

**MINUTES**  
**THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF**  
**THE UNITED STATES BRIDGE FEDERATION**  
**FRIDAY, DEC. 28, 2012**  
**9:30 PM EDT**  
**BY CONFERENCE CALL**

Directors Present: Cheri Bjerkan, Joan Gerard, George Jacobs, Ralph Katz,  
Howard Weinstein, Jonathan Weinstein

Others Present: Marty Harris, Bob Katz, Jan Martel

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order by Joan Gerard, president, at 9:30 pm 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. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The Minutes from Board meeting on Nov 1 were unanimously approved as distributed.

**IV. BYLAWS AMENDMENTS**

Marty Harris reviewed the changes to the Bylaws that had previously been distributed. The Board unanimously voted to pass the Bylaws Amendments, and the new version of the Bylaws is now posted on the USBF website.

**V. WOMEN'S TRIALS**

Jan reported that the WITTC had decided to hold the 2015 USWBC in conjunction with a Regional. The WITTC looked at the Regional schedule and agreed to approach the Ft. Lauderdale & Denver regionals. Shannon Cappelletti, who is the organizer for the Ft. Lauderdale Regional in March was happy to have the USWBC there. Jan will put together a budget for holding the Women's Trials at the Ft. Lauderdale Regional for the Board to review at its next meeting. The Board agreed to table the discussion until its next meeting.

**VI. 2013 WORLD JUNIOR OPEN TRANSNATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP (WJOTC)**

Joan reported that the 2013 WJOTC will be held in Atlanta during the NABC. The USBF has already agreed to contributed \$20,000 toward the 2013 WJOTC. The MABC (which is Districts 6 & 7) and District 7 had agreed to contribute \$15,000

towards meals for the players. MABC has temporarily withdrawn their agreement to make a contribution, but things may change. ACBL & USBF are currently being listed as the hosts of the tournament, which means that we will organize the Opening and Closing Ceremonies, provide volunteers for the WJOTC, and provide welcome gifts.

## **VII. SPONSORSHIP**

ACBL printed several articles about sponsorship and we didn't receive any responses. The Board discussed whether to accept \$47,500 to name the next ten Senior Trials after a specific person. The Board agreed to accept that amount and George will contact the person who made the original offer, although the offer was withdrawn because the contributor was unhappy with how long it took USBF to respond. George will explain why it took so long for the Board to make a decision on this matter.

The Board discussed hiring a marketing firm to work on this in the future. Will discuss further next year.

## **VIII. SPORTACCORD TOURNAMENT**

Ralph and Howie reported that the bridge event was very well run and the people were nice. The hotel was acceptable but relatively mediocre. The food was also mediocre. There were problems with logistics about things like travel arrangements and airport transportation. The tournament organizers made all of the travel arrangements and that did not work very well. Air tickets were not available until late, and it was difficult to get visas because it was necessary to have the plane tickets to get the visas. Also, it was difficult to upgrade using miles because things were so late.

The Board discussed having Howie write a letter to SportAccord from all of the US players and the USBF Board saying that it was a great event but the travel logistics make it significantly worse and if the logistics aren't improved it will be difficult for us to continue to persuade our best players to go. Howie will draft a letter and circulate it and will talk to the Chess and Go organizations as well.

## **IX. FINANCIAL REPORT**

Joan distributed a summary Barbara sent of the funds in each of our accounts as of Nov. 30, 2011, but the numbers don't seem to add up. Joan will ask Barbara to do an end of the year statement that includes more information and balances.

## **X. 2013 TRIALS**

Open and Women's/Seniors Trials will both be at the Buena Vista Palace in 2013. There is now an online reservation page for both of these events.

**XI. 2018 WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP**

Joan reported that for 2018 we are not responsible for any attrition, but only for the \$200,000 we have committed to providing. Chris Compton has agreed to attempt to raise the \$200,000.

**XII. NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting was scheduled for Wednesday, January 16<sup>th</sup> at 8:30 EST (5:30 Pacific, 6:30 Mountain, 7:30 Central).

**XIII. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:25 pm EDT