

**ACBL D-20 Organization, Inc.
Board meeting, September 6, 2022
Via ZOOM; Don Marsh, host**

Members present: Sam Asai (SA), Don Marsh (DM), Cheryl Haines (CH), Mike Eyer (ME), Marie Ashton (MA), Jill Wood (JW), Laurie Rowe (LRowe), Merle Stetser (MS), July Ratley (JR), Roger Thomas (RT), Jim Wheeler (JRW), Lorraine Rodich (LR), Amy Cassanova (AC), Dennis Harms (DH), Jon Gustafson (JG), Chip Dombrowski (CD). Hal Montgomery (HM), and Jeff Jacob (JJ), joined the meeting late.

DM called meeting to order at 7:01.

DM announced that Angela Jacob resigned as Tournament Manager for Boise and Eugene. The District thanks Angela for her service,

DM announced that he and his wife Sherri would volunteer to serve as TM for Eugene for 2023.

DM introduced I/N Co-coordinator Cheryl Haines and read the feedback that had been given by the Boise local Chair Cheryl Maderazo. (See end of this document for Cheryl M's feedback.

CH spoke highly of the work of the local folks in Boise. "We could use them as a model going forward and never have to have an I/N person on-site." Looking forward to Seaside as it will be her first in-person event for the District. CH continues to work on developing a list of speakers/teachers to make presentations at the Regionals. We need to get a better handle on why the I/N folks are not coming back to the Regionals.

Boise Regional financials were discussed. MA reported that Angela and JJ did an amazing job of keeping costs down. Boise showed a loss of \$6,533. The projection had been for a \$9,800 loss. Angela was able to get the host hotel to "forgive" some number of the rooms.

JW reported. A late mandate requiring that masks would be required at the event greatly impacted local attendance. (JJ later reported that

he thought this might have cost as many as 50 tables.) JW passed along some of Cheryl Maderazo's thoughts on how the event went. Maderazo expressed some concerns per allocation of free plays. Maderazo also expressed that the online TM's manual could use some updating, particularly as it relates to COVID protocols. Ms. Maderazo also expressed some frustration per not getting enough flyers out to promote the event. "It really is helpful to have the flyers." Further, Maderazo expressed concerns per the impact COVID guidelines from CDC and ACBL had on the tournament. "The most challenging part of this tournament was the requirement to wear masks." Maderazo also thought perhaps the TD's could have used a little more help. Overall, the feedback was overwhelmingly positive.

LRowe reported that her experience at the Boise Regional was "fabulous."

AC clarified ACBL's position per mask mandates/requirements.

HM joined at this point.

MA presented district's financial statement. MA suggested we look at RT's combined report that shows YTD plus the budget for the rest of the year to show what we can expect. It is looking like the District will have about an \$18,000 loss.

RT suggested that we look at Seaside budget and consider JW's request for more funding for hospitality. We can then look at getting Seaside budget and D20 budget approved together.

JRW presented why he wants to request more money for hospitality. MA pointed out that if the table counts increases, the hospitality budget increases so the request became a mute point.

RT presented combined budgets. The projected loss for the year was put at about \$18,000.

RT made Oversight Committee (OC) report. DM acknowledged the folks CD, AC, Raj, JR, ME & R RT who is serving on the OC. RT expressed his thanks for the work of the OC to date. RT suggested that the OC has been operating a little bit like a consulting

firm. Clearly attracting new members is a high priority. OC made a decision to focus on the negative events that are impacting the District financially. The OC's recommendation for 2023 is to go the three Regionals only. This would mean OTR, Seaside Regional and Eugene. Further, there is a chance that fees charged for Regional events may need to be increased. Lastly, the OC plans next to look at what has been labeled "Perks and Compensations" and provide a report with recommendations by the end of the this calendar year. "This will provide a revamped structure in-place for 2023."

Lots of discussion followed RT's OC presentation. Issues per increase tournament fees were discussed. This is an area that will likely be revisited by the OC this year.

LR suggested that it is unfair to have all the tournaments up and down the I-5 corridor. RT responded that this proposal for three regionals is right now just for 2023 and also pointed out that both Boise and Bend were held this year and that it would normally be Eugene's turn for 2023.

It was about here that JJ arrived.

AC suggested that areas that are not having a regional could explore holding I/N regionals.

JJ suggested that we stick with four regionals for 2023.

A motion was made by MA and seconded by ME that the District go to three Regionals for the year 2023: OTR, Seaside and Eugene. The motion passed unanimously.

Motion was made and seconded to approve budgets for Seaside and the District for the remainder of the year. This passed unanimously.

JJ spoke about Boise Regional. Wonderful site. Bad luck with COVID.

HM. Hal reminded everyone that he has requested more money for his group so that there could be some compensation for Rich. NAPs will look pretty much like it did pre-pandemic. There was some discussion per monitor requirements. HM feels like the Board

members could be doing a better job of promoting the NAPs and the GNTs. Hal's report is attached at end of this document.

The Trumpet. AC and CD. Not much news these days from the Units. We have to figure out how we communicate with folks now that we are online. Perhaps a review of the website and *The Trumpet* might happen in the future.

JRW on Seaside. Has flyers available if anyone needs them. "Flyers are still useful." Expressed his gratitude for working with Cheryl Haines and also Jon G. Not expecting COVID to be an issue but they are ready if it becomes an issue. He said the renovation on the convention center is impressive and looking forward to sharing it with folks. There will be an informal gathering on Friday morning at Pig and Pancake for breakfast. All are welcome.

JG. Area report. Seaside Unit clubs are all f-2-f. Tillamook has two games a week. There is some teaching going on there. Not much from the Central Coast.

DH. Salem seems to be struggling. Corvallis is doing well..."Going strong." DH is hoping Corvallis could get a "hot" Internet so they could host GNTs.

LR. Bend club is f2f. Some drop off in attendance. Cascade Club has been trying to hold a Pro-Am but they are having a hard time finding the "AMs."

Merle. F2f is back. The club is having a bit of a hard time finding a playing space. "We do hold Sectionals every couple of months so that helps."

SA. Home Unit has not resumed f2f. JJ said that he has heard from someone in Baker City has applied for a club sanction. CD said that he thought the club was up and running.

JR. F2f has been happening for about two months. Decent turnouts. There are some lessons happening. Chico opened back up. Unit game is now twice a month.

ME. Portland club, the Ace is not going to reopen live. PBC is doing well. The addition of a new owner has been helpful. Table fees going to \$12. Table count has been going up slowly but steadily. Mentor game is happening. "Portland Bridge is looking good."

JJ. Jeff asked area reps to let him know about possible tournaments to be scheduled. JJ mentioned there are options out there per what can be done.

LRowe. Regional Rep election is now taking place. It is important that the Area Reps get the entire unit board members to vote. Very important. Voting started August 15th and it ends September 15th.

One hour and fifty-four minutes and seventeen seconds later, we all adjourned the meeting.

Statement from Cheryl Maderazo per experience working with Cheryl Haines:

The most positive note I want to share is that, Cheryl Haines, the Coordinator for the I/N group, is an angel. Thank you for giving me her name and number. She was totally organized, got back to every email in a flash, and provided us with plenty of support and information that our I/N group was completely looked after, encouraged and recognized for their efforts to support the tournament but, also experience the differences from playing at the club. She sent out emails encouraging people to play and helped, with the information for the daily bulletin. She was in constant contact with our local appointed chairperson, and made her job run smoothly.

Here is Hal's report:

Hal Montgomery, NAEC chair The NAP finals are approaching (November 19 and 20). This year the league has mandated that we return to monitored playing sites the same as our online finals before the pandemic. I hope that many of the clubs will host online finals. The PBC and VBC have made themselves available. We

will need to promote approved venues for players throughout the district.

The league has partnered with BBO to collect the playing fees. However, BBO will keep 25% of our gross. As part of their fee, BBO will absorb credit card charges and credit loss. BBO will send the remainder of the collected money to the ACBL.

After the ACBL deducts their sanction and director fees they will send us a check for the remainder. I think that there will no longer be a separate charge for hands. I think this is now part of the BBO fee. We will have substantially less work and receive less money.

The GNT qualifying period has started. The ACBL has approved the same general approach of self scheduled extended RR matches leading to a KO stage, that we have used for the last three years, for this year. I expect that we will run this general type of contest for flights A, B, and C. However, I think we will use two weekends with predetermined times for the open flight. We will run a qualifying RR on the first weekend and have a semifinal and final on the second weekend. The exact structure will depend on the number of participating teams. The open team captains were so contentious that several players told me they would refuse to play under the same self scheduling format.

I expect that we will have fewer teams participating because there are many other bridge games available than there were during the first years of the pandemic. I think we can continue to get away without paying BBO 25% but that might not be possible.

Less money but less work for Marie.

Hal