlete members, 4 ACBL members and 1 ABA member to 2 Athlete members and 4 Active members, which had been emailed to the Board over 30 days in advance of this meeting, was unanimously approved. The Board also unanimously approved a clean up of the Bylaws to correct places where the Bylaws refer to ACBL and ABA Board members by replacing that with Active member Board members. Martel will clean up the Bylaws and post the revised Bylaws on the website. They will be effective Jan. 1, 2007.

V. NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

The Nominating Committee has nominated Joan Gerard, Bob Hamman & Bill Pollack for the three seats to be filled in this election. If there are no petition candidates, these three candidates will be elected without the need for a vote. Last day for petition candidates is Nov. 21.

VI. ACBL ACCOUNT

The Board unanimously approved immediately paying the remaining \$30,000 due to ACBL on account of the start up loan that it made to the USBF when USBF was founded. The \$30,000 is due by Dec. 31 of this year. The Board

agreed that payment now would demonstrate to the ACBL Board at its meeting in Hawaii that USBF is not asking for more money at this time and that we will honor our obligations..

VII. 2008 REGIONAL FRANCHISE

The Board unanimously authorized John Van Ness to propose to his District Board that District 17 co-sponsor the USBF Regional in 2008. District 17 will be responsible for managing the tournament and will bear all financial responsibility for the tournament. District 17 will pay USBF \$2.00 per table for the Regional, with a guaranteed minimum of \$2000. USBF will assist with publicity and encourage USBF active members to attend the Regional and provide speakers if requested.

The Board also authorized President Martel to write a letter to all of the District Presidents and Directors describing the USBF Regional Sanction and expressing interest in having Districts make a proposal to run the USBF Regional in future years on similar terms to those being proposed by District 17 for 2008.

VIII. GRIEVANCE & APPEALS COMMITTEE

The Board unanimously approved the following as members of the USBF Grievance and Appeals Committee:

Rose Meltzer, Chair
Wafik Abdou
Mark Feldman
Joan Gerard
Gail Greenberg
Christal Henner-Welland
Chip Martel
Sharon Osberg
Kerri Sanborn
Alan Sontag
Danny Sprung
Howard Weinstein
Roy Welland

IX. WEBSITE

A. Post Board Minutes and Future Meeting Dates

The Board approved by a vote of 3-1, posting minutes of USBF Board meetings, starting with this one, on the USBF website.

The Board also approved including the dates of USBF Board meetings on the website calendar with a statement that members who have matters they wish the Board to consider at a meeting should contact the USBF President.

B. Member Information

President Martel reported that the website will soon have complete member information – name, address, telephone, email address and ACBL number, as well as the date through which USBF dues have been paid. That information will be available to USBF Board members and to the USBF administrative assistant and assistant treasurer. The Board agreed that each member could also decide to make his or her email address and/or telephone number available to all members, and President Martel will arrange to have field for “public email address” and “public telephone number” included in the data members submit online, with an explanation that that information will be available to all registered users of the website.

X. DISCUSSION OF PUBLIC RELATIONS

The Board discussed how to improve the image of USBF among the general ACBL membership and agreed to ask our members to talk to local club owners and managers about running International Fund games and perhaps offer to give talks at International Fund games.

XI. OLD BUSINESS

A. Tournament Committees

Beatty reported on his discussion with Mike Becker, Bob Hamman, Jan Martel and Bill Pollack about the procedures of the ITTC. The Board unanimously approved Beatty’s outline of the procedures of the four Tournament Committee subcommittees (ITTC, WITTC, SITTC, JITTC), as follows:

1. The USBF Board of Directors manages all administrative and financial issues.
2. The USBF Board delegates all issues involving competition to the ITT Committee and is generally expected to accept the ITT recommendations based on the following two concepts:
 - a. The underlying principle that allows the board to delegate to the committees is that the quality of the committee products is currently outstanding. If the quality of the products deteriorates, the board will be expected to adjust the structural relationship.
 - b. The technical issues can be complex and very time consuming. The committee members who spend the time and effort to understand and resolve technical issues should normally have their recommendations accepted.
3. The same principles apply to the other three International Team Trial committees.

B. FISU Games team.

President Martel reported that thanks to the hard work of Chris & Donna Compton, and the support of the USBF Junior Fund, the team of John Barth, Jason Feldman, Ari Greenberg and Joel Wooldridge, with NPC Ron Smith were playing in the Third World University Games in Tianjin, China. After this meeting, the team finished second in the event, another excellent performance by USBF Juniors.

C. Dues

The Board agreed to continue the policy of allowing members to pay dues for three years at the reduced rate of \$130, but decided to make that option available only during the first two months of the year.

President Martel reported that dues payment would be set up on the website for 2007.

XII. NEW BUSINESS

Quinn reported that she will be moving to Poland shortly after the Fall NABC. The Board wished Quinn well and all agreed to consider a potential Board replacement for Quinn, since she will be unable to continue to serve on the Board after this year. There is one year remaining on Quinn's term. In accordance with Bylaws Article III, Section B.6(c), the Board will elect a replacement to complete Quinn's term, from among the Active Members of the USBF.

XIII. SCHEDULING OF NEXT MEETING

The next Board meeting will be December 19, 2006 at 8:00 PM CST.

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:45 PM CDT.