

BOG (Board of Governors) meeting documents: <http://www.acbl.org/bog-meeting-docs>

D11 BoG Library: http://www.district11bridge.com/ACBL_board_reports.html

Meeting Playlist (past videos): https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLcAft4FoUH2bWH2eG7XjDUD6clO_TLLd

Zoom meeting URL pending. Audio file:

Zoom started 6:56 PM. Instructed to shut down live stream. Rename BoG Members to include District # in screen name.

Doug Couchman, Chair

Sabrina Goley has replaced Kelley Trejo who left the ACBL. Sabrina will be supporting the Board of Governors.

Everyone is muted. Stay muted when not talking. Talk one person at a time.

July 2021 Special Meeting called to order at 7:00 PM EDT

A quorum is confirmed.

Discuss items on the agenda for the Board of Directors July 2021 meeting. This is a new approach to allow the Board of Governors to weigh in prior to their decision. The BoG should share experience and knowledge that might help the deliberation of the BoD. This approach allows us to fulfill our advisory role.

Technical Items:

- 1) Barb Doran appointed as Board of Governors Secretary. Approved 28 – 1.
- 2) Austin BoG Meeting planning. Concern about play schedule. Sunday Morning is the lead option based on feedback from the BoG.

Steve Gaynor – **Motion:** ACBL reinstate the continental breakfast for the Board of Governors. Seconded.

Barbara Heller – request for a concession stand near the meeting has never been honored.

Richard Popper - \$4-5K cost for continental breakfast.

Doug Couchman – real costs varies by site. Average \$4-5K. Major issue with the mess and post meeting clean-up.

Ken Monzingo – Concern about not being able to limit food to BoG members.

Jeff Bayone – Perhaps a voucher for food and drink might be a better approach.

Hugh McSheffrey – ACBL voucher can be applied to bridge fees.

JoAnn Sprung – just a coffee coupon would be enough. There will be refreshment stands open.

Wybren Hoagland – Surprised to hear people are so concerned about getting food before the meeting, \$4K is not a lot of money compared to a typical food budget for an NABC.

Jerry Thorpe – Favors the continental breakfast. A way to say “Come see what is going on.” Good to attract people to the meeting.

Jay Apfelbaum – Cost is a problem but so is appreciation. Bridge Bucks for attendees. Motion to amend the previous motion. \$10 bridge bucks - handled as a subsequent motion

Gordon Bower – Having the refreshment in room is handy and keeps us in the meeting.

Motion passes by a narrow vote.

Hugh McSheffrey – Move that the BoD approve a voucher for every BoG member who attends the BoG meeting instead of a continental breakfast. Seconded by Wybren Hoglund.

Richard – This is not a BoD item – this was decided by Management.

Bruce Blakely – is this motion in place of or in addition to the continental breakfast motion.

Martin Hirschman – too much time – let the chair handle it.

Narrowly defeated but will still be discussed with Management.

Steve Moese introduced the pending motion for the general meeting about the potential name change for the Board of Governors. Doug Couchman will forward the documents for BoG review in the next several days as soon as the second motion corrections are reviewed and approved by the motion committee. Steve asked members to attend to the documents prior to the next meeting.

Discussion Topics - Board of Directors Motions/Discussions for July 2021:

Item	Topic	
	<p>If a member ceases to be a member for any reason, then that person’s seat on the Board of Governors shall be filled by the District Board. 1st and 2nd Alternates shall not be replaced. Goal is to get to 3 spots per district.</p>	
	<p>Major change to CDR – many technical changes. Language changed to clarify online cheating is cheating. Signaling includes any passing of information form one person to another whether that information is used or not. It is a violation to submit false information to the ACBL. The CDR will detail considerations for dinging a sentence should a finding of culpability be made. E.g:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Prior record, 2) Experience of player, 3) Level and Prestige of event. 4) Time 5) Flagrancy 6) Premeditation <p>Secondary considerations for deciding punishment;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Other harm to ACBL or game of bridge reputation 2) Whether held office or leadership position. 3) Whether an ACBL employee <p>Not to be considered: Race color religion creed, etc.</p> <p>A finding of responsibility is reviewed for whether it is clearly erroneous. Punishments are reviewed for consistency.</p> <p><i>Hugh McSheffrey</i> – The factors not to be considered should also apply to the deliberation of responsibility. <i>AJ Stephani</i> – Has never come up in past deliberations.</p> <p><i>Kevin Wilson</i> – When the EOC hears the case and finds the charges, the A&C can change the charges. Allow A&C committee to weigh in on the proper charges.</p> <p><i>JoAnn Sprung</i> – If EOC determines that the findings were done on the wrong item – send it back to the Committee with instruction to change. A&C takes EOC and changes everything defies explanation.</p> <p><i>Wybren Hoglund</i> – Looks like there is no set process to follow. If there is a process established this wouldn’t happen.</p> <p><i>Doug Couchman</i> – issues arose because of older versions of the CDR.</p> <p><i>AJ Stephani</i> – Carrying old cases under prior CDRs. Disciplinary apparatus is separate from the Recorder’s office. The judge does not tell the prosecutor what to charge. Disagreement has been on the subject of discipline and not of finding of responsibility. Kevin Wilson disagrees.</p> <p><i>Martin Hirschman</i> – Why not share the proposal for the BoD? As a member of the OLEOC, the A&C committee has taken an aggressive position modifying the judgment of the OLOEC about discipline.</p> <p><i>Doug Couchman</i> – BoD Documents were not available for BoG review in time for this meeting. Doug will make this happen next time.</p>	

	<p>Discussion Item: Require people to have ACBL numbers for online and live club games and separately tournaments. Will require people get a guest membership when playing in a club for the first time. Effective Jan 1, 2023. Jan 1 2022 for online VACB. Must be a member of some sort to play in any tournament (agree to abide by ACBL rules). Passed Strategy and Bridge Committee</p> <p>Wybrand Hoglund – Not friendly to walk-in non members. Brett Kunin – trying to apply this to clubs is a mistake. They’re independent businesses. Jay Apfelbaum – Terrible idea – club won’t stop me from playing, but the ACBL does. Jeff Bayone – Not sure its so bad. Not an invasion of privacy. Asking for their email address. Jim Calhoun – Fishing analogy. ACBL shouldn’t force this. Roger Smith – People with our number have to follow our rules. Concern that people without a number do not have to follow our rules. <i>Gordon Bower</i> – Clubs exist with no members – they will leave the league. Most effective marking is coming form the club managers.</p>	
	<p>Eliminate reimbursement for BoD members staying on between the end of the BoD meeting and the BoG meeting. Est Cost \$10K. Roger Smith – BoD members should be encouraged to stay and talk to the membership. Jay Apfelbaum – should not affect the BoG Chair. Bob Heller – Wanted to cut back on superfluous perks – no reason to stay for an online meeting. Do not cut the Chair of the BoG.</p>	
	<p>Discussion item: Board will decide to eliminate grandfathering requirements for different ranks.</p>	
	<p>Small change to the CoC is that the money given to the NAP and GNT is a subsidy for travel, not a prize.</p>	
	<p>Decision about transition from online bridge to reopening F2F bridge. What will we do with virtual clubs during the transition period. Should pooling rule be changed? Open guest to anyone anywhere.</p> <p>Ron Lien – In CA, a number of large clubs were pooling form large geographies and charging very little. Lots of complaints from many clubs. Opening the guest policy will enable many people to play online, adversely affecting F2F clubs. Consider allowing people with no access to a F2F club can play online anywhere.</p> <p>Martin Hirschman – Important to review where we came from. Only unpigmented points could be won online. Need to address cheating. Need to control games offering black points on line.</p> <p>John Dickenson – By relaxing the guest rule, what problem are we trying to solve.</p> <p>Doug Couchman – online games are closing. Fewer games are available.</p> <p>Greg Coles – What were we trying to do with the original policy? Help keep players in their club. We want more people playing more bridge and playing more regularly.</p> <p>John Dickenson – concern about mega alliances or pools. 0-49, 99, 199 games. Smaller clubs cannot compete with that.</p> <p>Nance Lodge – D22 – If you open up the online games, you will destroy the face to face clubs. If the average price is 6-8, and online 2 sessions for \$3 each, no one will want to play. Get greater number of players? Support local clubs.</p> <p>Henry Robin – Hear “I hate this” – Online games disappearing because there aren’t enough directors. Similar fees. Get rid of price competition – give back money to local clubs. Masterpoint differential eliminated.</p> <p>Greg Coles - 70% of the people who play online will also play in face to face bridge.</p> <p>Jerry Thorpe – People loved returning to F2F bridge.</p> <p>Joanne Wicker – I play a lot online and have returned to F2F. F2F is very exciting. Even with protocols.</p> <p>Steve Moese – Get F2F clubs up first. Then consider how to manage online bridge to complement the F2F environment.</p>	

	Bob Heller – The critical item is eliminating competition between face to face and online bridge. Right now online bridge has too many advantages. Need for personal connection and socialization. Need to look at the big picture. ACBL is not enforcing its own rules – limitations on guests.	
--	--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	--

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 PM EDT.

Submitted Respectfully,
Stephen Moese, Vice Chair, K082411