

**American Cribbage Congress**  
**Board of Director's Meeting**  
SANDS REGENCY CASINO HOTEL – RENO, NEVADA  
FEBRUARY 7, 2013

Valerie Sumner led the **Pledge of Allegiance**

**Roll call:** Present: Dave Aiken, Paul Barnes, Pat Barrett, Don Brown, Dave Campbell, Annett Eiffert, Charlie Finley, Roland Hall, Don Hannula, Jeanne Hofbauer, Roy Hofbauer, Ron Logan, Herschel Mack, Bob Milk, Dave O'Neil, Catherine Perkins, Larry Phifer, Todd Schaefer, Phyllis Schmidt, Peggy Shea, Jeff Shimp, Wayne Steinmetz, Valerie Sumner, , Keith Widener. Approved absence for Fred White.

**Approved Agenda**

**Action:** Dave A. made a motion to approve the agenda, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Catherine P. **Motion Approved.**

**Minutes of the September 21<sup>st</sup>, 2012**

**Action:** Don B. had a question regarding the higher seeded player dealing the first round (page 4). He thought the BOD had decided that any tournament director could do this, but after discussion and verification of previous meeting minutes, it was determined the minutes were correct and it was to be on a trial basis and only Annett E. had permission to hold a tournament using this play-off structure. Don H. also expressed his concern that the minutes did not include all sides of discussion regarding each topic. It was determined that in order not to have the minutes become a transcript of each meeting, but be true meeting minutes the procedure would continue as is. It could be stated in future minutes that there was discussion involving opposing view points. Peggy S. made a motion to approve the minutes, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Dave C. **Motion Approved.**

**Updates for Syl Lulinski TOC & JPW/ACC Open:** Don H. said he has 495 entries for the TOC, down from last year's 506 entries. He will accept entries for the TOC up to the last minute, he has 128 helpers on the volunteer list, and only the upstairs rooms will be used for the TOC. Don has expenses of \$1,400 for the TOC and will have a proposal to discuss at a later point that the cost of sending out the TOC invites be spread among the other tournaments held during this weekend. He said that Grass Roots directors can help by getting their member's email addresses into the grassroots data base. He said that having the TOC entries sent to the Sands created some delay in getting the volunteer list together.

Peggy S. said they have 750 entries and expect to have 50-75 additional entries. They hope to have 800 players. Peggy S. offered her help with the volunteer list and looks forward to helping Don H. with list next year. Jeff S. reported that because we have new people wanting to join the tabulating volunteers, we may take this opportunity to let some of the veteran cross checkers take a break and let some of the new people join the team.

**Old Business:** Jeanne H. showed the BoD the ring purchased for Joan R. in honor of the "Outstanding Meritorious Service" award. Jeanne reported the cost of the ring was \$1,500 and it will be presented to Joan R. at the TOC tournament this weekend.

Valerie S. reported that the article she wrote regarding cell phone usage during tournament play ran in Cribbage World. It had been decided at this time to strongly suggest that players turn off or at least turn down their phones during play, and it is at the discretion of the tournament directors to urge the players to comply.

Annett E. is still in discussion as to the Copyright of the rulebook as Dave A. said that he has the Copyright printed in our rulebook, it has just not been filed. As for the Copyright of the Crib World, Dave A. doesn't know if that is necessary. Jeanne H. took a straw poll from the BoD to see if we would like to look into this matter further. It was agreed that this would be put to rest and no further action be required.

Jeanne H. reported that Dave C. has volunteered to be Larry Hassett's backup as Membership Secretary. There was some discussion about the cost involved to train a backup for the Membership Secretary and the Crib World Editor. Catherine P. said that currently the Executive Committee has the authority to approve expenses up to \$5,000 so there is no need to have a motion to approve. Larry H. distributed a report about the software that he is currently using and said that he could easily bring his computer to a tournament and use that time to train Dave C. and save expenses. Roy H. said that he feels each position within the ACC should have a manual for training purposes. Larry H. said he has put one together for his position. Dave A. said that he currently does not have a backup and would like to run an ad for that position in the May and June CW issues. Jeanne H. asked Dave A. to put it together and run it by Executive Committee.

Annett E. said that the applications for the Trademarks are still being reviewed.

**Hall of Fame:**—Pat B. reported that 98 of the 100 ballots were returned. He asked that the BoD make sure that addresses are current for Panel Members and to send him any updates prior to voting. He also said that he made an error by asking people to sign their security envelope but that will not happen again. We are still having some issues with nominations sent in 2 page format, and compliance with the deadline. Roland H. brought up that while counting the ballots there was one that did not match the number voted for verses the number the person wrote on the bottom of the ballot. That ballot was not considered valid and was not counted. Bob M. made a motion to amend rule 12.D.3 to include the wording: "if the numbers listed on the ballot do not agree, the ballot is invalid", 2<sup>nd</sup> by Paul B. **Motion Approved**

No one was elected into the Hall of Fame this year.

**ACC Policy & Procedures Manual:** Catherine P. distributed the new policy pages and explained how to update the BoD manual. The following policies were either changed or amended Chapter 4.F.2.j; 6.C.2; 6.C.3  
Catherine P. said that we need to decide where we should add the rule regarding the limits of weekday tournaments. Dave A. made a motion that we amend policy 6.D.4 to remove that line (#4) and insert "Weekday tournaments held in the same venue the week before and/or after a weekend tournament are limited to the Legacy Tournaments" to 6.D.3 and move the current policy 6.D.3 to 6.D.4. ,2<sup>nd</sup> by Ron L. **Motion Approved**

Some BOD members feel that we are sanctioning too many tournaments, so Jeanne asked Dave A. to request input from the membership in Crib World so we could get their feelings regarding this issue.

We had discussion about moving Ohio from the Eastern to the Central Region. Catherine P. brought up that moving Ohio back to the Central Region makes sense since the players from Ohio traditionally play most of their tournaments in the Central Region. There will not be any GR clubs affected by the change. Jeff S. made a motion to move Ohio back to the Central Region, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Ron L. **Motion Approved**

Catherine P. brought up that she feels there are too many instances of players "double dipping", where the same person can win both the consolation and the main tournament. Catherine P.

made a motion that the final 4 players of a main tournament cannot enter the consolation tournament, 2<sup>nd</sup> by David O. **Motion not approved;** Voting: 8 ayes, 14 nays, 2 abstained.

There was discussion around the pros and cons of this motion. It was said that some tournaments held in remote locations have a difficult time getting enough players to make the consolation a sanctioned event. There was discussion around reducing the number of people required in the consolation to make it a sanctioned tournament, but it was determined that the master point program does not allow lower limitations. One possible solution was that we set the rule around the number of entries in the tournament, if a tournament has a lower number of entries, they might not have to limit who could play in both. Tom Cookman spoke up and said that this happened at his tournament and he followed the play-off structure of beginning the same night as the main and those play-offs were completed prior the start of the consolation, so he did not stop any players from entering. Valerie S. said she believes that this should be left up to the tournament director.

Catherine P. reminded the BoD that the deadline to send in nominations for the BoD election is March 5<sup>th</sup>. A copy of the April Crib World will be mailed to every member (Joint members receiving one copy each). This year multiple ballots will not be allowed to be mailed together. If a club or a member mails in more than one ballot in the same envelope they will not be counted. There will be an option for online voting available for everyone. Each person will be given a random alpha numeric number on their Crib World address line in red that they can use to vote online or on their paper ballot. If anyone tries to vote online and also send in a paper ballot, both ballots will be invalid. Catherine P. reported there is no charge for us to use this service this year other than the cost of an encrypted Cloud account which is \$10 per month for approximately 3-4 months. Catherine P. said that with this alternative way to vote, we hope to increase our voting percentage from 18% last election which was up from 9% in previous years. Jeanne H. stressed that the instructions need to be very clear. Larry H. said he has 180 members that are overseas including Canada, and that he mails out Crib World to those members as soon as he receives them. Junior members will not be able to vote. Dave A. wanted to make sure what order in which the names of nominees are listed in the Crib World so as to not give anyone an advantage. There was discussion about other possible ways to list the names, but it was decided to remain listing the names in alphabetical order.

Catherine P. announced that this is her last term on the BoD and her last year running the National Open. Jeanne H. thanked Catherine P. for her service and hard work, and the BoD gave her a round of applause and sincere appreciation.

**New Member Information:** Charlie F. distributed information that he would like to have put on our website if the board approves. He is willing to help produce business cards and fliers for any and all clubs that provide him information about their Grass Roots Club. Todd S. said that Diane W. could put a link online so Grass Roots Directors can contact Charlie F.

Roland H. is concerned about the ACC not retaining our new members beyond their first year. He distributed copies of rules he would like to have put into play at the Grass Roots level. He shared that their club has grown in members and he contributes their success in the way they treat their new members. Roland H. has many great ideas and would like to see if all Clubs adapt the ideas. After discussion it was determined that this is not something the BoD can vote on until it goes to the Grass Roots Board of Volunteers first. Joan R. said that she has reviewed some of the information and she is in agreement that several of the things are a good way to teach a new player how to play the game, but she is concerned when a club may be deterring from the current rules around how many weeks a new player can play without joining the ACC or the Grass Roots Club. It was determined that Roland H. should attend the Grass Roots meeting being

held on Friday evening to discuss his ideas. Dave A. asked Roland H. to submit an article to Crib World on what the Napa Grass Roots Club does to welcome their new members and different things they do to retain their members.

**Payouts at Grand National side events:** Herschel brought up his concerns about payouts for Grand Nationals not being consistent. Paul B. made a motion that all tournaments held during the Grand National use 1 in 4 payout structures for main payouts (side pools exempt) effective immediately, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Herschel M. **Motion approved**

**New Board Members Indoctrination:** Don B. thinks that new members on the BoD would benefit with indoctrination by the President and VP of Operations to help them understand how the BoD operates with the various positions and committees. Each new member would be told what is expected of them while serving on the BoD. The BoD said that this would be a good idea, and that this could be discussed in the executive committee. Catherine P. said all new members receive a Policy manual upon being voted onto the BoD. Jeanne H. will take this to the executive committee for review.

**Treasurer's Report:** Marlene L. discussed the income statement, comparative balance sheet and cash balance sheet; \$1,000 advance to Don H. for TOC; \$1,500 for Joan R. award.

The ACC had a loss of \$14,269 for the first 6 months ending 12-31-12, in large part because the Grass Roots Regional and National tournament income is received in the 2<sup>nd</sup> half and the expense for the GR awards is in the 1<sup>st</sup> half of the year. The income in 2012 was \$19,000.

Marlene L. changed from MNI Bank to Chase Bank to save money. Dave C. has been added as an alternate signer on the account.

Marlene L. wanted to discuss a possible Portfolio investment for the ACC, with the additional \$75,000 capital in our account that has been sitting in a money market account. Chase has proposed a Portfolio of investments. There was discussion whether we should invest, and the amount to invest if we do. Some people did not feel that we should take chances with the ACC money. Others felt safe with the proposed Portfolio. Marlene L. said that if there was a need to take part of the investment out prior to one year there would be a 1% penalty and after one year there is no penalty. A compromise was made to invest part of the money. Bob M. made a motion that we deposit \$50,000 into the Portfolio, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Keith W. **Motion approved**

Jeanne requested the following info be included in the minutes: 20 ayes 4 nays (Paul B., Herschel M., Annett E. and Roy H. voted against)

**Action:** Peggy S. made a motion to approve the Treasurer's report; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Jeanne H. **Motion approved**

**Membership Secretary** – Larry H. distributed a report with data regarding membership in the ACC for 2012/2013. Our current membership in the ACC is 6,604 and we are losing an average of 1,000 members each year. We have many new memberships each year; but many of them do not renew after the first year. Larry H. has started sending out renewal notices via email and with the 2,938 notices sent out domestic and foreign we have saved over \$780 in postage. He provided a breakdown of types of memberships and how many people are in each. He also provided a breakdown of our inventory of forms, with the value being \$2,123, the equipment/software inventory is valued at \$795. Jeanne H. asked that Larry H. reorder more "Cribbage Anyone" pamphlets as we are down to only 300 in our inventory.

**New masterpoint software:** Larry H. distributed Proposed Policy additions and or changes to the new software program. Proposals 1 regarding Active membership & 2 regarding processing of sanctioning requests. **Proposals were not approved**

Proposal 3 – **Track suspensions:** Catherine P. made a motion; ACC board approves the inclusion of a program to track suspensions and notify tournament directors of any current suspensions a month before his/her tournament starts, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Don B. **Motion approved**

Proposal 4 – **TOC invitations:** Catherine P. made a motion; include a program to centralize the process of generating TOC invitation under the ACC National Statistician, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Peggy S. **Motion approved**

Proposal 5- **ACC Judges:** Catherine P. made a motion: new program to have the inclusion of ACC judges, along with a list of ACC judges on the website where senior judges be noted, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Bob M. **Motion approved**

Proposal 6- **Current Records:** Dave A. made a motion that the new software be capable to enter detailed information for each tournament, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Dave O. **Motion approved.** It was determined that the new software would enter information from here forward, but we would not go back and enter detailed information for tournaments in the past.

Proposal 7- **Error in Current Record:** Catherine P. made a motion that the Membership Secretary corrects the obvious errors in the current ACC master point files, 2<sup>nd</sup> by David A. **Motion approved**

Proposal 8-12- Larry P. made a motion to accept the following proposals: 8-12 regarding historic data pre 1997/8 season as submitted by Larry H., 2<sup>nd</sup> by Annett E. There was discussion around if this is a software issue or an issue of having people input the historical data. It was said that Proposal 12 is regarding the actual request for bid. Catherine P. made an amendment to the proposal: to accept proposals 8-11, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Charlie F. **Amendment to the motion passed.** Catherine P. volunteered to help Larry H.

Proposal 12- **Final approval and release of the request for bid:** Jeanne H. said that she felt that the approval of the bid should be by the entire BoD. Larry will submit the bid to the "New Software Committee" to review prior to going to bid by April 30<sup>th</sup> 2013. The committee will make a proposal of how the BoD should proceed. This will be discussed again in September at the next BoD.

**New All Star Proposal:** Roland H. distributed detailed information regarding expanding the All Star team. Roland wants to expand the team to 10 people from each region with the West having 2 teams, one from the Northwest and one from the Southwest. Jeanne H. felt that this is the same proposal that we discussed at the previous meeting. Ron L. said that Roland H. followed the criteria required to bring it before the board, so we should hear his proposal. Roland pointed out that there many players that make the All American Team, but are not able to play on the All Star Team due to only taking the top 8 players from each region. There was discussion around the suggested format does not allow a team member to play all the other team members from the other regions. Roland H. said that the new format would reduce the number of games, and would allow the tournament to be shorted by about 15 minutes. Some people felt that once you agree to have 2 teams from the West that you open the door to splitting the region. Jeff S. said that he does believe that the West does not have equality with respect to the number of people making the team given the number of ACC members in the West.

Roland made a motion to expand the All-Star team from 24 players to 40 players (10 East, 10 Central, 10 Northwest, 10 Southwest), starting August 1, 2013 as the beginning of the 2013/2014 season, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Don B. **Motion not approved**, 10 ayes, 13 nays

### **Committee Reports:**

**Executive** –Jeanne H reported that the agenda was posted online and not in the Crib World due to deadlines. Additional expenses were; \$89 for flowers sent to Bob Julian’s funeral; \$1,500 for Joan R. ring; \$1,642 for 160 Cribbage boards to promote the ACC to be placed in locations (RV parks, Senior homes, Clubs) that do not have a Grass Roots Club. Joan R. produced the boards. It was suggested that we also place a deck of cards and a rule book for their use. If a BoD member wants to distribute some boards, see your tournament commissioner. Each person was asked to keep track of where they place these boards so we can have a record.

**Ethics-** Ron L. said that the committee has been very busy and that there were 2 suspensions in 2013 so far. Ron L. said that he will be getting together with Dave A. to put an article in Crib World about ethical play and possible situations that may result in suspension. Ron L. said he will be putting his name and contact information in Crib World for people to contact him if they have any questions. Ron L. said that if anyone has any question or concern regarding ethical play or action of any member, they should write a letter and submit it to the committee and it will be investigated if the committee feels it is justified.

**Grass Roots-** Joan R. said she has the GRRT about 75 percent complete. We now have 186 active clubs. There have been many award certificates sent out; 196 “28 Hand Certificates”; 101 “Grand Slam Certificates”; 15 “29 Hand Certificates”.

Joan R. said that there have been several situations where a Grass Roots Club is having problems with one or more of their members. Ron L. said that currently there is no approved procedure about how to handle these situations. Joan R. distributed a suggested procedure that she would like to provide to Grass Roots directors which is in the Grass Roots manual but was never approved by the BoD. There was discussion of several situations that cause questions and concerns about play and conduct during Grass Roots. Catherine P. made a motion to include the procedure for suspending a player in the Grass Roots manual, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Paul B. **Motion Passed**

**Internet-** Bob M. said there were 40 new participants and 13 of them won a weekly tournament. No changes in weekly online tournaments, except no tournaments the week of the JPW Open beginning on Thursday through Sunday. Bob M reported that Rick Allen is his back up. There was one person suspended for online tournaments for leaving during play twice. Catherine P. asked that Bob M. update the internet manual. Jeanne H. asked Bob M. to thank all the internet directors for their service and dedication to the tournaments.

**Judges-** Jeff S. said that he appointed a new Sr. Judge in the West Region due to the number of players in West. He is considering bringing proposal to the BoD to add additional Sr. Judges in the West. We are without a Sr. Judge in Southern CA. Currently each region has a maximum of 8 Sr. Judges. Jeff S. said that if a BoD member has a recommendation of someone being a Sr. Judge to bring that name to him for consideration.

**PR/Publicity-** Norm N. reported that he has a committee formed, Public Relations and Marketing Committee (PRMC). Norm N. inquired about his budget, Jeanne H. said his budget is set at \$4,000 for 2012/2013 . Jeanne H. asked Norm N. to put together a formal request with what the expense is and submit for approval. Norm N. asked that each BoD member submit at least one name of a person that would serve on the PRMC so we can grow our membership.

Peggy S. will send a copy of the article that is printed in the local paper to get new members. Norm N. is going to send an article to Dave A. to print in Crib World suggesting members leave their old Crib Worlds in places of business or clubs where others can read more about the ACC.

Dave A. said that Crib World is turning 400 on June 13<sup>th</sup> with the 400<sup>th</sup> issue. Dave A. is looking for ideas for ways to help the ACC celebrate the milestone event.

**Rules-** Wayne S. said that the committee is considering changing the rule about too many cards in a player's hand (pone or dealer). It is felt that the penalty is too severe for the offender. Wayne S. said that it should be clarified when cross checking score cards if two players record the game as a win, both players receive a loss for the game. Currently this is just a guideline and not a hard fast rule. There is also some needed clarification about a person saying "go" and claiming the game when they still have a card that could have been played. The committee is still considering the possible changes to these rules and will bring them to the BoD with suggestions to be kept in mind for a future rule book. Catherine P. said that if there are rule changes that are to be made prior to the printing of a new rule book, it could be printed and pasted to the back of the current rule book.

Wayne S. said that the "Judge's Call" when a person says go if the count is less than 22 should not be an issue. It is not possible for it to be a go if the count is less than 22. There should not be a renege called in this case.

**Youth Program-** Dan Z. said he would like to recognize Mike Burns for his contributions to Youth Cribbage and present him with this year's award. Mike B. has taught cribbage to kids over the past 12 years and has taught over 400 kids and produced a video and a textbook.

Dan Z. sends out manuals and boards for anyone that request to information for youth play. He has a startup set that includes 3 cribbage boards and manuals. He sent out 30 sets of 3 boards in 2012 and has already sent out 3 sets this year so far. Dan Z. reported that there were 5 youth tournaments in 2012.

This year will be the 20<sup>th</sup> Annual "Sierra Youth Cribbage Tournament". The Sands has donated 80 T-shirts to the tournament. Dan Z. shared an article that was in his local paper about the upcoming Youth Tournament and he has been getting some phone calls about the tournament. Dan Z. made a suggestion that each club could advertise that their club is holding an open house for new players to come and learn how to play cribbage or brush up on their game and the club members could help teach the new players.

Dan Z. said there have been some questions surrounding youth participants receiving cash payouts in sanctioned play. Dan Z. said that each state has their own rules, but the ACC sanctions the tournaments. Valerie S. read a letter that was from the gaming commission dated July 1996 regarding youth participation in non-gaming events such as cribbage is acceptable as long as it was held in a non-gaming location such as a convention center. Jeanne H. said ACC policy has been that when a youth wins money, the money was to be given to the guardian accompanying the youth.

Dan Z. said that he is very thankful for Herschel M. because whenever there is a question on a rule or interpretation of a rule, Herschel M. has always been there to answer. Dan Z. said there are many times people would like an actual rule book. Todd S. said that Diane W. could put a link online that would direct people to Larry H. for Rule Books.

**Tournament Rules & Guidelines-** Roy H. said that the Hawaii cruise tournaments were very well attended, averaging 86 players per tournament, and that David Campbell is now going to handle the sanctioning and reporting for all cruise tournaments.

**Update of Grand National XXXII:** Dave O. said that there has been a reservation made for each BoD member, but they must contact the hotel to arrange their specific dates of arrival. The rate of \$95 is good for 3 days prior and 3 day after the GN. Dave O. said that the Hotel is very close to many attractions and the hotel will provide free shuttle from the Atlanta Airport, free parking and free internet service. The free shuttle service can be used to travel within 2 miles of the hotel. There will be shirts available to purchase for the GN this weekend.

**Update Grand National XXXIII:** Valerie S. said they are finalizing the schedule and committee heads. They have begun their fund-raising for their GN through the Western Grass Roots Clubs.

**Update Grand National XXXIV:** Scott K. shared information regarding the GN in South Dakota on the 3<sup>rd</sup> week in September of 2015. There will be a mid-week on Wednesday and Thursday in Omaha. The hotel has locked in a room rate of \$81-\$99, based upon room type, and a rate of \$20 for the awards banquet. The hotel has 121 rooms with a Super 8 in the same parking lot. Scott K. has sponsors lined up to pay for trophies, printing and lunch for the BoD meeting.

**Executive VP Report** – Todd S. would like a list of the committees; members and the name of the chair so he can update his list. Todd S. said no word yet on our next GN XXXV tournament in the East in 2016. We need to have our Eastern members keep looking for possible locations. Todd S. said that we need to have a backup for Diane W. as the web-master. Jeanne H. said that Todd S. and Diane W. could find a suitable backup and they do not need to have BoD approval. It was suggested that Paul Gregson could be a possible backup.

**VP of Policy Report** – Cathy P. – nothing new to report.

**VP of Operations Report** – Dave C. - nothing new to report.

**Member at Large Report** – Jeff S shared that while on the cruise and visiting Hawaii they visited Pearl Harbor and read where cribbage was a past time for some of the seamen.

Next BoD meeting will be September 20, 2013 @ Sandy Springs, Georgia starting at 9:00 a.m.

Cathy P made a motion to adjourn the meeting, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Dave A. Meeting Adjourned 4:20 p.m.