

MINUTES
THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF
THE UNITED STATES BRIDGE FEDERATION
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 27, 2016
4:08 EST
BY CONFERENCE CALL

Directors Present: Marty Fleisher, Greg Humphreys, Bob Katz, Brad Moss, Beth Palmer, Josh Parker, Sue Picus

Others Present: Marty Harris, Jan Martel, Joe Stokes, Stan Subeck, Howard Weinstein

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by President Howard Weinstein at 4:09 pm EST.

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. WELCOME NEW BOARD MEMBERS

Howard welcomed new Board members Greg & Beth and thanked Cheri for her long term service on the USBF Board.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 30, 2015

The Minutes of November 30, 2015 were unanimously approved.

V. APPOINTMENT OF OFFICERS

Howard continues for the second year of his two year term as President. Other officers were nominated and unanimously elected as follows:

Vice President: Bob Katz

Secretary: Jan Martel (not on Board)

Chief Financial Officer: Stan Subeck (not on Board)

Chief Operations Officer: Jan Martel (not on Board)

Recorder: Jack Oest (not on Board)

VI. JUNIOR USBC & TEAMS FOR 2016

Joe reported that the Junior USBC in December was very successful. There were 15 teams in three divisions, and a total of 71 players. The event cost about \$50,000, all of which was raised, mostly by Michael Rosenberg, from generous contributors. Bob Katz will write Michael Rosenberg a thank you from the Board.

The Junior Committee moved and the Board approved the following players and Non Playing Captains:

U26 USA1

Josh Donn, NPC
Adam Kaplan
Zach Brescoll
Kevin Rosenberg
Ben Kristensen
Adam Grossack
Zach Grossack

U26 USA2

Jim Munday, NPC
Greg Herman
Christian Jolly
Anam Tebha
Oren Kriegel
Jordan Kaye
Julie Arbit

U21

Dave Caprera, NPC
Hakan Berk
David Soukup
Isaac Stephani
Nolan Chang
Cole Spencer

U16

Brady Richter, NPC
Michael Hu
Arthur Zhou
Rory Xiao
Suzanne Campbell
Cooper Smith
Kunal Vohra

Rona (“girls”)

Ken Mignocchi, NPC
Asya Ladyzhensky Marriott
Allison Hunt
Rebecca Wernis
Isha Thapa
Kathleen Loeb
Amber Lin

VII. RESIDENCY RULES FOR JUNIORS

Jan explained that the WBF treats Juniors very differently from others – there are no residency requirements for a Junior to represent an NBO in a World Championship. The Junior just has to be a member of the NBO, it doesn't matter whether s/he is a citizen or resident of the country. On the other hand, the USBF Bylaws don't have any exception to the citizenship or residency requirements for Juniors. As a practical matter, we have been allowing Juniors who are neither citizens nor permanent residents to compete for USBF in Junior USBCs & World events. We have limited competition by non-US Juniors to people who are living in the US, usually because they're going to school here.

Jan suggested that what we have been doing is a good thing, but that it should be more officially stated in the USBF Bylaws. The Board asked that the Junior Committee consider this and come up with a proposal for a rule to determine whether non-citizen Juniors should be allowed to join USBF & compete for the US in World events.

VIII. MIXED USBC

The Board discussed the plans for the Mixed USBC. Those plans haven't changed from the last meeting, but the committee dealing with it is trying to clarify issues such as where people can play and what monitors are acceptable.

IX. VIDEO FROM USBF & ACBL EVENTS

Jan reported that she wants to hire Marcin Waslowski as a consultant for video from Vugraphed events. ACBL has agreed to bring Marcin to Reno to help with video. ACBL will be paying his travel and hotel expenses. The Board approved an expenditure of \$2000.

X. ROOMS FOR WROCLAW

Jackie Saltman, our travel agent, is working with Sofitel to get us rooms at the Wroclaw Sofitel at a reasonable rate and with a relatively late cancellation date (either 1 week or 3 days in advance). Jan will continue to work on this with Jackie and will report back to the Board.

XI. FUND RAISING

USBF has an obligation to WBF for the 2018 World Championships. The Board unanimously appointed Chris Compton to head a fund-raising committee for this purpose.

XII. LETTERS OF SUPPORT FOR FOREIGN PLAYERS

Over the last few years, Jason Feldman has asked USBF to provide letters supporting non-US bridge players who either want to move to the US and obtain a green card or want to come into the US to work. The number of requests has

increased recently because of concerns about reporting players to the IRS or INS.

The Board agreed to defer this to its meeting in Reno and ask Jason to make a presentation at that meeting and also to send the Board members a full explanation of what he wants from USBF and why.

XIII. REVIEW OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The Board thanked Stan for all of his hard work with the financial statements and approved the statements for 2014 & 2015.

XIV. ACBL ISSUES

Bob Heller has continued to suggest that USBF pay WBF dues instead of ACBL doing so. He is now suggesting that funds from STAC tournaments, or perhaps from some special STAC that is nationwide, be given to USBF and USBF use those funds to pay the WBF dues. STAC funds means the \$4 per table that the sponsoring organization receives from the clubs. There would have to be something like 40,000 tables to raise enough money to pay the WBF dues.

XV. DISCIPLINARY ISSUES

Howard raised the question of in what events does USBF have authority over disciplinary matters? Clearly in USBCs and any other events USBF manages. Clearly when USBF has selected a team for a World Championship event.

Other situations are less clear:

1. WBF events where USBF members play but USBF did not select them.
2. An event where USBF has selected a team (usually by a vote of some kind)?
3. An event where USBF members have been invited because of their performance in a World Championship?

Marty Harris suggested that there should be two categories, in one of which USBF would be required to act on a complaint and in the other of which it would be optional for the USBF to act. Something that happens in a USBF event would fall into the first category and probably so should something that happens in a World Championship for which USBF has selected the team. Other situations would be discretionary with USBF. The Board agreed with this general concept and the Bylaws committee will work on how to clarify this in the Bylaws.

XVI. EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Board went into executive session. The Board invited Howard Weinstein, Marty Harris & Jan Martel to join the Executive Session.

XVII. ADJOURNMENT

The Board came out of Executive Session and the meeting was adjourned at 6:40 pm EST.