

**MINUTES OF THE BOARD  
OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
OF ACBL UNIT 144**

A regular meeting of the Board of Directors of Unit 144 was held on Friday, March 30, 2018, at the M.A. Lightman Bridge Club. The meeting was called to order at 2:00 p.m. by Judy Knox.

**I. QUOROM**

A quorum was present based on the following members of the Board: Tom Ebers, Barbara Johnson, Judy Knox, Tolliver McKinney, Linda Sherrell, Lee Smart, and Bob Williams.

The following actions were taken by appropriate motions duly made, seconded, and adopted by the majority vote of the Unit 144 Board of Directors.

**II. ITEMS DISCUSSED**

**A. TREASURER'S REPORT – Lee Smart**

There was a general discussion of the fact that the September 2017 Regional Tournament in Tunica did not show a very big profit as it has done in the past. Suggested financial changes were:

1. Reduce hospitality, perhaps by not having coffee/tea all day. We will have coffee and pastries in the morning only. The food is way too expensive to try and have a meal for the players.
2. Lee Smart suggested that we raise the nightly hotel rate from \$59 to \$69 and then give players a \$10 chit for refreshments.
3. In addition, Ed Davis said we could use the leftover mugs from last year to give as top prizes.

**B. TUNICA REGIONAL TOURNAMENT**

Judy announced that there would be no games held in the hallways at the 2018 tournament, with greater use of the theater area for games. Also, new session times will be 9:30 AM and 2:00 PM.

**C. AWARDS BANQUET**

Joyce Stone will be directing the Awards Banquet game on Friday evening, April 27th. The food will be catered by Moe's and will be coordinated by Lee Smart and Tom Ebers. Desserts will be provided by Barbara Johnson and Linda Sherrell. Tom will purchase the tequila for the margaritas, plus wine and beer.

Lee Smart has been coordinating the sale of raffle tickets for a one-night stay and two free buffets, provided by Gold Strike Casino and Hotel. The drawing will take place just before the Awards Banquet game.

#### D. BRIDGE EDUCATION

Judy Knox will begin a new bridge course on Friday, May 4<sup>th</sup>, from 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM at Lightman. This is the first of ten lessons at a cost of \$10 each.

Linda announced that the Summer Bridge Camp advertisements are already running. In addition, there was some discussion of working with local universities to promote bridge clubs and classes in those institutions.

#### E. NABC

There was a lengthy discussion regarding fundraising for the March 2019 National Tournament here in Memphis. Bob Williams and Lee Smart met with the head of Independent Bank for a possible paid endorsement. Bob also said that Southland Casino is considering sponsorship of up to \$20,000; and he should know more about that after the weekend. Other businesses and individuals being solicited include: Bob Sweeney, Al Siebert, FedEx, Graceland, Rock & Soul Museum, Sun Studios, First Tennessee Bank, Renasant Bank, Linda Pelts, Backbeat Tours, Richard Oshlag, M.A. Lightman Bridge Center, J. Davis, Judy Short, V.T. Gala, and Gina Jolly.

Lee Smart announced that, thus far, we have commitments of \$5,900 for sponsorship of various games/events. This includes the \$800 raised in memory of Sandra Nott.

There are still quite a few openings for individual sponsorships at the following rates:

\$100 - Intermediate/Novice games

\$200 – Single Open games

\$300 – 2-session team events

\$500 – 4-session team events

\$1,000 – An entire day of the tournament

Considerable effort will be made toward having specific games attended/sponsored by Intermediates/Novices from large bridge groups within the region. These would include Jackson, MS; Hot Springs Village, AR; Birmingham, AL; and Huntsville, AL. Bob Williams, the Memphis NABC Chair said that particular emphasis will be placed on hospitality and special events for all I/N players. It was noted how important it is to have a welcoming, stand-alone area for Intermediate/Novice games. Recent NABCs in San Diego and Toronto were very successful in this regard, while Kansas City and Philadelphia were not.

**F. NATE SILVERSTEIN SECTIONAL TOURNAMENT**

There was a discussion of whether or not to hold the Nate Silverstein Sectional Tournament next January, in light of the fact that the NABC in Memphis is in March of 2019. A motion by Barbara Johnson to go ahead and hold the sectional tournament in January of 2019 was seconded and passed. A motion was made by Judy Knox to hold the 2019 Nate Silverstein Tournament at the Hilton Garden Inn, owned by V.T. Gala. The motion passed. We will consider holding the Sky Rocket at the Agri Center and have Nate Silverstein Tournament at V.T. Gala's hotel in the future, depending on how well we like each venue.

**G. INTERMEDIATE/NOVICE REGIONAL TOURNAMENT**

Lee Smart moved that Judy Knox place our bid to the ACBL for an I/N Regional Tournament every third year in Memphis, possibly beginning in 2021. This was seconded and approved. This was done and we are on the list.

Respectfully submitted,

Tom Ebers, Secretary, Unit 144