

CORNHUSKER UNIT 241 BOARD OF DIRECTORS
SATURDAY, MAY 16, 2015 9:30 a.m.
OMAHA BRIDGE STUDIO, OMAHA, NEBRASKA

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

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

The minutes from the Unit Board meeting on Saturday March 7, 2015 were approved. Johnathan made a motion that the Board minutes be sent directly to each member when available for review rather than him for initial review. The motion carried with all in favor.

Cornhusker Unit #241 Bylaws Update

Mitzi presented a copy of the current Bylaws dated April 30, 2011 along with several suggestions from a former Board member recommending amendments to the Bylaws. The recommendations were to address the use of both proxy and electronic devices for members to vote and to establish term limits for Board members. The recommendation also suggested listing Robert's Rules of Order as the parliamentary authority. Cookie related her desire that the Chair of the Regional Tournament not be a Board Member position. After brief discussion, amendments and changes to the Bylaws was Tabled for future discussion after members have time to review the current Bylaws.

Regional Tournament

Cookie described the current financial process for the Regional Tournament expenditures and accounting. She indicated that the current process involves unnecessary steps and does not facilitate timely bill payment. Cookie presented a proposal requesting the Board to approve a separate checking account for the Nebraska Regional and seed money of \$5000.00 to cover the bills prior to the Regional. The proposal also included that the Regional Finance Chairman Elise Parish would report directly to the Board Treasurer Ken McNary. After discussion, Cookie made a motion for a separate bank account for the Nebraska Regional to include an initial deposit of \$5000.00 and for the Regional Finance Chairman to report directly to the Board's Treasurer. The motion carried with all in favor.

Cookie shared her concerns regarding the possible decrease in attendance for the Regional due to the dates of the Chicago NABC and St. Louis Regional. She also reported that room reservations are down by 330. She plans to continue to monitor and watch costs accordingly.

Financial Report

Ken reported that the Unit has a current balance of \$31,058.00 and a cash balance of \$28,558.39. Ken also reported a loss of \$704.00 for the Awards Banquet. This was a lower than expected loss. He also indicated that the final accounting of the February Sectional was a \$58.00 loss. There is a current negative balance of \$5175.89 for the upcoming Regional due the required deposits as we move forward.

Johnathan reported that the Board's yearly financial audit is due. Several bridge players names were mentioned who could perform the audit. Johnathan plans to contact them and have the audit completed prior to the next board meeting.

Sectional Tournament

No report.

Membership Report

Board members continue to get the In/Out reports and membership updates from Mel via e-mail. Johnathan plans to check with Mel about making welcoming phone calls to the identified new members.

299 Sectional Tournament (Rising Stars Tournament)

Sanction has been completed. The tournament will be Sept. 11th and 12th at the House of Cards.

Longest Day Event (Alzheimer's Fund Raiser)

Sharon reported that this year's event will be Sat. June 19th at the Omaha Bridge Studio. Bridge playing will begin at 7 a.m. and end around 8 p.m. Each session of bridge for the event will be \$7.00. Sharon indicated that as of today's date, \$1975.00 had already been received.

Sharon presented a written report listing the specific event, starting times, and the names of the volunteers involved in planning and hosting the event. Sue Himel is Chairman of the games. The volunteer directors are Johnathan Cohn at the 7 a.m. open game, Duane Hilbers at the 12 noon Eight Is Enough team game and Ken McNary at the 4:45 p.m. open game. Sharon also had made a sign-up board for the events. Sharon will call the Studio's owner for permission to place the event sign-up board. Johnathan clarified that the money raised will go to the National Alzheimer's Assn. and then be allocated back to the local Alzheimer's Assn.

Sharon verified that the House of Cards is not participating this year since they do a fund raiser for the Leukemia Foundation. Johnathan plans to check with the House of Cards owners about placing a donation box and advertising posters at their club since this is a Unit sponsored event.

Cookie suggested that the Unit's Mentoring program and future over/under games be verbally advertised at the Eight Is Enough team game to reach the targeted players.

Awards Party Review

Johnathan reported that there were two less tables this year with 62 people attending. Mitzi indicated that she had received positive feedback about the party and especially the food quality. Johnathan shared his ideas for a different format next year to improved attendance and lower costs. He believes the same money could be spent and make the event free for players. This could include having pizza, snacks and a one session team event.

GNT/NAP

Johnathan was congratulated for his team's success in Minnesota and his team representing the District at the NABC in Chicago.

Johnathan and Andrew Clements will be going to the District meeting next Sat. May 23, 2015 in Minnesota. He is aware of one proposed change to allow one game in each Unit's Sectional to be a Grass Roots Funded game to allow the additional fees to go to the District to help pay for GNP and NAP funding. Qualifying team games will begin later this year in October. Johnathan explained the mileage and per diem that the Unit pays for attending the District meetings. Johnathan made a motion that he be reimbursed for last year's mileage and per diem along with this year's. Motion carried with all in favor.

Unit Mentoring Program

Johnathan and Sharon reported that the format for the program continues to be the same as previously approved at the last Board meeting. Playing partnerships with less than 200 masterpoints or mentees would be assigned a mentor. The pair of mentees will play together in a mutually agreed upon open game that their mentor is also playing with one of their own regular partners. Ideally this open game would be using hand records. At the end of the game the mentor and mentee pair will meet for 15-20 minutes to discuss bidding, defending, and declarer play for selected hands. This post-game discussion would occur 3 or 4 times over 3 months. Johnathan made a motion to mail the participant informational letters and sign-up sheet to active members (played in the last 2 years) with less than 200 masterpoints. Motion carried with all in favor. Sign-up forms will also be available at the Longest Day Event.

Club Duplimate Process

Johnathan reported that there had been some confusion after miscommunication from the previous copier company regarding the maintenance agreement. The printers now belong to the clubs and the maintenance service plan has ended. Ken reported that there had been a \$200.00 refund from the company which he had received. Johnathan indicates that the process continues to go well at the House of Cards but Jeff Buckwalter continues to receive calls from the Studio where there is no designated Duplimate Coordinator. Johnathan plans to follow-up with this problem.

Johnathan also would like to use the Bridge Mates for the Unit's Longest Day Event and other Unit sponsored events. The Unit owns 20 of these scoring devices. This will require the purchase of a second server costing \$200.00. Johnathan made the Motion of purchasing a second server for \$200.00. Motion carried with all in favor.

Mitzi related that some of the Bridge Mates in use at the House of Cards are beginning to show wear with their usage. She plans to discuss with the HOC manager about the possibility of rotating the machines for more even wearing of the buttons.

Bridge In Schools

Mitzi and Johnathan reported that they had talked with Darlene Rischling for information about the Bridge In Schools Program. She indicated that she had previously written the grants and that they are based on the school year. She voiced her concerns about the accountability of the money along with the

provisions outlined in the grant. Cookie indicated that she believed that there would be about \$500.00 in grant money available this year. The questionable success of this Program was then discussed. She presented other options for providing bridge education such as classes and over/under games. Mitzi agreed to talk with Rebecca and G.K. Rhoades and obtain further information regarding the success of the current Program and the accountability concerns. Ken agreed to talk with Elise Parish and get the specific details on the use of the previous and current grant money.

Publicity and Volunteers

Several members related the need for more volunteers and the untapped talents that exist within the Unit's playing members. The design of ad hoc committees and volunteers was discussed. Specific job postings for volunteer positions versus a list of players identifying their interests and skills was discussed. Johnathan requested that the Board members think about specific volunteer positions for discussion at the next meeting. Johnathan stated he would talk with Mel about the volunteers and the specific jobs requirements for the Unit's tournaments. The volunteers needed to call for advertising space for the next Membership Roster was discussed. Several names were mentioned who had done this in the past

Miscellaneous

Johnathan related that the Westside Community Center would no longer be available for the Sectionals after the Unit's 2016 Valentine Sectional. Johnathan has already started looking for available space for the 2016 Fall Sectional. Space requirements would be approx. 1500 sq. ft. along with 160 chairs. The budget for this rental space is \$1500.00. Sharon and Cookie agreed to make calls to assist in finding a new location. It was also suggested that Johnathan call Mary Bernstein for any recommendations.

Johnathan discussed his ideas and changes to continue the Extended Team Games later this year. He is considering a shortened version with a Saturday qualifying day and Sunday finals day. He will provide more information on this event at a later date.

The next meeting will be June 27th at 9:30 a.m. Location to be determined.

The meeting adjourned at 9:45 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mitzi Jahn
Unit 241 Secretary

Cookie's Regional Checking Account Proposal

Proposal: Request the Unit Board approve a separate checking account (like BIS) for the Nebraska Regional
Rationale:

- Have one person responsible for paying and checking billing--the Regional finance chairman. This avoids sending bills from Regional finance chairman to Unit Treasurer back to Regional finance chairman, etc.
- Bills will be paid on a more timely basis. Timely payment is crucial since we ask for special considerations from vendors, and to keep our discounts, payment must be "asap!"
- Credit with Caesar's must be arranged each year. They give us advanced credit (if not approved, we would have to pay the MAC's charges in advance of the Regional).
- Hotel rebates are also arranged with Chair of Regional and Regional finance chairman, one less step to filter the money.
- Dealing with Lincoln: relationships are established and easier to be maintained.

To set up a separate Regional checking account requires:

- Unit Board approval, since the Unit's tax ID number would be used for the account. The checks would say "Nebraska Regional Bridge Tournament."

Seed money of about \$5000 for payment of any bills due prior to the Regional.