

**American Cribbage Congress**  
**Board of Director's Meeting**  
SANDS REGENCY CASINO – RENO, NEVADA  
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 2014

Valerie Sumner led the **Pledge of Allegiance**

**Roll call:** Present: Dave Aiken, Dave Campbell, Tom Cookman, Annett Eiffert, Willie Evans, Richard Frost, Roland Hall, Don Hannula, Jeanne Hofbauer, Roy Hofbauer, Ron Logan, Bob Milk, Dave O'Neil, Larry Phifer, Bruce Sattler, Phyllis Schmidt, Peggy Shea, Jeff Shimp, Wayne Steinmetz, Valerie Sumner, Keith Widener. Approved absence for Pat Barrett, Charlie Finley, Bill Medeiros & Todd Schaefer.

**Approved Agenda**

**Action:** Peggy S. made a motion to approve the agenda, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Valerie S. **Motion Approved.**

**Minutes of the September 20, 2013**

**Action:** Valerie S. made a motion to approve the minutes, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Jeanne H. **Motion Approved.**

**Updates for Syl Lulinski TOC & JPW/ACC Open:** Don H. reported that he has 463 registered for the TOC and will take entries throughout the day. The expenses are \$900, last year there were 493 entries with expenses of \$1400. Don contributed the savings to reduced US mail charges; 349 invitations sent this year, compared to 890 in 2013. He asked that an invitation be printed in CW along with a list of invitees. He also asked Grassroots directors to review and update email address in the ACC database so he could use that forum for notification. David A. asked Don to email Grassroots directors regarding first time invitees.

Peggy S. reported that the Open has 719 entries so far with anticipation of increasing the number by 50-75 with late entries. In 2013 we had 788 entries in the JPW Open. We currently have 200 registered in the Cribbage Bowl and last year we had 419 total. Peggy S. also reported that Scott K. was not going to be in attendance due to illness.

**Hall of Fame:** Keith W. reported in Pat B.'s absence. There were 15 nominees with 98 out of 100 votes returned for the HOF. Jeanne H. said that she feels if a BOD member had a member of their voting panel not return their ballot, they should consider replacing that person. One nominee was elected to the HOF; Jim Langley with 76 votes.

**ACC Policy & Procedure Manual:** Keith W. passed out the new policies. Ch2.II.A.2.f; Ch6.VII.B; Ch6.VIII.B.I.d; Ch10.II.C.3.a; Ch10.II.C.3.d; Ch10.II.E.2.d

Keith W. went over the proper way to replace new policies in the manual, and asked each BOD member to review the changes being made in order to be clear that the new policy is what was approved and voted on. Jeanne H. asked that new contact information be given to Peggy S. so she can send out an updated contact list of all BOD members with the minutes from the meeting.

**Treasurer's Report:** Marlene L. discussed the income statement, comparative balance sheet and cash balance sheet;

Marlene L. reported that the ACC spent \$2,200 for 60,000 score cards, and also purchased 32 laminated bracket boards for \$640. Marlene L. reported the ACC had a profit of \$629 with the investment in Bonds through Jan. 2014. There was discussion around how to proceed with the \$50,000 invested once the term is up in April of 2014. We discussed the possibility of investing in a CD, but with the large investment in the new software program so we should not have our money tied up for a long period of

time. **Action:** Jeanne H. made a motion to keep the money in the investment portfolio as it is now. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Don H. **Motion approved.**

**Membership Secretary Report:** Larry H. provided a detailed report to the BOD which shows the membership currently at 6,510 members as of Jan. 2014. Larry H. also provided a report with the Master Point specifications. Larry H. gave a demonstration of what problems arise when information provided by either Tournament Directors or ACC members is inaccurate. Larry H. also provided a detailed handbook (not yet completed) with duties that are performed by the Membership Secretary. There was discussion about the time that goes into Larry's position and the need for a backup for his position. Also discussed was the need for the new software program and how we need to proceed. Larry H. estimated that it will take from 300-500 hours (approximately \$16,000) to convert the current system to the updated software. Bob M. brought some concerns that the current specification is missing some important information that needs to be covered. Marlene L. also asked that once we do get this out to bid and it is awarded, that it is written in the contract that she be given ample time to test the new system to confirm that it is working properly. **Action:** Dave A. made a motion to form a committee with Dave C. being the chair (members; Bob M., Dave O., Marlene L., Larry H., Paul G. and Tom C.) to finalize a proposal for the software conversion and send it out to solicit for Bids, and have in hand for Sept. 2014 (next BOD meeting). **Motion Approved.**

**Update Grand National XXXIII:** Co-director, Valerie S. reported that the entry form as been completed for the GN in Phoenix Arizona being held on September 20 & 21, 2014 at the Marriott. They are working on getting a better price for parking for everyone. Valerie S. reported that they will be having workshops for new members, and also wanted to thank Willie E. for contributing playing cards for the GN. Valerie S. reported that they are still selling raffle tickets to help offset the expenses of the GN. Valerie S. said that Val Nosick will be in charge of the social media for the GN for all events.

**Update Grand National XXXIV:** Scott K. was not in attendance due to illness.

**Bids for Grand National XXXV:** Bruce S. reported that he has worked out a deal with the Marriott Hotel in Bethesda Maryland to hold GN 35 in 2016 with a hotel rate of \$99 (rate to include 3 days prior to the first tournament and 3 days after the end of the tournaments) with a guaranteed food purchase of \$50,000 for all events. The hotel has agreed to wave all fees for room rental. Bruce S. is working with Jill from Experient. Bruce S. reported that they have negotiated onsite parking for all Hotel guests free of charge, smoke free rooms, with high speed internet, with fitness center and indoor swimming pool. There was a presentation providing information about the Hotel and the surrounding attractions of the area. Bruce S. reported that Dave C. and Steve Sattler will serve as his co-directors. The GN will kick off with a Tuesday night tournament and Wednesday and Thursday being a 2 day tournament. Friday will be the BOD meeting and other games and then the GN will begin on Saturday and Sunday. **Action:** Larry P. made a motion to approve the XXXV GN to Bruce S. to be held in Bethesda Maryland. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Bob M. **Motion approved.**

**Bids for Grand National XXXVI:** Jeanne H. reminded everyone that we need to be mindful of the next GN to be considered in the West and we need to bring all bids to the BOD for consideration.

#### **Old Business:**

**Membership Survey/ Contact of Non-renewals:-** Dave C. said that most people are reporting that they quit the ACC due to rude players. Ron L. agreed that many complaints to the Ethics committee are around rude players, we had 60% of complaints from grassroots players. There was a lot of discussion around this topic and many ideas of what we should do to retain new members. It was said that we should treat all players as we would want to be treated. Tom C. said that the people he talked to that did not renew their membership with the ACC are due to rude treatment by grassroots members and/or complaining about their slow play. Tom C. urged each of us to take the complaining grassroots member aside and let them know that being rude is not acceptable and that we need to treat our new members

better if want the ACC to grow in membership. Valerie S. announced that everyone that has concerns should attend the grassroots meeting on Friday evening as this topic is going to be discussed. Dave C. said that he is still working on a membership drive to increase membership, which will require us to update the membership form. Dave C. will report back with more details and have a proposal at the next BOD meeting. Dave C. brought up the fact that we need to update email addresses in the system, as he had more than 3,000 emails sent back as bad email addresses.

**Cribbage Class at the Sands in February:** Jeanne H. reported that the cribbage class that had been suggested for Thursday night before the TOC had to be cancelled because the volunteer teacher could not travel to Reno this year . Peggy S. said that the Sands would be able to accommodate this class if we find someone interested in teaching it. Valerie S. made a suggestion to have Norm N. and Brion N. set up a class as they both do a great job of helping new members. There was discussion around ways to teach new members outside of the regular grassroots night. Peggy S. shared that she and Rick S. hold a class one night a week to welcome new players to help bring their game up to speed for the grassroots night. She reported that they are coached on the game and that they are advised if they ready for the 9 game format of the grassroots program.

**Pay Pal Update:** Dave C. and Larry H. are working on a procedure that will allow members to pay for their ACC membership via PayPal. Discussion of this subject followed. **Action:** Dave A. made a motion to move forward with PayPal once it is setup. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Bruce S. **Motion approved.**

**Rookie of the Year:** Dave C. also brought up some concerns about how we select our "Rookie of the Year". There was discussion around how we could address these concerns. It was determined that this would be verified by a 3 person committee to make sure we do not have any errors such as last year. **Action:** Keith W. made a motion add the wording: "To be eligible for Rookie of the Year, the member may not have earned MRP's prior to Feb. 1<sup>st</sup> of the previous MRP Season (regardless of date of membership). A member may only be awarded Rookie of the Year once." 2<sup>nd</sup> by Dave A. **Motion approved.**

**Random Seating:** Dave C. reported that while most everyone agrees that we should all abide by random seating, there is no way to mandate one set way to do that. It is up to the tournament director to follow the policy of random seating. Any abuse of this should be taken to the tournament commissioner of the appropriate region.

**Q-Pools: Mandatory & Clarification of definition:** Dave C. said that it should not be mandatory for everyone to be in a Q Pool. There was discussion around the fact that the Reno tournaments held in Feb. are mandatory and that not everyone in the Q Pool gets money back. Don H. reported that in his tournaments in Michigan, Q Pools are mandatory. The discussion resulted in a decision to let tournament directors choose, and they must include on their flyer how the Q Pool is to be distributed.

**Q Pool vs Side Pool:** Dave C. asked if someone would be interested in writing an article for Crib World explaining the difference between Q Pool and Side Pool. The discussion was around the fact that many people believe that if they are in a Q Pool they think they will receive some money back for qualifying, where as if it is Side Pool only the top qualifiers would receive money. Rick S. said that he believes that if you make it mandatory for people to pay into the Q Pool, each person should receive some portion of the money. Dave A. reported that there is a formula that will make it easy to calculate the payouts to all qualifiers on a graduated payout scale being used by many directors.

Bruce S. brought up that there are still some tournament flyers that do not explain how the Q Pool will be paid out. It was also asked that the sanctioning request form be changed to include the type of "Q" Pool the tournament director is requesting. Dave C. said that the Regional Commissioners will discuss this and address this concern. There was discussion around guidelines about how tournaments are to run. Jeanne H. asked each BOD member to take the time to discuss with a tournament director if we see something

that needs to be done. Jeanne H. also asked each BOD member to send her an email if they see anything that needs to be reviewed or changed regarding tournament guidelines. Roy H. reported that he has Rick S. and Tom C. reviewing the current Tournament Director Handbook and bringing suggestions of needed additions and or corrections. Jeanne H. asked Dave C. to include that flyers should state how the Q Pool would be paid out in the CW article (about the difference between Q Pool and Side Pool).

**Proposed Social Media Content Policy:** Annett E. brought forth a proposal regarding personal endorsements or editorials on the ACC website. **Action:** Annett E., made the motion to add the following policy: Proposed Social Media Content Policy; The ACC maintains a variety of social media accounts, including Facebook, Twitter and similar sites. On these sites, content may take the form of text and/or images. The content monitored on these accounts shall adhere to the goals and the Code of Ethics of the organization. User-generated posts may be rejected or removed when the content of a post is off-subject or contains obscenity or other offensive terms. Any personal endorsements or editorials from website administrators or editors shall be clearly labeled so as not to be perceived as originating from the ACC.2nd by Jeanne H. **Motion Passed.**

**TOC Proposals:** Don H. reported that there was a savings of \$500 in expenses for the TOC through reducing the numbers of invites being sent to qualifiers. Don H. would like to send email invites to the grassroots directors for anyone in their club who qualify for the TOC. Dave A. said he would post something in Crib World again next year announcing who is invited to the TOC. Valerie S. asked if grassroots tournament directors could get a list that can be sorted by grassroots clubs so each director can provide an entry form for each person who qualifies. Don H. said that receives the list of qualifiers from Larry H. and Joan R., and once he receives the list he would send it to the Grass Roots Directors who request it .

**Judges Program Proposal Senior Program:** Jeff S. reported that we did amended Ch10.II.C.3.a to increase the number of Senior Judges to 10 in the East and Central and 16 in the West and it is now part of our Policy Manual and it was posted in the Crib World in the Feb issue. We still have a couple of vacancies that need to be filled. Jeff S. asked anyone wishing to submit someone for consideration, please send him an email.

**Judges Program:** Keith W. announced that he had Head Judge Badges made for each Head Judge at a cost of \$5.50 each, \$176 total cost. Keith W. announced that a committee has been formed to address complaints about judges, reviewing bad judging calls and judges' behavior, and removing, demoting, or requiring recertification for incompetent judges. The committee members are: Keith W., Jeff S. Dave C. Al Miller and Duane Toll. They will bring their recommendations to the BoD.

**Proposal for CW Q & A:** Tom C. passed out samples of emails that he has been receiving. Tom C. said he has received the emails from members based on the article in Crib World where they can ask questions or make suggestions. Tom C. said many people feel that we spend too much time at the BOD meetings discussing things such as Master Points which only affect very few members of the ACC. Tom C. said most people are very happy that there is a forum where they can actually speak with a BoD member and express their ideas. This has been very well received by the membership. Jeanne H. brought up the idea that Tom C. could take over the 1-800 cribbage call. Larry H. reported we currently receive about 20 calls per month regarding new membership. Tom C. volunteered to use his own personal cell phone number to take calls. Jeanne H. asked Peggy S. to work with Diane W. to get the information out about Tom C.'s cell phone number being the to the number to call regarding general information.

**Proposal for Technology Committee:** Tom C. reported that we should have a Technology Committee formed to address comments and concerns such as the ACC Grassroots website going down. Jeanne H. said those same committee members that are on the Software committee will address the technology issues. Committee members are: Dave C. being the head members; Bob M., Dave O., Marlene L., Larry H., Paul G. and Tom C.

**Rescind Proposal for Annual Regional Team Tourney:** Dave C. said that he would like to rescind the previous motion that the BOD passed regarding the expansion of the All Star Team, as it is not our place to tell Delynn C. how to run his tournament. Delynn C. addressed the BOD stating that this tournament has always been run with 24 players playing 23 games and it has always run smoothly. Delynn C. said he has asked several members their opinion and he reported that many of them do not want this to change from the previous format. There was great discussion around the pros and cons of rescinding this action.

Cathy P. said that this is not an awarded event and that the new format would not allow everyone to play each other. Terry W. reported that this tournament should represent the "Best of the Best", and we should not change it. Keith W. said that the Central and the East has problems as it is to complete an 8 person team due to travel issues, and if we do change it to 10 people it would create some concerns, he does not want to see if changed. Willie E. reported that he previously voted for the change, but out of respect for Delynn C. would like to see it put back to the previous format. Jeff S. said that he too would like have this rescinded and once Delynn C. decides to give up the tournament would go revisit the expansion. Peggy S. said that she has concerns that based upon the conversation in the previous BOD meeting, it was determined that our ACC members and BOD members by majority vote felt this to be a positive change. Peggy S. said she did not understand how that could have changed so much as the members that she talked with felt this was a positive change and would give more members the chance to represent their region at the tournament. Jeanne H. reported that this may be one of those times where the BOD members had a change of opinion and received negative feedback from ACC members. Richard F. said that this may result in a negative impact that ACC membership feel we change our minds too often and may not discuss things in detail. Roland H. said he too has received positive comments about the expansion and he did not agree that this would dilute the talent of the player. Roy H. said that several players that may qualify this year and if we do not rescind the action, they would not play in this year tournament. Jeanne H. said that this action has resulted in Roland H. asking for additional changes in reporting, and she is concerned that there may be more down the road.

There was discussion around voting by secret ballot: it was decided not to have this be a secret ballot.

**Action:** Jeff S. made a motion to rescind the previous board action 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 Roy H. **Motion approved**, 13 ayes, 6 nays.

**Form for Tournament Directors press release in Crib World.** Roland H. reported that he has a template for Tournament Directors to use for reporting purposes and that he will provide a soft copy of a template of the Press Release to Dave A. to use in Crib World.

**Promo Cribbage Boards:** Jeanne H. said that we have purchased 100 more Promo Cribbage Boards for \$1,175.30. Don H. and Dave C. brought some from their region that were not used for a total of 65 additional boards. Jeanne H. said that anyone wanting to have more boards to contact her.

**Proposal to change MRP's for 8 game Consolation:** Dave C. discussed that currently our MRP's are awarded starting at 11 game points. Dan Selke said that he feels this minimum threshold seems too high in comparison to 7 games and 9 games; 10 points will very often be enough to qualify for the playoffs. Dave C. believes that the minimum threshold should probably to be 10 game points. There was discussion that this would only apply to 8 game Consolation Tournaments, and it was decided that this would apply to any ACC sanctioned tournament. Marlene L. said that she believes that this is already being done, but it should be clarified. **Action:** Bob M. made a motion that the Top 1 in 8 qualifiers receives at least the minimum MRP points allowed regardless of the game points, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Ron L **Motion approved.**

**Proposal to award MRP's to all Qualifiers:** Richard F. discussed the possibility of awarding MRP's to all qualifiers in ACC sanctioned tournaments: 5 points for the Main and 3 points for Consolation Tournaments. Richard F. reported that in order to do this we would add a line on the MPR's chart (5 MRP's or 3 MRP's) to award the respective points to the bottom half of the qualifiers. There was discussion around this idea. Jeanne H. asked Richard F. to form a committee to get input from members and bring back a proposal in Sept. at the next BOD meeting with both sides of the argument.

**New side event tournament at Grand National Tournaments:** Valerie S. said that she would like to see a tournament that would be for the average player that does not qualify for the All Star Team. Jeanne H. asked Valerie S. to form a committee to discuss the tournament and bring back a couple of ideas before the BOD in Sept.

**New 6 game tournaments for Grass Roots:** Willie E. would like to reduce the number of games in the Grassroots to 6 games for areas that have challenges. It was discussed that with new players and in some cases older players and also locations that require clubs to be completed within a time frame this would address some problems we have had. Jeanne H. said that this should be taken to the Grass Roots meeting to be discussed and then it could be brought back to the BOD.

### **Committee Reports:**

**Executive** –Jeanne H reported she sent flowers to Todd S. and that the ACC purchased a new computer for Dave A. We also ran an ad in the American Legion for the cost \$1,166.20.

**Ethics-** Ron L. said he has received 10 situations which resulted in 3 suspensions, and several warning letters. Ron L. reported that 60% of the rulings are due to Grass Roots players rudeness.

**Grass Roots-** Joan R. reported that we have our meeting set for 8:00 on Friday night and everyone is encouraged to attend. Joan R. also asked that we help in our Grassroots club to see that everyone is getting along.

**Internet-** Bob M. said that there is nothing new with the Internet Cribbage. Bob M. also stated that there will not be any Internet Cribbage on the weekend of the Open and the Grand National.

**Judges:** Jeff S. had nothing new to add.

**PR/Publicity-** Norm N. reported that the Public Relations and Marketing Committee (PRMC) has been active in getting the word out about ACC. Norm N. provided a written report with details of areas that they PRMC has been working in. Norm N. reported that in Jan. of 2014 we put an Ad in the American Legion and had dismal results. Tom C. said he has received some calls generated by the ad and he is trying to connect them to the respective club in their area.

Dave O. passed out coasters with the ACC logo, he had 5,000 of them made for a cost of about .09 cents each including shipping. Dave O. said this is a great way to promote local clubs, and anyone wanting some for their club (limit of 100) should email Dave O.

**Rules:** Wayne S. said that we should put something in the Crib World that explains that a renege cannot be assessed when the count is 21 or less in the playing of the cards.

**Tournament Rules & Guidelines-** Roy H. said that we should look into awarding more MRP's to consolation players, due to low attendance.

**Youth Program:** Jeanne H. presented Grumpy Howard with an award for his dedication to the Youth Program. The award was from Dan Z., who could not be at the meeting. Grumpy H. has donated much

of his time, money and energy to promoting potential future ACC members. Dave A. passed out backpacks with the challenge that each BOD is to teach a youth the game of cribbage and then pass the backpack on to the youth in order to promote the ACC. The design on the backpack was created by one of the youth cribbage players and the Sands paid for the backpack.

**Officer Reports:**

**President** – Jeanne H. reported that she sent Charlie F. his President’s Award, and she has renewed the liability coverage for the ACC.

**Executive VP Report** – Todd S. not in attendance

**VP of Policy Report** – Keith W. reported that Fred White will remain as the archivist for the ACC.

**VP of Operations Report** – Dave C. reported that we still need a backup for Dave A. position. We also purchased new software for Dave A. computer.

**Member at Large Report** – Jeff S - nothing new to report.

**Closed Session:** Jeanne H. said this meeting is in regards to the job that Larry H. has been doing. Dave C. reported that he sent a letter to Larry H. to address the concerns the BOD had relating to this job and Dave C. feels that things are getting better. Dave C. said that he would be willing to work with Larry H. and take any concerns that the BOD has.

Next BoD meeting will be September 19, 2014 @ Phoenix, AZ starting at 9:00 a.m.

Keith W. made a motion to adjourn the meeting, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Valerie S. Meeting Adjourned 3:03 p.m.