

WESTERN CONFERENCE
Meeting of the Board of Directors
Rancho Mirage, CA
December 20, 2008

The meeting was called to order at 8:00 p.m. The following board members were present: John Van Ness, Jerry Fleming, Bruce Blakely, Marion Robertson, Corinne Kirkham, Teri Atkinson. Secretary-Treasurer Tom Shulman was also present. Ken Monzingo and ACBL president Dan Morse were also in attendance at various times during the meeting. Effective January 1, 2009, Ken Monzingo will replace Corinne Kirkham as D22's National Board Member WC representative.

A moment of silence in memory of Gayle Andrews was observed. Dan Morse spoke of Gayle's enthusiasm and commitment to bridge.

During the meeting, Jerry Fleming introduced Dan Morse who said the following: MABC obtains a lot of contractual concessions for its tournaments; Dan would like to see more publicity for bridge—a bridge column in the paper gets people interested in bridge; the concept of mind sports is a good vehicle to use for bridge marketing

Minutes of Previous Meeting

The Board reviewed the minutes of the January 2008 Albuquerque annual meeting. Upon motion (VAN NESS) and second (KIRKHAM) the minutes were approved.

Treasurer's Report

SHULMAN presented the Treasurer's report, copies of which had previously been emailed to the Board. WC had net income of \$4,652 in FY 2008. Upon motion (ROBERTSON) and second (KIRKHAM) the Treasurer's report was accepted.

The Board reviewed the proposed budget and decided not to increase any fees for 2009.

STAC

There was extended discussion about the possibility of expanding participation in the STAC tournaments to additional clubs in the STAC districts (14, 15, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23) and to other districts. It was also noted that WC billing and collection procedures for STAC sanction fees have improved under FLEMING's control.

Forum

Ken Monzingo reported on *Forum* operations, and discussed outside (non-member district) advertising, saying that cruise ads could be a good source of revenue. *Forum* operations are going well and that he has his same long-time employees. Ken said he will attempt to keep each issue at 12 pages as often as possible. Ken said he expected postage and printing increases in the coming year, but nothing drastic. In response to a question from the board, Ken reported that each month after payment of *Forum* operational

expenses he retains about \$2300 of the \$7200 paid to him by WC. The Board thanked Ken for the work he does on all the WC publications.

New Business

Ken Monzingo reported that the joint D22-D23 regional in Ventura (D22) uses a D23 sanction. [This tournament pays a WC sanction fee].

[While in Executive Session the Board authorized a 4% increase (\$288/mo.) in the amount paid to Ken Monzingo to \$7,488 per month, effective 1/1/09.]

VAN NESS moved to pay FLEMING \$750 per STAC for the reconciliation and collection work he did for the 2008 STACs, and to pay \$750 per STAC plus postage to whomever does the reconciliation and collection work hereafter. The motion was seconded and CARRIED with FLEMING and ATKINSON abstaining.

VAN NESS moved that Tom Shulman's pay as Secretary-Treasurer be increased 10% (from \$200/mo. to \$220/mo.). The motion was seconded and CARRIED.

The Board reviewed *Forum* operations and discussed the costs involved in publishing and mailing the *Forum* to District 21's two new units, Reno and Carson City (e.g. additional postage: 30 cents/copy, additional printing: 10 cents/copy, or \$4.80/year/subscriber).

The Board engaged in extensive discussion regarding the transfer of the Reno unit from D20 to D21 with the agreement between D20 and D21 that D20 would continue to run the Reno Regional. The Board discussed the cost of mailing the Forum to the additional members in Reno in light of the non-payment of WC sanction fees for the Reno regional even though it was now being held in WC territory. FLEMING volunteered to contact D20 to discuss the situation and the Board approved.

The Board considered the conditions of contest for the WC STACs and after discussion the following proposals were adopted: The minimum number of boards played by pairs not having a sit out shall be 24, with 21 being the minimum played by any pair; the upper masterpoint limit for strats will be changed to 2000 for Strat B and 750 for Strat C.

The Board discussed and recognized potential conflicts of interest regarding payments to Ken in that Ken is a member of the Board and is paid by the Board, but determined that there was no conflict because Ken is not involved in any Board decision regarding his compensation or regarding the terms of his contract with the Conference.

WC policies: The Board reaffirmed that there is currently no WC policy regarding allowable defenses to a one no-trump opening. Tournament priority weeks need to be reviewed and updated.

Old Business

ROBERTSON submitted proposed amendments to the Bylaws. After extensive discussion, BLAKELY moved that the proposed amendments (see attached) be approved

with additional new proposals to be dealt with by email by the end of the month. The motion was seconded and CARRIED. It was then moved with BLAKELY's approval that Section 7 of Article VI of the proposed amendments be changed to require that any proposed amendments be submitted in writing not less than 30 days prior to a vote. The motion was seconded and CARRIED.

The Bylaws will be updated to state that the 3-year term of the elected board member begins January 1, 2008 (D17) and January 1, 2009 (D21 & D22) and to provide that the WC Secretary/Treasurer shall timely notify each member district of the need to elect its representative.

Next Meeting

The Board decided that the next meeting would be in Monterey at the January 2010 Regional.

Election of Officers

Marion Robertson was nominated to be president. No further nominations. ROBERTSON elected.

Tom Shulman was nominated to be Secretary/Treasurer. No further nominations. SHULMAN elected.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:20 p.m.