

Approved

**Unit 253 – DBAA Board of Directors Special Meeting
June 20, 2015 – 9:30-11:30 am - Bridge Club of Atlanta**

Present:

Officers: Marty Nathan, Judy Fendrick, George Powell
Unit Reps: Vicki Bell, Dick Myers, Jack Feagin, Janice Ripley and Joan Duffy
Guests: Ron Torre, Mike Kovacich, Patty Tucker and Betty Myers

Absent: Jan Noll, Josie Mitchell, Becky Butler and Roz Howell

Prior Meeting Minutes - The minutes of the May 2 and May 16 board meetings were approved.

Treasurer's Report – George presented the Treasurer's report, which was approved.

Unit 253 Incorporation and By-Laws – Marty covered the latest developments. Ed Hales volunteered some months ago to do pro bono legal work for incorporating our Unit. A couple of issues were resolved before Marty left in early June for vacation.

The last DBAA By-Laws reflect that Clayton County is part of the DBAA. In our Unit 253 proposal to ACBL, Clayton County is not included in Unit 253. Since Unit 114 By-Laws defined the DBAA area, and Unit 114 had previously removed Clayton County from the DBAA area, then Clayton County is not part of the DBAA or Unit 253.

Merging two non-profit organizations requires approval of the State Attorney General. Jack suggested we amend the existing DBAA organization's By-Laws. Marty is waiting to hear from Ed on this.

The written agreement between Units 114 and 253 to divide assets has a typo on page 2, item 9. The board approved this change.

There is an unresolved issue regarding reimbursement of free plays that were issued by Unit 114 prior to April 1.

Unit 253 Committees – Marty proposed the following committee chairs, which were approved by the board.

- **Education Committee** – Joan Duffy and Janice Ripley – co-chairs
- **Change of Rank** – Judy Fendrick, chair
- **Sportsperson of the Year** – Claudia Feagin, chair (nominated by Jack)
- **Marketing** – This chair position is still open and waiting for retirement of the person that is considered to be the best choice. Patty suggested we need a Marketing chair right away. She knows two people who have marketing backgrounds.

Action Item: *Marty and Patty will discuss potential marketing chairs after the meeting.*

Trophies – Marty indicated that there is a concern as to the location of the existing trophies that Unit 253 now has that were previously considered Unit 114 trophies. Sam has volunteered to store the trophies at his club. Trophies are now an outdated notion.

The Tournament Oversight Committee presented a proposal to the board in an e-mail on June 1, which outlined suggestions for trophy events at Atlanta Sectionals. Suggestions include events for Open Pairs, Swiss Teams, NLM Pairs, Youth Teams and Youth Pairs, and have large multi-year plaques with engraved name plates for the winners/years. It is also suggested we have a standardized logo to be used on gifts (convention card holders, pens, etc.)

George asked if we will hold an event for Georgia State Championship at one of our Sectionals each year. Jack stated it is important that any State Championship should be held in Atlanta.

Directory – Vicki Bell - No update at this time.

Newsletter – Marty – The next issue will be out in late July. Anyone who has ideas should submit their articles to Diane Strickland.

Tournaments – Jack (Regional) and Dick (Sectionals) – Jack met with the Ravinia hotel contact yesterday and is actively planning the Labor Day Regional. He is planning more visible forms of signage. He needs more workers at the Information Desk. If anyone has any interest in learning about running tournaments, he needs volunteers. He plans to have a complete speaker schedule and promote ahead of time. Patty suggested having tons of guest speakers. The tournament committee can address this.

Dick said the District 7 Tournament Operations Committee is making changes. ACBL has changed the caddy policy so that now all caddies must be 18 or older. The D7 TOC is reviewing the laws of the four states in D7 on this issue.

Action Item: *Dick will send Marty a list of caddies.*

D7 will sell credit card vouchers at the Labor Day Regional, which can be used through 2016 (possibly).

Dick reported that there was a profit of \$2,146 from the May Sectional. Nancy Watkins, DIC, saved \$2,100 on director fees compared to what was budgeted. In addition, Jack saved money by not spending on food at the hotel. \$190 was the cost of free plays for Evelyn (Sportsperson of the Year runner up) and Dick. Our table count was down at the May Sectional due to Birmingham having a Sectional that weekend.

George reported on a cost for trophies from the February Sectional in Roswell. Priscilla requested reimbursement for \$350 for trophies. Normally, the cost of trophies for the I/N group is approximately \$185. No trophies were given out at the February tournament due to being locked in storage, but some were subsequently given out at the Callaway Regional and May Sectional. Priscilla has a listing of about 70 people who qualified for a trophy at the February Sectional, but does not know how many were delivered in Callaway. She indicated she gave a credit back to Nancy Watkins of \$100 for 20 trophies that will be delivered at the November Sectional. George suggested the TC and TD need to coordinate for these types of expenses, and the TD needs to get receipts. Dick agreed that the new TC should handle this.

A suggestion was made that we consider having raffles at the tournaments. Jack suggested we need to review the Fulton County laws on raffles.

DBAA Game – George – no update.

Learn Bridge in a Day – Patty and Jack – Jack reported that Patty is the main person working on this. A new approach is being taken to target college-age and working people through social media advertising, in addition to e-mails, newsletters and word-of-mouth. Jack has already requested and received \$1,000 funding from District 7, in addition to the \$750 already budgeted for this advertising. Jack requested \$1,000 funding from Unit 253. Motion approved to provide \$1,000 funding to advertise Learn Bridge in a Day.

Patty covered some of the new ideas. They are looking to have 2-hour games instead of 3. They need local teachers and clubs to provide night and weekend opportunities for people to learn. She previously provided District 7 with a list of ideas, such as incentives for clubs that offer special games for new players. Patty is working with some professional marketing people.

Marketing efforts will need to focus on advertising LBIAD and clubs offering one night a week to have a social bridge game, recognizing that young couples need a babysitter, or alternatively, offer a mid-day game from 9:30-12:30 for mothers who drop kids at daycare. There needs to be a follow-up program to track how many people stay with bridge after LBIAD and other incentives offered to these target groups.

Unit 253 Funds Reserved for Future NABC Tournaments in Atlanta – Marty stated we will receive \$115K from Unit 114 that was designated as NABC funds, and moved that we designate \$115,414 as a reserve for future NABCs in Atlanta. Mike Kovacich pointed to the fact that two-thirds of ACBL members reside east of the Mississippi, yet NABCs have been split evenly between east and west. More recently, the Providence tournament in December did not do well. George suggested there is no rush to make a decision on this now and that we table the motion. Motion was tabled.

Elections – Marty stated there is nothing official in writing as to when our new unit is required to hold an election. He advised Sam Whitten at ACBL that we chose to initially have the board that was just elected. The board agreed that our next election will be during the first quarter of 2016, and every other year thereafter.

Discussion with Mike Kovacich – Vicki had asked Mike to attend this meeting to say a few “non-political” words. An election for District 7 Director will be held in the fall. The candidates are Mike Kovacich, Bob Heller and Chris Moll.

Mike gave a brief summary of his background with bridge. He joined the ACBL in 1964, but did not play much for 25 years – primarily just at club games. In the late 80s he started playing more often and got involved in bridge administration. He has been active in bridge administration for 25 years. He’s held positions in Unit 114, District 7, MABC, National Board of Governors (BOG), and has been the National Chair of the Board of Governors for four years. Issues and positions on issues are constantly changing. He believes there are a number of people on the Board of Governors who do positive things. In his position as Chair, he is able to offer constructive thoughts on resolution of issues. The BOG consists of a 1st and 2nd alternate from each district plus the previous ACBL presidents.

The purpose of the District Director is to hear what members want and determine if they can advocate their position.

D7 has about 13,300 members, so technically there are 133 votes. Votes are allocated to each Unit. ACBL allocates based upon the Unit’s board, so in Unit 253, our votes count 1.5, whereas other smaller Units’ votes count as 1/3 per board member. To be elected as DD, you must get at least 50% of the votes. If no one gets 50%, then one candidate is cut and then there would be another election.

Next DBAA Meeting: Saturday, August 15, 9:30 am at BCA

Motion to adjourn approved.

Respectfully submitted,
Judy Fendrick (for Jan Noll)