Unit 356 Board Meeting

April 24, 2024

Minutes

Present: Jack Shoemaker, Steve Reynolds, George Harger, Sheri Morris, David Pearlman, Ken Grafton, Suzanne Greenwood, and Tara Evans.

Meeting called to order at 10:02 AM. Minutes of the March meeting were approved.

Steve discussed District 17 issues. The Unit still does not have any 2025 signed contracts. Jack said he expects to have contracts by the May District meeting in Denver.

George provided the financial report. The Unit has about $97,000 in surplus. The April Sectional lost a minimal amount (around $300). Compared to the January Sectional, collections were down $2,000. There were 242 tables in January; 198 in April. Attendance was down Friday afternoon and Saturday.

The Unit has spent $1,200 so far this year on clubs, e.g., table fees, free plays, and food for club Unit events. So far only Northwest is submitting reimbursement for free plays. The next special events are in June – June 9 (StAC) at Northwest and an Adobe July 4 event – those will get reimbursement. The policy is to reimburse up to $300 plus table fees.

Tara reported that membership is at 887 members. 3 new, 2 renewals, 1 transfer.

Jack reviewed ACBL’s 5/5/5 program. Thus far, the Unit has earned $332 in renewal money. Sheri said she has been contacting people about renewals but not those with 0 master points – she will now contact those people. The Unit’s membership database should be updated in real time. Members should be contacted immediately on their renewal date. The Unit is also evaluated based on bringing in new memberships. Some clubs are giving guest memberships – they and the Unit should make an effort to convert these to full memberships. George is going to discuss with Joyce whether the Unit should reimburse for a full membership.

The next tournament is an Intermediate/Newcomer sectional at Northwest October 5-6. The board discussed whether table fees should be increased and/or food should be decreased and director fees for that tournament. Generally, the Unit’s goal is to break even or make a little money. A motion was made to increase table fees from $10 to $12. This motion was seconded and unanimously approved.

The Fall Sectional will be held at the Church in November. With respect to alternative venues, Jack talked to the Sheraton Hotel and Suites. Their price is $5,000 and food of $4,000 (plus a minimal room block) vs. $3,000 for church. Sheraton would help with food service, etc., vs. getting food from eegees (eegees cost is $1,500). The board discussed other alternative venues. Jack said that with respect to the Regional in February/March 2025 there is only one hotel that wants to work with us. For the January Sectional Jack will also check with Desert Diamond Casino.

The board discussed whether it made sense to hold the April 2025 Sectional. Many snowbirds will have left. Some clubs don’t want to close. ACBL has taken over management of StACs – Jack raised the possibility, as an alternative, of simply doing a Unit wide StAC game. David supported this idea. Would have to get a sanction approved by District. The board will take this issue up again at the May meeting.

The next Board meeting will be May 15.

On motion by Jack, seconded by Mike, the meeting was adjourned at 10:55 AM.

Respectfully submitted,



Michael Barry, Secretary