

Unit 487 Board Meeting
January 15, 2023

Attendees: Kristin Steinmetz, Paul Walker, Paula Koeller, Tara McMahon, Linda Rountree, Jon Gassaway, Sheri Markwardt and Dee Poujade

Board President Kristin Steinmetz called the meeting to order at 11:08 a.m.

Revision to Bylaws – Tara moved, and Paul seconded a motion that we amend the bylaws to reflect the existing precedent of voting for new board members by giving unit members the option of voting either via e-mail or by an in-person ballot at the club(s). The motion passed unanimously.

District Update

Sheri was introduced as our new District Representative. She told us that she has been involved in newcomers' games at Portland Bridge Club and hopes that she can work with the District in helping the game grow district wide.

Sheri reported that the District has discontinued publication of *The Trumpet*. A monthly e-mail "blast" will replace it, giving members the news in a more timely fashion. The money saved will be used to re-vamp the District website.

There will only be two regional tournaments this year. An option exists for "hybrid" tournaments, where open players can get silver Masterpoints.

Sheri also mentioned the introduction of the ACBL program "99-er Nightclub," which will provide short online (12 hand) games for "newcomers," followed by a hand analysis. Local clubs will have options to offer on specific days or not at all depending on their preferences. More details will be forthcoming.

Upcoming Tournaments

Paul reported that our next tournament is the Winter Sectional, January 27-29 at the Portland Bridge Club/Chess Club in the Lloyd Center.

We have booked the Chess Club (for \$100/day) for all three days, although it might not be needed on Sunday. Kristin has arranged for a cleaning crew to come earlier in the week of the tournament to clean the floors. This is estimated to cost between \$100 and \$150. He has volunteers to set up on Friday, and still needs volunteers for cleanup on Sunday.

Paul has applied for ACBL sanctions for our June 23-25 and September 8-10 tournaments.

There was some discussion about the new ACBL “Express” tournament registration and payment. Paul will confirm the process and provide a link in the upcoming reminder e-mail about the tournament for those who wish to use it. Registrations are also coming in on the PBC website, which, at this point, appears to be more “user friendly.”

Paula reported that proof of vaccination is still needed for the tournament and those who have not provided this information to PBC will need to show proof at the door. Wristbands will be issued to everyone with vaccinations on record with PBC or upon receipt of proof.

Tracing paper has been ordered to cover the windows of the Chess Club, both to provide privacy during the game and to prevent strong sunlight coming through the windows in the morning.

Nominations Committee Update – Paul and Paula reported that there are three candidates for the two positions, Carol Holman, Linda Redmond and Joanne Ruyle. All have provided “bios” which will be sent to unit members via e-mail, along with ballots. Voting can be done via e-mail or in person at PBC through 12:30 pm March 5. Further information about the process and specific start date for voting will be forthcoming.

Election Party – This will be Sunday, March 5, and will be a party and also the Annual Meeting. Paul moved and Kristin seconded a motion to charge \$12/person, which will go to PBC for providing boards, directors, etc. A lunch will be provided using Unit funds. Kristin will produce an agenda, which will include time to count ballots and introduce new Board Members.

Website Update – Kristin reported that Jennifer Samuel has volunteered to take over the Unit website. Ray Robert will train her and then be finished with his service to the board.

Volunteer Update – Kristin reported that the list of volunteers that she has recruited is in Google Docs so people needing volunteers for various functions can check it out.

Marketing/Education (Kristen) –

It was announced that the board will take over the Sunday afternoon social bridge play at Portland Bridge Club so it will become free at some near future date. We will use this game as a way to offer a place for new people that we advertise to and for our outside class students (community centers, etc.) to have somewhere to come to check out the club.

Financial Aid Fund: Kristin proposed a financial aid fund she has been envisioning for people both to have access to bridge classes and those who might need some help with free plays that are already bridge community members. The PBC directors have identified several players who are unable to afford games on occasion and have allowed them free play. The Unit would like to donate some money for financial aid to both PBC and the Ace of clubs to help players who are having financial difficulties. Kristin and Linda will work on parameters, and these will be discussed at a future meeting.

ACBL Advertising Fund: Kristin proposed using Unit money to put advertisements in local newspapers for beginning bridge classes. The ACBL is offering to help pay for advertising if it targets new bridge players. It was thought that the ***Oregonian*** and ***Willamette Week***, as well as neighborhood weekly papers would be good places to have ads.

Additional Teaching Opportunities: Several places have expressed an interest in having bridge classes, including Friendly House, Southwest Community Center, Northeast Community Center, Happy Valley Community Center and several senior living facilities. Kristin, Paula and Linda will be following up to start scheduling potential dates to offer classes now that we have some volunteers. Dave Brower has offered to provide training for interested teachers and Linda and Paula are happy to have people attend their classes to see their approach to teaching beginning bridge.

Treasurer Report

Paul reported that Unit 487 remains in good shape financially. Financial statements for the last month and a graph showing our CD balances are in a shared drive in google documents.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:00 pm.

Dee Poujade, Secretary

Assisted by Paula Koeller