

*The next board meeting will be March 10 at 4:00*

## **February 21, 2010**

### **Unit 499 Board of Directors Meeting**

#### **Attendees:**

Board members Iris Libby, Brian Eisenberg, Pat George, Grant Robinson, Sharon Tarpinian, Teresa Boyd, Bruce Johnsonbaugh, Ally Whiteneck, Greg Vance, Frank Concepcion, Dick Mayer, Judy Keilin, and Bob Collins were present. Dan Friedman and Rosalind Juo were absent. Bill George, our webmaster, joined later.

#### **Minutes:**

The January minutes were approved via e-mail and posted on the web and bulletin board at TBC. Copies of the notes from the planning session on February 2 were handed to all board members prior to start of the meeting. A correction of our next board meeting day/date was noted to be Wednesday March 10 around 4:00 at the Bridge Center.

#### **Treasurer's Report:**

Brian Eisenberg provided an overview of income and expenses for January. The unit earned approximately \$200 and spent approximately \$500 during the month. Included in the expenses were fees to cover the Mentoring Program amounting to \$133 for approximately 19 players and Mentors.

#### **Business:**

1. **NEW COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS:** Greg Vance was unable to attend the planning session when appointments were made. He has now taken on the role of Publicity and Communications Chair and the role of Tournament Co-Chair.
2. **MEMBERSHIP MEETING:** Iris advised there would be a membership meeting at the unit game on March 14. The unit is required to hold a membership meeting during the first quarter of each year. Ace of Clubs and Mini McKenney awards will be distributed and members are invited to participate. Due to the conflict with the Reno National, only three board members are sure they can attend. The meeting will begin at 1:00 and will be noticed to unit members in the Declarer. Those who can help will be mailing out the Declarer on Wednesday February 24 around 4:00 (after the noon game) at the Bridge Center.
3. **SPRING SECTIONAL:** The tournament location this year has been moved to Pine Valley School at 3000 Pine Valley Road in San Ramon. We agreed the name of the tournament should remain Diablo Valley Spring Sectional rather than

changing it to Pine Valley Spring Sectional. Bob Collins and Greg Vance will look into getting our tournament information, particularly the site location change, included in the Contract Forum, the ACBL tournament web site, and possibly an ACBL e-mail notice to ACBL members. We also discussed ideas to include a special mentor session prior to Saturday's game and to have an intermediate/newcomer section, possibly 0-50 MP. Pat George has no new information on catered box lunches at this time. Bob Collins plans to immediately:

- a. Contact/visit the new school to verify it meets our size requirements
  - b. Contact the school to verify it is available for the Friday night pairs game
  - c. Find out from the school when we can set up.
4. CALENDAR UPGRADE: Greg Vance is working with Bill George on upgrading the website calendar.
  5. SPECIAL EVENTS: There will be a Barometer unit game on Friday March 5 at the Bridge Center. Greg will work on a flyer to publicize the event and Frank as Special Events Coordinator will be working helping to organize it. The Swiss Game scheduled for Saturday February 27 at the Bridge Center is Ron's event, not a unit game, and has been moved to March 27.
  6. RESPONSIBILITIES OF COMMITTEES: Grant agreed to write up the area of responsibility for the unit's various committees and positions and send the descriptions to board members via e-mail.
  7. CLUB OWNER/DIRECTOR/TEACHER OUTREACH: At Iris's request, Grant drafted a letter to club owners, et al, extending our offer to help them promote bridge and also outlining efforts we had undertaken or planned to undertake. The letter was circulated among board members for review.
  8. ETHICS COMMITTEE: Dick Mayer indicated there were no current problems. He advised he would be putting together a team of three people to act as an appeals panel to address disputed directors' calls at the upcoming sectional.
  9. DISTRICT 21 MEETING IN BURLINGAME: Grant noted the following highlights from the February District 21 meeting:
    - a. Evening games at regional tournaments will remain at 7:30. A vote of attendees the last day suggested a 7:00 start was preferred. No action to change has been made yet.
    - b. Unit 499 has the third largest membership in District 21.

- c. Treasurer Harvey Brody announced 2009 was the most successful year with profits of almost \$52,000 due to increased attendance at Regionals.
  - d. Ron Olswang, owner of the Bridge Center, was awarded as a 2009 Goodwill Honoree.
  - e. Sectional surcharges are going up from \$135 to \$165 in March 2010. All directors' fees are going up 8%.
  - f. Iris and Grant have volunteered to help the District with the 2012 San Francisco National. Others interested in volunteering should contact Bruce Blakely, e-mail address on the District 21 web site.
10. MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY: The board discussed ideas about how to update members' personal information and their willingness to publish e-mail addresses in a directory. Included methods of getting the information were a request in the Declarer and various requests at local club games.
11. BOARD OF DIRECTORS' ROSTER ON THE WEBSITE: Bill George wanted approval to post the board of directors' roster to the website. He also wanted permission to include e-mail addresses and a link to Chris Pizarra's blog. Since the blog contains personal non-unit-related information, the unit members want more time to consider whether it was something the unit should do.
12. NEW MEMBER RECRUITMENT: Judy Keilin and Bruce Johnsonbaugh discussed their efforts in trying to introduce bridge in schools and newer adult players to duplicate.
13. FREE PLAYS FOR NEW MEMBERS: Nothing has been done to initiate the board's decision last year to give free plays to new members. How the policy is supposed to work isn't clearly defined. It was suggested to offer free plays to non ACBL members at I/N classes and games in order to encourage them to participate in the unit's club games. Bruce and Ally plan to work on this. Ways to make the transition easier for beginners to participate in duplicate club games was also discussed, including adding an I/N section at unit games. Ally and Frank plan to work on this.
14. FUTURE BOARD MEETINGS: We agreed future meetings will begin 15 minutes earlier so we can try to finish prior to unit game start time.

Time having run out due to unit game start time, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,  
Teresa Boyd, Secretary