

MINUTES OF THE SALT LAKE CITY MEETING OF THE DISTRICT 18 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

A regular meeting of the District 18 Board of Directors was held in Salt Lake City, Utah on May 13-14, 1977. Board members present were Vice-President Paul Nelson, Phyllis Burke, Wayne Bradshaw, Robin MacNab and Jerry Fleming. Absent members were Linda Thierman, Stan Abrams and Ken McGuirl. Paul Nelson presided over the meeting due to the absence of Linda Thierman. Wayne Bradshaw of Ogden was seated as the new Utah representative. The minutes of the last meeting, held at Salt Lake during the 1976 nationals, were read and approved. Stan Abrams' absence, and the lack of any letter from him expressing his feelings was discussed. It was noted by Paul Nelson that the District bylaws have no specific provision regarding the number of meetings a board member may miss with no excuse before he can be replaced. Paul Nelson will draw up an amendment to the bylaws dealing with this subject and present it to the Board at the next meeting. For the present, it was decided that Linda Thierman should write a letter to Dr. Abrams regarding his continued interest in the District Board, with the idea that she point out the possibility of appointing a replacement with the advice of the presidents of the North and South Saskatchewan Units. A motion to that effect was made by Robin MacNab and seconded by Phyllis Burke. Carried.

Still discussing subjects brought up during the reading of the minutes, the matter of our participation in the Western conference was raised. Phyllis Burke asked specifically what we get from the Western conference, and what does it cost us. It was pointed out that we pay \$1.45 per table for each table in attendance at each of our regional tournaments. In addition, news in the Forum costs us \$150.00 per page, and this page cost includes space used for tournament advertizing. Total cost to the District, when we have three regionals in a year, thus runs between \$7500.00 and \$10000.00 per year. For this we get the Forum sent to each household in the District, we receive up to \$200.00 per regional for Western Conference novice or junior games (\$10.00 per table), we receive \$.25 per table per regional to help defray the cost of producing the regional daily bulletin, we receive hospitality assistance when our District hosts a national (\$7500.00 for Salt Lake last year), and we occasionally receive an excess profit rebate from the conference. On the latter point we received over ~~\$2500.00~~ \$2500.00 last year, and we expect to receive over \$1000.00 this year. It was further pointed out that this year's figure is less because we had only two regionals last year. At that point the matter was tabled.

The financial report was read, discussed and approved. Treasurer Jerry Fleming reported that our current bank balance is \$ 3713.39, with \$ 1479.35 in the US account and \$2234.04 in the Canadian account. Jerry pointed out that this balance reflects funds advanced to the Salt Lake City, Calgary and Billings regionals, and that without these advances, the District balance would be \$ 6387.53. This latter figure more nearly represents the present net worth of the District. It was stated that this latter balance, with the almost \$2000.00 due from the Western Conference and the Salt Lake Unit, would mean that our current balance would be close to the balance in District accounts at this time last year.

Robin MacNab mentioned that Salt Lake City could be the possible host for another nationals either in the Spring of 1983 or the Fall of 1984. He said that Hawaii was also going to bid for the 1983 nationals, so he moved, and Jerry Fleming seconded, that the District 18 Board of directors bid for the fall nationals of 1984, to be held in Salt Lake City. The motion carried unanimously.

Jerry Fleming announced that he will be moving to New Mexico, out of District 18, before the end of the summer, and that he would have to be replaced as Montana representative on the District 18 Board of Directors, that a new District Secretary-Treasurer would have to be appointed, and that a new District Grand National coordinator would have to be chosen. He volunteered to continue as Secretary-Treasurer until the Billings meeting of

the District Board, but stated that a new Grand National coordinator should be appointed immediately, as much work is done on this event during the summer. It was decided that the latter would be discussed when the subject of Grand Nationals is discussed later in the meeting.

The first subject under old business was the matter of setting dates for the 1979 regionals. It was moved by Phyllis Burke and seconded by Wayne Bradshaw that the Helena regional be held from May 14-20, 1979; that the Calgary regional be ~~the~~ scheduled for July 9-15, 1979; and that the Salt Lake City regional be set for September 24-30, 1979. Carried.

Tentative sites for 1980 regionals are Boise in the spring, Edmonton in the summer and Saskatoon in the fall. It was noted that any Unit in the District is technically eligible to bid for any of the District's regionals, and any Unit desiring to bid for a 1980 tournament must do so in writing before the end of 1977.

It was moved by Robin MacNab and seconded by Phyllis Burke that the next regularly scheduled meeting of the District 18 Board of directors be held during the weekend of the Billings regional. It was further moved that the general membership meeting also be held in Billings. Times and locations will be made known later. Carried. Robin moved, and Phyllis seconded, that Board members in attendance at Calgary shall constitute an executive committee for the purpose of transacting any business that must be handled ~~the~~ there. This motion also passed.

Jerry Fleming reported that Carol Dibblee, District charity chairperson, had asked that it be brought to the attention of the District Board that District 18 could have a Districtwide charity game, with the proceeds going to the National ACBL charity fund recipient. It was pointed out that for this year at least, it might be more advisable to ~~schedule~~ and hold the District Fund game, to build District treasury reserves up to acceptable levels. Robin moved, and Phyllis seconded, that District 18 schedule a Districtwide fund game in 1977, and defer holding a Districtwide charity game until such time as District reserves are sufficient. Carried.

It was moved and seconded that each District board member in attendance be reimbursed for two nights' hotel cost and be paid two days' per diem. Standard hotel rates at this tournament are \$31.32 per night, and per diem is \$16.50, making a total of \$95.64 per member. Carried.

At this point, the meeting was adjourned until 9:00 AM on Saturday morning.

Paul Nelson reconvened the District 18 Board of Directors meeting at 9:00 AM on May 14, 1977. The above named board members were all again present. Phil Wood was present for most of the Friday meeting and for the first 45 minutes of the Saturday meeting. The first order of business was a discussion of entry fees to be charged at future

regionals. Phil Wood stated that rents charged by hotels to hold regionals is skyrocketing. He said that only in Montana, at present, are rents reasonable; pointing out that for Billings this Fall that no rent will be charged for space. It was moved and seconded that in the future, space rental costs will be the primary criteria for determining entry fees. Carried. It was decided that entry fees for Calgary this summer will be \$4.00 per person per session, and that in Billings the entry fee will remain at \$3.50. It was the consensus of the Board that the players would not object to differing entry fees, as the alternative would be a standard entry fee at the higher number.

Tom Quinlan, editor of the Contract Bridge Forum, was welcomed to the meeting to discuss Forum deadline dates. Tom stated that the Deadline has been moved back two weeks gradually over the last six months, but this has been completed. He said that if all news in the future is mailed by the 15th of the month, that it would definitely arrive in time for inclusion in the next Forum. Tom was also questioned regarding the Western conference rebate formula. He stated that any excess of funds taken in is returned to the Districts on a formula based on regional play within each District.

The Grand Nationals were the next item of business. Jerry Fleming reported that the 1976-1977 event was the most successful ever held in District 18. He said that participation in the Grand National and Sub Masters events rose from 299 teams last year to 421 this year. He attributed much of the increase to the popularity of the Swiss qualifying round and to the fact that cities away from Unit centers were able to host their own qualifying rounds. He said that there are complaints, and that many of them centered around breaking ties and the Saturday morning session in the intermediate round. He suggested some possible changes to the format, and the District board, after discussion of each, recommended the following changes to the 1976-1977 format - leaving the rest of that format intact. 1) All qualifying sites entering 10 or more teams will conduct an eight match Swiss, each match being seven boards in length. Last year, a site had to have 14 or more entrants to have eight matches. 2) Intermediate rounds will schedule two matches on Saturday and three on Sunday, rather than three on Saturday as was the case last year. 3) Entry deadline date will be the date of the game in each qualifying site, and each Unit may schedule its qualifying date, with the stipulation that it must be held between September 15, 1977 and December 15, 1977. Teams finishing lower than first in their qualifying round will not know whether they have qualified for the intermediate round until after all qualifying rounds in the District have been completed. They will know before January 1, 1978, however. 4) 128 teams, rather than 64, will qualify for the intermediate round. There will be 16 intermediate round games, and the winner of each will advance to the District finals.

Jerry Fleming pointed out that negotiations are underway between the Great Falls and Billings units regarding the possibility of their switching sectional dates. He stated that if this is accomplished, that it could benefit both the District and the Great Falls unit to schedule the District Grand National finals in conjunction with their sectionals. As the Shelby tournament is scheduled for April 7-9, 1978, it was suggested that the Grand National finals be tentatively scheduled for the weekend of April 28-30, 1978. This would be whether or not an acceptable arrangement can be made with the Great Falls unit.

Robin MacNab moved, and Wayne Bradshaw seconded, that the District express its appreciation to Jerry Fleming for all the work he has done on the District Board in the last four years, especially in regards to the Grand Nationals. Carried.

Phyllis Burke moved, and Wayne Bradshaw seconded, that Marie Jolley of 102 Fleecer Drive in Butte Montana be named the 1977-1978 District 18 Grand National coordinator. It was pointed out that her interest in bridge spans many years, that she is a club owner, that she has been responsible for bringing many new people into bridge, that she is one of the newer District sectional directors, and that she is interested in both the Grand National teams and in District bridge affairs. Jerry Fleming, past coordinator of the Grand National teams, heartily approved this choice. Carried unanimously.

The secretary was instructed to notify all units of the fact that they can bid for 1980 regionals.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:45 AM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jerry Fleming

Jerry Fleming, Secretary
District 18, ACBL