

MINUTES OF THE ACBL UNIT 547 BOARD MEETING
September, 14 2017, 11:00 A.M

Board Members Present: John Anderson, Joan Cathcart, Dennis Charles, Dagmar Ragnow Morgan, Josh Rosenbluth, Ken Thompson Invited Guests: Tom Ciacio, Raeann Koerner

1. President, Dennis Charles, called the meeting to order at 11 am.
2. The board reviewed and approved the minutes of the August 8, 2017 board meeting.
3. Dagmar distributed the Treasurer's report for May 2017. In July, we lost \$467 due to lower table counts (as expected from previous attendance reports) and greater fees for NAP games. We expect to be back in the black for September now that Meister Hall is open. Ken sent out an email notice after the meeting announcing the reopening, and that there will be no bridge game during Rosh Hashanah on Wednesday, September 20 and Thursday, September 21. The Treasurer's report was approved.
4. Tom submitted the August 2017 Club Attendance report. Except for Saturday thanks to the theme game, attendance was down. As noted above with the reopening of Meister Hall, we are hopeful that attendance will start going up again. Moreover, we increased the number of unique players by almost 20 from last year, which is a good sign for improved attendance going forward.
5. The board approved an increase from \$300 to \$350 in the Club Manager's monthly compensation.
6. Josh reported that the dates of the Strawberry Sectional have been officially changed to April 27-29, 2018. The ACBL has issued a new sanction number, 1804123. The Pleasant Valley Senior Center modified and approved our application for the new dates. We should expect a quote from the Senior Center sometime in October, likely after the next board meeting.
7. Joan Cathcart reported that all food donations for the September 499 sectional need to be sent to her by Friday, September 22. Raeann showed up near the end of the meeting but talked briefly with Josh afterwards to say that things are going well. Josh suggested that Raeann convene all her team members (Chair, Director, Hospitality, Partnership) a few days ahead of the tournament to go over the list of work items, including making sure there are enough bridgemates, bidding boxes and other supplies.
8. Joan gave feedback from the Twilight games. Most liked the games and said they would like to do it again. There were some concerns about noise and the atmosphere at the Townhouse. Josh commented that it was difficult convincing people to play, as most were satisfied playing during the day. It appears we failed in attracting players who can't play during the day. The consensus was to consider bringing back the Twilight game next summer and to rethink how we reach out to people who cannot play bridge during the day.
9. The next Saturday theme game will be the Wild West on Saturday, November 18. Joan will lead the organizing for that game. Tentatively, we decided to have two sections – Open and 299 – for the game. However after the meeting, Tom researched that we had only 8 pairs (out of 36 total) that had 299 masterpoints or less at the August theme game. We had 14 pairs with 499 or less. As such, we should reconsider whether the cutoff for the lower section should be 499.
10. Dennis agreed to purchase one tray of pinwheel sandwiches from Costco for a Saturday game of Brunch and Bridge. The cost is only \$29. It was not discussed on which day that would happen, but Dennis said he would promote the game with Susan, who had earlier suggested October 14.
11. We will have a combined Tom Kline memorial and reopening of Meister Hall game on Thursday, October 19. Susan Lang will lead the organizing for that game. We will have a Fast Pairs game on Thursday, December 28. Josh will lead the organizing for that game. The holiday party will be held on Thursday, December 7.
12. We received formal complaints about the behavior of some players during the August Saturday theme game. Tom reported that he warned the offenders when they subsequently played another week, and felt that no discipline was necessary at this time. Dennis agreed to formally reply on behalf of the board to explain our understanding of the situation and the actions taken.

13. Because the Townhouse will not cater the annual meeting this year – except for providing water and coffee – Dennis agreed to research using Wood Ranch or Olive Garden to bring in food to the Townhouse. The cost last year was \$10 per person. The estimates from Wood Ranch and Olive Garden range from \$10.50 to \$12.
14. The Valentine's Sectional was set for February 10, 2018. No chairperson has been assigned as of yet.
15. The meeting was adjourned at 12:20 pm. Our next board meeting is Thursday, October 5, 2017.

Respectfully Submitted,

Josh Rosenbluth, substituting for VUBC Secretary Rose Buckley