

CORNHUSKER UNIT 241 BOARD OF DIRECTORS
SATURDAY, MARCH 7, 2015, 9:AM
OMAHA BRIDGE STUDIO, OMAHA, NEBRASKA

The following members were present: Trudy Woksa, Sharon Emery, Mel Patterson, Johnathan Cohn, Ken McNary, Gil Kreul, and Mitzi Jahn. Absent members: Greg Ruhe. Guest Attendance: Dee Miller

The president called the meeting to order at 9:30 am.

Johnathan began the meeting stating that he would use a review of position responsibilities as the agenda for the meeting.

The minutes of the prior meeting were not available for review.

Awards Party Report

Johnathan reported that the annual Unit's Awards Party will be Sunday April 26, at 1 pm at the Omaha Bridge Studio. The cost is \$25 per person. Jim Nash has been hired as the Director for the event. The tentative deadline for sign-up registration is Friday April 19th. After the first session of bridge a reception will follow around 4:30 pm where drinks will be available. The Access 66 catered food buffet will open at 5pm. The presentation of Awards will follow the meal. A second session of bridge will then follow the presentation.

The rental fee of the Studio is \$200. A professional cleaning company has been hired to clean prior to the event and after the event. Darlene Rischling has volunteered to be at the Studio for the pre-clean and there will need to be a member at the Studio for the post-event cleaning.

Trudy has created the advertising posters and is in the process of displaying them at each of the Clubs. She also plans to do table advertising. Several directors have started to announce the event at their games. Johnathan has called and invited the Award recipients and ordered their medals. Jim Nash will be calling the players to verify the number of bridge sessions they signed up to play for the event. Mel will provide Johnathan the names of Unit members who passed away in 2014.

Sharon suggested that the entertainment provided in previous years had seemed to be enjoyable and increased attendance. She then suggested that Darryl Draper be contacted for his availability. Johnathan agreed to contact Darryl.

GNT and NAP

Johnathan reported that the District GNT qualification event is April 10th and 11th. He is unaware of any qualified Unit teams planning to attend.

Don Slotter and Freda Thornbrough will be attending the NABC March 12-22, 2015 as the District 14 NAP qualifiers.

The next Unit NAP qualifying games for this year will be coming soon.

Unit Mentoring Program

Johnathan presented the redesign of the Unit's Mentoring Program. Players will register as a partnership pair and have an assigned Mentor to discuss bidding, hand play, and defense after the game. The partnership pair or Mentees must be willing to play in the open games that their assigned Mentor is currently playing in so that the discussion can begin immediately after the game. The Mentees and

Mentor would meet for the post-game discussion 3-4 times over 3 months. The tentative starting time for this Program is late May or early June. Johnathan passed a draft of the sign-up sheet and a participant informational letter that could be utilized for the Program. Mitzi Jahn moved to accept the proposed design of the Mentoring Program. The motion was carried with all in favor.

299er Sectional Tournament (Rising Stars Tournament)

Trudy and Greg are the co-chairs for this event. The 299er Tournament will be Sept. 11th and 12th and hosted by The House of Cards. Jim Nash will be the Director in charge. Mel has already applied for the sanction for the event and is awaiting notification. Trudy will be handling publicity for the Unit and plans to update the flyers from last year's tournament. She also plans to coordinate the mailings and distribution of flyers as soon as possible.

The Longest Day Event

Sharon has met with members of the local Alzheimer's Association to discuss the concerns from last year. The local organization is now an affiliate of the National Alzheimer's Association and is highly motivated to assist and support our participation of this charitable event. Sharon presented the proposed plan to have the event on Sat. June 20th due to Father's Day on Sun. June 21st. Sharon has been informed that 60% of the money donated will stay in Nebraska. Ruth Scott has agreed to allow the use of the Omaha Bridge Studio for the all day events. Mitzi agreed to check with the House of Cards owners regarding their interest in hosting any of The Longest Day events. Sharon and Ken agreed to co-chair the event. Ken McNary moved to accept the Unit's sponsoring of The Longest Day event. The motion carried with all in favor.

February Sectional Tournament

Mel along with other members reported that most of the feedback received had been positive. Mel and Gil were praised for their hard work and the success of the tournament. There were 5 more tables than 2014. There is currently a projected profit of \$45.75. Mel reported that the only negative feedback received was that pictures were not taken of session winners. The cost associated with pictures taken from the previous tournaments was discussed. One proposed plan would be to have the pictures posted on the Unit web site to decrease the cost. Mel also suggested using 2 caddies on Sun. instead of 3 to help defray costs. The duplication of boards was discussed and Mel reported that the Eight Is Enough team event had paid for and started the event with duplicated boards. However due to an error the duplicated boards could not be used. Current plans are to no longer use duplimated boards for Sectional team events until more formalized planning and training has been established. Jonathan agreed to contact Larry Brobst to coordinate both Sectional and Regional sanctions for 2018 and the regulations governing the use of one director due to the size of our Sectional tournaments.

The charged beverage expense continues to be an issue. The method used to obtain beverage sponsorships was discussed. Ken pointed out that the expenses associated with the tournament are fairly constant baring no rate increases and that the only means to continue to avoid profit loss would be to increase entry fees or attendance numbers. After lengthy discussion, Johnathan moved that entry fees be increased to \$9.00 per session. The motion carried with all in favor.

Regional Tournament

Johnathan reported that he had been contacted by the Lincoln co-hosting Unit 184 that they may be interested in providing the duplicating for the 2015 Regional. They were asking questions about the financial costs associated with this service. Jonathan indicated there would be more information coming on this proposal.

Update of Unit 241 By-Laws

Mitzi reported that she had no information from Robley on her progress in updating the current By-Laws. Mitzi and Johnathan will coordinate obtaining the current By-Laws for distribution to members and the minutes from the last meeting. There was also member discussion with recommendation to add the Board Meeting minutes to the Unit web site

Financial Report

Ken provided copies of the current Profit and Loss by Class and Balance Sheet to each member. Ken indicated that the Unit's total current assets as of March 7th, 2015 at \$34,085.18. This includes a preliminary net income of \$45.45 from the Feb. Sectional and the \$2500.00 security deposit on the rental space for the Regional. Johnathan questioned the duplimate board production expense and the number of cases required for the Feb. Sectional. Johnathan plans to verify the total number of cases and associated costs.

Duplimate Process at the Clubs

Johnathan reported that Duplimate Manager Jeff Buckwalter indicates that the process is going well at The House of Cards under Thom Pigaga as the Duplimate Coordinator. The Omaha Bridge Studio does not have an identified Duplimate Coordinator which necessitates multiple phone calls from different game directors to Jeff. He has informed them to designate their Duplimate Coordinator as indicated in the agreement to facilitate the process.

The clubs replaced their playing cards prior to the Sectional as per the agreement. The Unit will be replacing the playing cards prior to the Regional as per the agreement.

Mitzi requested that the old cards be donated to various organizations rather than tossed away. She will identify and deliver the cards to these locations.

Equipment Purchasing

The Omaha Bridge Studio has not yet requested a new printer. Johnathan discussed the various needs of the Unit to purchase a computer in the future. Sharon moved that the Unit make this purchase. The motion carried with 4 in favor and 3 opposed.

There are currently 20 electronic scoring pads at the HOC and all will be utilized at the Awards Party.

Unit Web Site

Justin has reported that the delay in posting the Sectional results came from the Director in Charge. There was discussion of adding a link for the schedule of bridge lessons to the site. Jonathan will discuss this with Webmaster Justin Graver.

Bridge in Schools

Ken McNary indicated that he believes the only program for Bridge in Schools is at Mercy High School and is taught by G.K. and Rebecca Rhodes.

The board members feel that information and clarification of the Unit's responsibilities with the current grant was needed. Mitzi agreed to contact former Unit President Darlene Rischling for additional information and inform the members.

Publicity

Sharon informed members that Mike Kelly from the Omaha World Herald plans to write an article about Omaha Bridge and the associated mental benefits in an aging population.

The next meeting will be May 16th, 2015 at 9:30 am. Location to be determined.

The meeting adjourned at 11:40 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Mitzi Jahn
Unit 241 Secretary
3-08-2015