

## Unit 163 Board Meeting

February 10, 2024, via zoom

The meeting of the Board of Directors of Unit 163 of the ACBL convened on February 10, 2024, via Zoom. Members present: Carol Panzer, President; Melissa Heston, Vice-President; Vickki Shelley, Tournament Coordinator; Keith Sutherland, Martha Peterson, Nancy Klein, Debra Woodhouse, Lynda Kuehn, Maureen Busta, Secretary.

Sending regrets: Ralph Anderson

President Carol Panzer called the meeting to order at 10:35 AM

Nancy Klein moved that the agenda be approved. Lynda Kuehn seconded; motion passed.

Keith moved that the minutes from December 9<sup>th</sup>, 2023, be approved. Deb Woodhouse seconded; motion passed.

Keith moved that the Treasurer's report be approved. Nancy seconded. Keith would like the income and expenses listed separately for the Tournaments. Motion passed. The Balance is \$24,190.30.

Tournament Coordinator, Vickki Shelley, provided the following report:

- The fliers for all the Unit 163 Tournaments are either all approved or in the final stages.
- Copies of the fliers will all be available at the Mt. Pleasant Tournament: 200 fliers for the Waterloo tournament, 100 fliers for the Hills Tournament, and 50 for each of the Dubuque and Davenport Tournaments. The Left-over fliers will be forwarded to the next Tournament. An announcement should be made at each Tournament that if anyone is going to a Tournament outside of Unit 163, they are asked to take fliers with them.
- The Tournament guide is used but the Tournament Committee at each site decides what they want. The Tournament guide will be used to oversee each Tournament.
- Incentives for 0-20 or 0-100 MPs need to be considered.
- It was decided not to develop a list of the Top 25 Tournament players in the Unit. An email will be sent out before each Tournament with links to the Mini McKinney and Ace of Clubs standings.
- The Tournament Guide will be checked to determine what is provided for Hospitality or Hall rent for Tournaments. The Tournament Guide will be reviewed for Rent and Hospitality fees. The Unit picks up all costs for any losses incurred in a Tournament.

Priorities and individual responsibilities were discussed for 2024:

- a) Martha Peterson and Keith Sutherland will work with Bonnie Stettler to create a budget for 2024. It will include sources of income from ACBL, typical income from Tournaments and expenses for the year. Keith recommended that the Unit have two years of annual expenses set aside.
- b) Martha Peterson and Deb Woodhouse will work on ideas/projects to support and encourage new and existing members. It was suggested that all the work and donations from Unit 163 members be recognized. Providing free play at Tournaments seemed problematic. The Hills Tournament providing free lunch and a free afternoon session was recommended. A survey was recommended to determine why local members do not attend Tournaments. Determining what other clubs are doing who are increasing memberships may provide input for increasing Unit 163 memberships. ACBL should be able to tell us what others are doing. It was suggested that perhaps spending more time on growing the Clubs and promoting local clubs instead of Tournament play would be better.
- c) Carol, Lynda, and Vickki will continue to work on the unit education program. John and Carol decided that rather than developing a course using the ACBL materials, the course on ACBL that is currently

offered for \$99 will be promoted. The Unit may want to provide a rebate to take the course if there is evidence that the player is spending a given amount of time playing in the local clubs. The Club managers are asked to support those taking the course by perhaps setting aside tables for the beginning player. Bridge Whiz is an online program recommended for school age children. Carol will send the link to everyone (<https://bridgewhiz.org/>). The membership list is available for all Club Managers and members of the Board. How many players are playing online regularly? It was advised that perhaps checking the Membership list for active members who are not playing in the local club may mean those that are only playing online.

- d) Nancy will continue to work on the set communications program with new and existing members. Nancy will send a card to all new members welcoming them and providing upcoming tournament information and login information for ACBL.
- e) Volunteers were requested to handle disciplinary issues as they arise. A Recorder, Disciplinary Chair and an Appellate chair are needed. Maureen volunteered to create a document for review which would include the Zero tolerance policy as well as other information other Clubs use.

10. Annual Awards ceremony – Saturday, August 17<sup>th</sup>, 2024, Hills tournament. It was recommended the Awards ceremony be held between events on Saturday at the Hills Tournament. A lunch for approximately \$5 will be provided by the Unit. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Session in the afternoon will be free for Unit 163 members to recognize the volunteerism and donations of the Unit members. NOTE: A new category needs to be added to the Awards ceremony for Virtual Ace of Clubs.

A meeting will be set up for 4 weeks. Tentative agenda items include:

- 1) The 2024 Budget will be presented for review.
- 2) The Awards Tournament will be finalized. This will include lunch info.
- 3) Nancy will develop the communications card for new players.
- 4) Other

The meeting was adjourned at 11:50 am.

Respectfully submitted.

Maureen Busta