Unit 356 Board Meeting

May 15, 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 10:01 AM.

*Regular business*

Minutes of the April meeting was approved.

Steve had nothing to report on District 17 issues.

George provided the financial report. The Unit still has about $97,000 in surplus. $20,000 of that is in cash and must remain uninvested to provide liquidity for tournament advances. The Unit has made $2,020 on CD investments. Income is $9,800. George spoke to NW about sectional. They accepted a price increase to $12. Rent will be $600 for 2 days. The director fee will be $100 per session or $400 for the tournament.

Jack reported on membership. We are down to 849, which is consistent with this time of year.

Sheri discussed 5/5/5 program. She has gone over the list of renewals. Tara and Sheri are reaching out to the remaining persons that haven’t renewed yet. She will document what she is doing.

David reviewed upcoming Unit games — Northwest and Adobe are ready for their June games. The El Dorado club has taken September and December game slots. STaC game sanctions were discussed.

*Tournaments*

There will be two more tournaments this year. With respect to the October 5-6 NLM tournament at Northwest, Jack will get a brochure out. There will be a November 21-23 NLM regional/sectional. Tara will review whether to provide patches for that.

Jack stated that for 2025 we have no contracts in place. He has met with the church and given them our 2025 tournament dates. Because of a conflict, he has cleared moving the January tournament to Jan 9-11. Probably will want to do that at the church. The church will keep rates the same in 2025 — $3,000 for a 3-day tournament, $5,000 for a 5-day regional.

Jack discussed doing the first Spring tournament (scheduled for Feb 24-March 1) at the U of A Marriott. They have space for the period February 16-23. The cost for the space would be $8,000 $12,000 for food and plus a room block, for a seven-day tournament. We do not know if the district would allow this approach to the tournament, it would be close to end of a Phoenix tournament. Do we want a seven-day tournament and to spend that much more money? This, of course, is just a first offer/subject to negotiation. The church has also asked if it would be possible to move this tournament back a week earlier, presenting the same problem with the Phoenix tournament. The board agree that we should stick with the original plan for a February 24-March 1 tournament, at the church.

We are currently trying to find a date for other tournaments. With respect to the April 24-26 sectional, the clubs have been worried about losing revenue. The board discussed the possibility, as an alternative, of doing a Unit STaC game for this period. The revenue would be shared, with the clubs getting the table fees but ACBL sanction fees would be shared with the Unit. The Unit could consider subsidizing food. The board agree with this approach, of doing a Unit STaC game instead of a sectional tournament.

With respect to 2026, Jack noted that the Unit’s February/March regional tournament overlaps with NABC national tournament and that we will probably have to move back our regional. Steve will discuss with the district what is best option.

*Other business*

Steve discussed reinstating member appreciation day.

Jack noted that he still has un-picked-up certificates for winners of the Mini-McKinney and Ace of Clubs. He will try to deliver to the clubs.

Jack discussed need for a partnership chair for tournaments. We need a “face” for this. We will discuss this issue at our next meeting.

The next Board meeting will be Wednesday June 19th at 10:00 via Zoom.

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

Respectfully submitted,

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Michael Barry, Secretary