

MINUTES
THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF
THE UNITED STATES BRIDGE FEDERATION
WEDNESDAY, JAN. 16, 2013
12:00 PM EDT
BY CONFERENCE CALL

Directors Present: Cheri Bjerkan, George Jacobs, Bob Katz, Ralph Katz, Sylvia Moss, Howard Weinstein, Jonathan Weinstein

Others Present: Joan Gerard, Jan Martel, Barbara Nudelman, Joe Stokes

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Joan Gerard, outgoing president, at 12:00 pm EDT.

II. ATTENDANCE: ESTABLISH QUORUM

The outgoing 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. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

George Jacobs was unanimously elected as President.

Howard Weinstein was unanimously elected as Vice President

Jan Martel was unanimously elected as Secretary

Cheri Bjerkan was unanimously elected as Treasurer

IV. CHANGE OF MEETING CHAIR; THANK YOU TO OUTGOING PRESIDENT

George Jacobs took over as meeting Chair and thanked Joan Gerard for all of her wonderful work as President for the last 2 years and as a Board member for 6 years. The Board members all thanked Joan.

V. WELCOME TO NEW BOARD MEMBERS

The Board welcomed new Board member Bob Katz and returning Board members Howard Weinstein and Cheri Bjerkan.

VI. SPONSORSHIP

George reported that he had talked with a donor who had previously offered to sponsor the USSBC. The Board discussed the matter by email and decided not to accept the donor's revised offer. George explained the Board's decision to the proposed donor. George suggested the possibility of hiring a professional fund

raiser to try to find a donor, probably a corporation, to sponsor the USBF tournaments.

VII. PROPOSAL TO PAY HALF OF WJOTC ENTRY FEES NOT BEING PAID BY ACBL

Barbara proposed that USBF pay the 50% of the entry fees that ACBL is not paying. The Board discussed the Junior tournament and what support we should give US players who are competing there. Joan reported that the hotel at which the Junior players will be staying will be providing breakfast with the room. The tournament will also provide lunch and dinner for the players. The Board reiterated that they were donating \$20,000 to WBF towards the cost of running the tournament and did not determine what else to do to support the WJOTC and US players. The Board referred this question to the Junior Committee.

The Board discussed the fact that USBF received a contribution of \$3000 from Jay Whipple & Bob Hamman to be used for the WJOTC. USBF is grateful for the contribution, which will be used for a combination of hospitality and travel support for US players in the WJOTC.

VIII. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF 12/28/12

The Minutes from the Board meeting on 12/28/12 were unanimously approved as corrected and distributed.

IX. 2015 WOMEN'S TRIALS

Barbara stated that if we want to hold the Women's Trials in conjunction with the Ft. Lauderdale tournament in March, we should officially contact Shirley Seals, who is the District Director and also President of Unit 128 to ask her for permission. The Board briefly discussed whether the hotel would be suitable for the Trials.

X. 2014 TRIALS

Joan reported that she is talking with the Embassy Suites in Phoenix for 2014.

XI. HOTELS IN BALI

The Board discussed that WBF hotels often don't allow refunds for hotel rooms when players leave before the end of the tournament. The Board discussed whether to reserve rooms in Bali for our teams. There are a great number of hotels in Bali. The Board agreed to look into booking rooms so long as whatever deposit we pay is fully refundable.

XII. IMPROVING TRIALS

George suggested that we consider spending some money on recruiting and training Vugraph operators for Trials.

Jan suggested that it would be most helpful for improving the operators' performance if we could have three or four experienced operators for whom we provided hotel rooms. The Board instructed Jan to put together a budget for doing this.

Bob suggested that we might ask ACBL to send an email to everyone in the country to publicize the Trials.

XIII. WBF PLAYER REPS

The WBF put together a committee of top players to help with organizing WBF events, but the group had difficulty scheduling meetings and has not been active.

XIV. RELATIONS WITH ACBL

The Board discussed better communication between USBF and ACBL. We have invited Robert Hartman to attend USBF Board meetings and we will ask ACBL to invite a USBF representative to attend their meetings. We will also try to encourage more communication with the ACBL representatives to WBF.

XV. BEHAVIOR PLEDGE

George suggested expanding the agreement we now ask players to sign to include "decorum." Jan will send out the letter we currently have players sign and we will work on improving it and putting some teeth into it.

XVI. FINANCIAL REPORT

Barbara explained that she does not yet have the bank statement for December and so has not completed a financial report for 2012. She will do so before February.

XVII. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting was scheduled for Wednesday March 20 either after the evening session or in the early evening at the St. Louis NABC.

If needed, there will be a telephone meeting between now and St. Louis. A daytime meeting is good for most people.

XVIII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 1:40 pm EDT