

**MINUTES**  
**THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF**  
**THE UNITED STATES BRIDGE FEDERATION**

**MONDAY, JANUARY 22, 2024**

**5:00 PM EST**

**BY ZOOM CALL**

Directors Present: Aaron Silverstein, Lynn Baker, Steve Beatty, Steve Garner, Eric Gettleman, Amber Lin, Tom Reynolds

Others Present: Jan Martel, Marty Harris, Joe Stokes, Suzi Subeck, Max Schireson, Mckenzie Myers, Julie Arbit

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order by President Aaron Silverstein at 5:01 pm EST. The Board welcomed Amber Lin.

**II. OFFICER ELECTION**

- Tom nominated Aaron Silverstein for President. Steve G seconded; passed unanimously.
- Lynn nominated Steve Garner for Vice President. Tom seconded; passed unanimously.
- Aaron nominated Jan Martel for Secretary & Chief Operating Officer. Tom seconded; passed unanimously.
- Aaron nominated Mordecai (Max) Schireson for Chief Financial Officer. Lynn seconded; passed unanimously.
- Aaron nominated Jack Oest for Recorder. Lynn seconded; passed unanimously.

**III. COMMITTEE PROPOSALS**

The Board discussed the proposals for 2024 committee members. Aaron moved and Lynn seconded to approve the committee assignments and possible slight adjustments *detailed in the attachment*; passed unanimously.

Key updates discussed by the Board are as follows:

- Conventions committee is eliminated; Jan is working to form a committee to review System Summary Forms (SSF's) and Convention Cards. Jeff Aker is improving the explanation of what goes into SSF's.

- Bylaws Committee: Three primary responsibilities for the year - establishing a disciplinary code, establishing procedures for appeals/charges, and reviewing resident membership requirements
- Appeals Committee: May be restructured slightly so that USBC staff can more easily coordinate in real-time at tournaments
- New Committee - "Marketing": Purpose is to expand communications and outreach for online platforms (e.g. for watching tournaments), public relations, and fundraising.

#### **IV. CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER REPORT**

Max reported that some small reconciling is occurring with regard to the current audit. He is also working with the ACBL to increase the International Fund contributions from NABC entry fees, which haven't been changed in 20+ years. The increase will likely be incremental, beginning in the Fall 2024 NABC in Las Vegas and depending in part on attendance trends.

The Board discussed the status of USBF dues to the WBF. Suzi reported that Mexico elected to stay in Zone 2 after considering joining the Caribbean and Central American Bridge Federation.

#### **V. BYLAWS DISCUSSION RE: RESIDENT MEMBERS**

The Board discussed the stringency for residency requirements in the WBF and USBF bylaws. The Board agrees that WBF requirements and residency approvals have not been consistent over time and thus there may be slight differences between the USBF and WBF requirements at a given time.

Aaron will reach out to Jan Kamras (WBF) with questions on procedures and timing for residency status issues for world championships.

Lynn is Chair of Bylaws Committee and will work on possibilities for amending the language to include provisions and procedures for residence matters where the USBF and WBF protocols may differ.

Jan will assemble a list of USBC players whose residence may be in question this year.

#### **VI. ADJOURNMENT**

Lynn moved, Tom seconded, to adjourn at 6:10pm EST; passed unanimously.

## Attachment: 2024 USBF Committee assignments

Committee	2024 Members (First name listed = Chair)	Notes
<b>Ethics Investigation</b>	Dana Berkowitz Eugene Hung Roger Lee Chip Martel Steve Weinstein Jenny Wolpert	
<b>Bylaws</b>	Lynn Baker, Chair Eric Gettleman Marty Harris Jack Oest Josh Parker	
<b>Nominating</b>	Brian Platnick, Chair Amber Lin Debbie Rosenberg Aaron Silverstein Joe Stokes	Committee members serve for two years. Brian and Debbie are in their second year.
<b>Elections</b>	Lynn Baker, Chair Steve Garner Aaron Silverstein	
<b>Finance</b>	Max Schireson, Chair Eric Gettleman Amber Lin Jan Martel	
<b>Junior</b>	Joe Stokes, Chair Julie Arbit Alex Kolesnik Amber Lin Jan Martel McKenzie Myers Michael Rosenberg	
<b>Credentials</b>	Kevin Bathurst Cheri Bjerkan Bart Bramley Ira Chorush Josh Donn Marty Fleisher Alex Kolesnik	

	Sandra Rimstedt Debbie Rosenberg Kerri Sanborn Peggy Sutherlin Howard Weinstein Jenny Wolpert	
<b>Stipend</b>	Max Schireson, Chair Eric Gettleman Jan Martel Tom Reynolds Aaron Silverstein	
<b>Appeals</b>	Suzi Subeck, Chair	Slight restructuring planned
<b>Tournament Planning</b>	Jan Martel, Chair Steve Garner McKenzie Myers Tom Reynolds Suzi Subeck	
<b>Tournament Hospitality</b>	Jan Martel, Chair Julie Arbit Marie France Benoit Suzi Subeck	Possibly also Lisa Berkowitz, Kate Aker, and/or Martha Katz if they want to remain on
<b>Vugraph</b>	Jan Martel, Chair Rob Barrington Chris Wiegand	Primary role is now recruiting commentators due to switch to LoveBridge
<b>Marketing</b>	Mitch Dunitz, Chair Rob Barrington Tracey Bauer Cyrus Hettle Adam Kaplan Amber Lin Suzi Subeck  Al Hollander & Jan Martel, staff	