

American Cribbage Congress
Board of Director's Meeting Minutes
SANDS REGENCY – RENO, NV
February 11, 2016
Final—Approved 10/7/16

- 1. Call to Order:** President Jeanne Hofbauer called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m. She noted that we had a very full agenda, and requested that BoD members pay attention and keep discussion moving along. She also requested that people with PCs do not engage social media during the meeting, and that cell phones be silenced.
- 2. Pledge of Allegiance:** Valerie Sumner led the Pledge of Allegiance.
- 3. Roll call:** Jeanne Jelke read the roll call. Present: Dave Aiken, Rick Allen, Pat Barrett, Henry Bergeron, Dave Campbell, Willie Evans, Richard Frost, Paul Gregson, Roland Hall, Don Hannula, Jeanne Hofbauer, Roy Hofbauer, Cy Madrone, James Morrow, Dave O'Neil, Bruce Sattler, Todd Schaefer, Phyllis Schmidt, Rick Shea, Jeff Shimp, Wayne Steinmetz, Valerie Sumner, Terry Weber. Ron Logan and Keith Widener absent (excused.) Twenty-three members were present. We had a quorum. Roy H. noted that the Vice President for Policy is an important position to have in attendance during BoD meetings, and Keith W. was not present because of work. Jeanne J. circulated the roster for corrections and updates on contact information.
- 4. Approved Agenda:** Jeanne H. commented that part of being a member of the BoD is being prepared and bringing printouts of e-mailed documents relating to the Board meeting. She made a few changes to the circulated agenda. **Action:** Jeanne H. made a motion to approve the agenda as amended, 2nd by Dave O. **Motion Approved.**
- 5. Approve Minutes of September 18, 2015:** Jeanne J. presented the final draft (January 31, 2016,) of the minutes of September 18, 2015. She requested that in the future, BoD members include her in e-mails regarding agenda items. This will assist her in being better prepared to take notes, as well as for reference when working on the minutes. **Action:** Jeanne H. made a motion to approve the minutes as presented, 2nd by Pat B. **Motion Approved.**
- 6. Update for Syl Lulinski TOC & JPW/ACC Open:** Don H. said that things are going well for the TOC. There are 434 players in the TOC so far, and eligible youth will be allowed to play. The system of contacting eligible people through electronic media seems to be working well; only 50 people had to be contacted by mail. Rick S. said that registrations for the JPW/ACC Open are down just a hair from last year, and he expects 720 or so, including several youth players.
- 7. Update of Grand National XXXV:** Bruce S. stated that planning is proceeding along, and things are going much better than expected. He and the hotel are currently working on the food menu. Playing cards have been lined up. Rick A. did a fantastic job with the website promoting GN XXXV, which is linked to the ACC website. Bruce S. noted that Reagan National Airport is the only airport in the DC region that has direct access to the Metro. There is a Metro station right by the hotel. So far, 521 room nights have been reserved, and currently there are no more reservations available for Tuesday and Wednesday nights. Bruce S. has lined up a secondary hotel, and will get a third if needed. He noted that he sent a memo last fall reminding BoD members to be sure and make their bookings a.s.a.p. He will try to get priority for the three BoD members who don't have reservations yet for Tuesday and Wednesday nights.
- 8. Update of GN XXXVI:** Rick S. reported that everything is moving right along for the 2017 GN in Lincoln City, OR, September 6 – 10, 2017 [dates include the midweek.]

9. Update of Grand National XXXVII: Terry W. reported that everything is going along fine for the 2018 GN in Milwaukee, WI, September 18 – 23, 2018 [dates include the midweek.] The contract with the Crowne Plaza Hotel has been signed.

10. Renewal of Contract with Sands/Regency:

a. Contract Negotiations: Barbara Woodward stated that the Sands has bid to renew the contract for another four years. She said that this is the 30th year of the Sands hosting the TOC and ACC Open. She provides a great blend of assets, since she is both a cribbage player and the event coordinator. The Sands will be delighted to continue the partnership with the ACC, and has always sought to provide good amenities and benefits to players. Over the years, the Sands has donated over \$250,000 in prize funds, has donated tens of thousands of dollars to veterans' charities, sponsors the ACC website, has provided enough coffee to fill an Olympic-sized swimming pool, and donates \$500 each year to Youth Cribbage. The Sands wants to renew the contract for another four years, 2017 through 2020. The contract calls for moving the TOC/ACC Open to the first weekend of March. She pledged that she would not retire if the contract is renewed. Jeanne H. and Todd S. have the contract and the details. Jeanne H. invited comments and questions. Valerie S. gave kudos to Barbara W. but added that Barbara W. has a big team that do a fantastic job. Bruce S. asked if the tax issue is connected with the contract, and Barbara W. said "no."

Todd S. said he had done due diligence and approached three other casinos in Reno for bids. The Golden Nugget's bid was not competitive, and it was eliminated. The other two, Silver Legacy/Circus Circus/El Dorado [tri-properties] and the Peppermill provided decent quotes, including reduced prices for rooms and adding to the prize money. However, neither could guarantee the same dates each year. Highlights of the Sands contract bid are:

- Hotel rooms @ \$46.12/night including tax in '16; no more than +10%/year after
- Guaranteed dates
- Free convention space
- 10 comp'd rooms
- Added cash to prizes \$4,000 to TOC, \$1,000 to ACC Open Consolation, \$10 per player for the ACC Open up to a maximum of \$15,000
- Free meeting space, breakfast, lunch and reception for the BoD meeting
- Processing entries
- Trophies (about \$1,000 worth)
- Reduced price lunch and breakfast buffets
- \$10 free play
- ACC website hosting
- \$500 per year to Youth Cribbage
- TOC lapel pins
- Coffee and coffee cake in the mornings
- All Star Tournament refreshments and refreshments for volunteers
- 12 cases of playing cards
- Pens
- Printing & office supplies
- Boards and pegs

Todd S. concluded that in his opinion, the Sands is the best bid and the best value. The other bids had significantly higher room rates, even though they were discounted, and they cannot guarantee dates. He suggested perhaps two 2 year contracts could be considered. Barbara W. commented that convention planning is often 3 years out, and that dates couldn't be guaranteed beyond the first 2 year contract. Bruce S. asked Todd

S. if he had looked at any other cities. Todd S. indicated that he had previously checked into Las Vegas casinos, but they weren't interested in making a competitive bid—they have plenty of business. Rick S. asked why the Sands wasn't adding \$10,000 to the [ACC Open] prize fund anymore. Barbara W. explained that the last contract stated that the prize fund would drop to \$5,000 if the number of players dropped below 1,000. It seemed too drastic, so the Sands came up with a good compromise—donating \$10 per player to the prize fund. **Action:** Don H. made a motion to sign the 4 year contract with the Sands, 2nd by Phyllis S. **Motion Approved.**

- b. **IRS Tax Reporting for 2015 Winnings:** Jeanne H. said that she didn't know until relatively recently that cribbage players surprisingly received 1099's. She invited Barbara W. to explain the situation. Clay Lindgren, an ACC member and an accountant, was also willing to speak to the issue and answer questions. Barbara W. stated that in the first place, neither she nor the Sands are tax advisors and cannot provide tax advice to the ACC. In the second place, the situation is very confusing. The Sands is required to provide information to the IRS on income derived from playing cribbage, which is not considered gambling. This income falls under "other income" when you file your taxes. "Other income" includes awards, prizes, and hobby income. The Sands controller said it is cumulative over the tax year, not per event. Barbara W. went on to say that she calculated players' cumulative winnings on all tournaments where the Sands handles the money, including satellites if they appear on the flyer. (If audited, she explained, the Sands might be questioned about the satellite events listed on the flyer.) Those players whose cumulative income total was \$600 or more were issued 1099's, and she notified them of this by e-mail. By handling the prize money as "other income" this way, the Sands assumes the tax liability, not the ACC. Barbara W. said that going forward, the ACC could look at other options, such as handling all the money. She urged the ACC to do some research and seek professional tax advice before making any decision. She gave bowling as an example of what might happen if the ACC were to handle all the money. Bowling, like cribbage, is a game of skill and not chance. Although the Sands pays the payouts, the National Bowling Congress handles the entry fees, and thus the tax liability is theirs. Jeanne H. stated that either the Sands handles all the money, or someone else handles all the money. James M. noted that we need to be careful to protect our non-profit status, and having the Sands handle the money helps with that. Clay L., (who stated he wasn't a CPA but his profession is in this arena,) said that Barbara W. is right and the Sand's controller is right. He also noted that tax-wise, you may not have to pay anything anyway [on your 1099 income] if you deduct expenses. He said one option might be to have Q money collected and paid by the tournament director. Another might be for all the money to be processed by the tournament director only for the July and November tournaments. The huge amount of cash involved with the February tournament would be problematic, and Rick S. confirmed that he and Peggy would not be willing to take on that risk. Barbara W. said she would be happy to provide information regarding player expenses, such as entry fees. There was considerable more discussion. A task force consisting of Barbara W., Clay L., and Valerie S. was formed to study options on this issue, and come back with input to the BoD in October.

11. Membership Secretary's Report:

- a. **Report:** Larry Hassett spoke to his Membership Secretary's Report, which had previously been circulated. He invited questions but none were asked.
- b. **Rookie of the Year:** Larry H. indicated that currently almost half of the ACC membership is eligible to be Rookie of the Year. A lot of complex work is involved to identify all the eligible members. There are some Grass Roots members with Bronze Awards or higher who are eligible under the present criteria, as well as members who

have been in the ACC for 15 years. Larry H. said he didn't think that was what the "Rookie of the Year" should be, and he is proposing that we go back to the original process. The present eligibility criteria was put in place to rectify an anomaly in the past. During discussion, two schools of thought were identified: first, that Rookie of the Year is meant to encourage and honor new ACC players only, and second, that it can encourage more Grass Roots members to start playing in weekend tournaments. Dave C. noted that if we revert to the original process (i.e. eligibility of newer ACC members only), anomalies such as the one that led to the policy change can be dealt with on a case by case basis by the Rookie of the Year Committee (consisting of Dave C., Roy H. and Keith W.) Joan Rein said that they are looking into "Rookie of the Year" for new Grass Roots players. **Action:** Dave C. made a motion to go back to the original sortation process by the Membership Secretary to identify eligible players for Rookie of the Year, with selection by the Rookie of the Year Committee, who will also deal with any anomalies, 2nd by James M. **Motion Approved.**

Membership Secretary Successor Concerns: [Note: This was not an official agenda item. However, the following discussion that occurred at this point in the meeting was a different issue from items 11a and 11b.] Roy H. asked if something happens to Larry H., who can take over the Membership Secretary's duties? Larry H. said it would be the same as when he took over, [i.e., figuring it out for himself.] He noted that he is developing a procedural manual. He also indicated that it is difficult to train anyone to help take over partly because everything is on his computer in a specific software program. Jeanne H. stated that we shouldn't repeat the past, and it makes sense to have a successor lined up and trained. Dave C. knows enough to get by, at least for the short term. Also Winona McDaniel, who lives in the same region of Oregon as Larry H., has been receptive to learning the Membership Secretary's job. Dave C. and Larry H. will talk with Winona M. about training as Larry H.'s backup.

12. Treasurer's Report: Marlene Lazacheck provided a brief report. She indicated that \$880 was spent on promotions, and \$480 on printing the Tournament Director's handbook. She noted that the investment fund (money market) was down. It went from \$49,969 on December 31st to \$49,489 on January 31st. She asked the question to the BoD as to whether we should leave it in the money market or put it into a CD and/or savings. Her banker said that the market is likely to be volatile for the next two years. Pat B. said that most financial advisors recommend leaving it in. After discussion, the consensus was to leave the investment in the money market, although two were opposed. [There was a vote but no formal motion.]

13. Hall of Fame: Pat B. reported that all 100 ballots were returned. Six new Board members each picked three panel members. He gave a run-down of the voting. Of the six nominees, the highest votes (70) were for Ron Logan. Therefore, Ron L. made the new criteria approved in Yankton to be entered into the Hall of Fame. He will become the 34th person to be inducted into the HOF. Pat B. also provided an update on Ron L., who is doing well after a heart attack in Susanville. He is expected to be released from the hospital soon, and may be here later today or tomorrow.

14. Old Business:

a. Rules Changes: Wayne S. referred to the hand out entitled "PROPOSED CHANGES TO RULE BOOK for February 2016 BOD meeting" prepared by the Rules Committee. He said that the BOD has to OK each proposed change in order to print the new rule books. [Note: Please refer to the handout for the wording of the proposed changes for each section, which are noted in red on the handout. Also, for each, a motion and second to approve the change according to the handout is assumed in the minutes below, unless otherwise stated.]

1. Rule 7.3: Renege: **Action:** Motion and 2nd to approve. **Motion Approved.**
2. Rule 5.2 b: Examining the Crib: **Action:** Motion and 2nd to approve. **Motion Approved.**
3. Rule 4.4 c: Too Many Too Few: Dave A. provided an alternative, minority report. Instead of the new proposal (deal over when an extra card is discovered), he proposed that the player with five cards does not get to peg, but the judge withdraws a random card, reducing the hand to four cards, which is then counted. There was considerable discussion on the merits of this alternative proposal. **Action:** Motion and 2nd to approve the change as worded in the Rules Committee handout. **Motion Approved. 20-For 3-Against.**
4. Rule 6.4: Placement of Deck: **Action:** Motion and 2nd to approve. **Motion Approved.**
5. Rule 8.5 b: Improperly Removing Pegs: After discussion, the last sentence of the proposed change was reworded to: "If so, the score is not forfeited." **Action:** Motion and 2nd to approve as amended. **Motion Approved.** In a side bar, Roy H. noted that the 2 point penalty for starting to lift up the front peg and putting it back in the hole when there is no count has been removed from the rule book.
6. Rule 8.5 a: Defines Removing a Peg: **Action:** Motion and 2nd to approve. **Motion Approved.**
7. Rule 8.11: Failure to Peg Out: There was considerable discussion on the pros and cons of requiring players to peg out. There was a minor change, combining the second and third sentences, so that it reads "...the game is not over and that player forfeits their score." **Action:** Motion and 2nd to approve the change in the handout as amended. **Motion Approved. 16-For 7-Against.**
8. Rule 10.3: Muggins: **Action:** Motion and 2nd to approve. **Motion Approved.**
9. Rule 7.1e: Order of Play: **Action:** Motion and 2nd to approve. **Motion Approved.**
10. Rule 2.1: Proper Mixing: **Action:** Motion and 2nd to approve. **Motion Approved.**
11. Rule 11 and 11d: Cross-checking Guidelines: There was an in depth discussion, mostly regarding the section title "Cross-Checking Guidelines" and Rule 11, which is worded more like a rule than a guideline. It is a standardization for how to handle scorecard discrepancies. It was decided to defer the decision until after lunch. During the lunch break, the Rules Committee met and came back with a proposed resolution. The new proposal was to extract the current Rule 11, re-number rules #12 - #15 as rules #11 - # 14, and insert a new Rule 15 as follows:
 Rule 15: Resolving Scorecard Discrepancies during Cross-Checking
 Rule 15.1. Do *not* consult the players to adjudicate scorecard errors.
 Rule 15.2. During cross-checking of scorecards, if two scorecards record different results, the discrepancy must be resolved as follows:
 [insert a - c and e - h from old rules; insert d as revised below.]
Action: Motion and 2nd to approve the extraction of Rule 11, renumbering, and rewording as proposed. **Motion Approved.**
Action: Motion and 2nd to accept the wording change to Rule 11 d and place it under the new Rule 15.2 [as Rule 15.2d.] **Motion Approved.**
12. Rule 10.4: Calling Muggins: There was quite a bit of discussion regarding the effect of the new Peg Out rule on 10.4. Ultimately, the proposed change for Rule 10.4 by the Rules Committee was left in place. **Action:** Motion and 2nd to approve. **Motion Approved.**

Dave A. will facilitate the printing of the new rule book. He will edit the book for punctuation and otherwise "clean it up." He will also try to keep it to 40 pages. It will have the ACC logo on the cover. It will go to the Executive Committee for final review before it is printed.

b. Youth Masterpoint Program: Deferred to Item 31, Youth Committee Report.

- c. **New Masterpoint Software:** Dave C. reported on the development of the new masterpoint software. The plan is to start testing the system in May. Paul G. indicated that considerable progress has been made. He anticipated that it will be ready to introduce when the new season begins August 1, 2016.
- d. **Terms for Paid & Volunteer Positions Ad Hoc Committee:** Paul G. said there's no update for this meeting. Discussion on this topic was deferred until the next BoD meeting at the Grand National in October.
- e. **Codification of Nonstandard Tournaments:** Jeanne H. said that this issue (proposed stricter limits to weekday and back-to-back one day tournaments) spearheaded by Dave A. was referred to the Executive Committee at the last BoD meeting. The Executive Committee has referred it back to the Tournament Commissioners. It is addressed in the Tournament Directors Manual. The issue will be settled by the Tournament Commissioners who will bring it back to the full Board for explanation.
- f. **Accreditation for Doubles Tournaments:** This item was tabled. Dave A. asked Willie E. to take over as chair of the committee, consisting of Willie E., Wayne S., Dave A., and Keith W.
- g. **Judges Recertification:** Keith W. wants a new test for the new rules book and to have all judges retested. Al Miller doesn't want to have to retest all the judges, mainly because of the cost and time it would take to recertify approximately 640 judges. During discussion, it was noted that currently there are two levels of judges: Senior Judge, and regular judge. One suggestion was to create more levels of judges. Another observation was that this would be a good opportunity to screen out the incompetent, inactive or incapacitated judges. Cy M. suggested having an on-line test for recertification. Several others, including Dave C., thought this is a good idea for the future, but the ACC's software is not ready for it. There was considerable more discussion. [Note: At this point, we broke for lunch. The discussion was resumed after lunch.] During lunch, Jeff S. talked with Larry H., who offered to send an e-mail to all judges with a recertification test attached. Jeff S. will talk to Al M. about it and develop a strategy. It is very likely that they will decide to recertify judges after the new rule book has been out 60 to 90 days, without having to put all the work on Al M.]
- h. **Revision of Q-Pool/Side-Pool Definitions:** Roy H. said that he met with the rest of the people on the committee (David C., Patrick B. and Terry W.) about proposing to withdraw changes made to the Q-pool in September. Quite a few people have provided input as to how they can get away with doing it the same way they used to. For instance, one way a tournament director could get around the requirement that all qualifiers get paid is by giving only \$1 to the bottom half of qualifiers. Another concern is whether the term "side-pool" could be considered gambling. Jeanne H. read eight letters from ACC members on this issue, [in response to her Cribbage World column] with the majority (seven) in favor of returning to the customary use of the term Q-pool. Roy H. also pointed out that there is variation in how Grass Roots Clubs pay out Q-pools, and that they should have to handle Q-pools the same as the ACC. Joan R. expressed opposition to dictating to Grass Roots directors by making them abide by the new definition of "Q-pool." There was considerable discussion, both pro and con, about changing the use of "Q-pool" back to the way it was. During discussion, it was noted that there shouldn't be any misunderstanding so long as it is explained on the tournament flyer what kind of pool it is and the payout ratio. The type of pool should also be explained on the tournament request form. **Action:** Roy H. made a motion that the previous action of the Board in September, 2015, regarding Q-pools be withdrawn and all pools be allowed to be called "Q-pool," with the modification that the type of Q-pool each tournament

director chooses be required to be notated with the payout ratio on the flyer and the sanctioning request, 2nd by Pat B. **Motion Approved.** 14-For 7-Against 2-Abstained.

15. Home for ACC Archives: Fred White stated that he houses the ACC's archives in his house, and wants to share them with the rest of the ACC. He suggested moving the archives to the Sands and designing a mobile display case for historical memorabilia that would also be housed at the Sands. In exchange for that, the Sands could add a banner to its website saying "Home of the American Cribbage Congress" or something similar. There would also be a link to the ACC website. Furthermore, he suggested that each month Cribbage World include an article or page dedicated to something of interest from the archives. He noted that this idea is a work in progress, and that he will come back at the next Board meeting with a more detailed proposal, including a proposed budget for expenses.

16. Grass Roots Webmaster Stipend Added to Policy & Procedures Manual: Paul G. stated that as GR Webmaster he gets a \$200/month stipend. However, this stipend position is not listed in the ACC Policy and Procedures Manual. Joan R. confirmed that this is a permanent position. **Action:** Dave C. made a motion to add the Grass Roots Webmaster to the list of positions receiving a stipend to the ACC Policy and Procedures Manual, 2nd by Dave O. **Motion Approved.** Jeanne J. will inform Keith W. of this change to the ACC Policy and Procedures Manual.

17. Life Membership Reinstatement: Paul G. said that there was healthy discussion on social media regarding reinstating the life membership. He said he would bring it up as a discussion item. Jeanne H. suggested that we might revisit this if our financial situation plays out, but not at this time. Jeff S. suggested appointing a sub-committee to come up with a new list of criteria [for instance: age, minimum length of membership, amount, and inclusion of spouses] for life membership in case we do reinstate it. Jeff S. will form a three person committee consisting of one person from each region, and will come back with a proposal for life membership criteria [if and when it is reinstated] at the next Board meeting.

Subsidized Memberships: [Note: This was not an official agenda item. However, the following discussion that occurred at this point in the meeting was a different issue to the one discussed above.] Dave C. and Dave A. suggested developing a fund composed of donations to subsidize ACC membership dues for GR members with low income. Don H. referenced a system that works with his GR club, whereby reserves from GR payouts are used to subsidize ACC and GR memberships based on attendance. Dave C. will look into establishing such a fund and bring back a proposal at the next Board meeting.

18. ACC Media Content: Dave C. indicated that there are issues related to Facebook sites. Rick A. is the moderator on one of the Facebook sites with some 820 in the group. It was originally set up about four years ago as "American Cribbage Congress Members." There was a disagreement over a month ago, and the name [of the site] was changed because of a philosophical difference regarding content. It was never intended to be an ACC sanctioned site. Dave C. has started the official ACC Facebook group "American Cribbage Congress Members" for discussions among the membership. It is run by Valerie Nozik, Paul G., Dave A. and Dave C. It is also monitored to ensure adherence to ACC ethics and avoidance of negativity and personal attacks. Rick A. pointed out that there are at least three other cribbage related sites on Facebook. Valerie N. said that we have a presence on other social media, such as the Twitter account that Brian Neeley runs. She proposed that we label the group run by the three board members and herself as the "Official American Cribbage Congress Group for Members." Only ACC members could participate in this Facebook group, which allows for accountability and holding people's statements to ACC ethics policies. She said that there is another official Facebook page, but it is for the public. It is more of a bulletin board with static information and announcements. That page should be maintained by the PR/Marketing committee. Valerie S. suggested putting policies and procedures

regarding official social media [Facebook, Twitter, etc.] in the ACC Policy and Procedures Manual. Dave C. will chair a committee and come back in October with proposed procedures.

Publishing of Anonymous Letters to the Editor: [Note: This was not an official agenda item. However, the following discussion that occurred at this point in the meeting was a different issue from the one discussed above.] Dave C. referred to the anonymous letter in Cribbage World that apparently sparked quite a discussion on social media. Dave A. argued that it was his prerogative as Editor to print an anonymous letter, so long as he knows the source. There is precedence, and he has published several anonymous letters over the years. There was a lively discussion, with opinions both in favor of and opposed to printing anonymous letters in Cribbage World. Jeanne H. requested a straw poll of the BoD. Seven (7) were in favor of allowing anonymous Letters to the Editor as long as David knows the source, and 13 said that anonymous letters should not be printed, with three abstentions. Roy H. made a motion that no anonymous letters be put in Cribbage World, 2nd by Richard F. Dave A. was adamantly opposed to the motion. He felt it was a draconian measure to dictate to the editor what he could and couldn't publish. When it came to voting on the motion, Dave C. pointed out that this was a discussion, not an agenda item. He noted that the VP for Policy was not available to clarify whether the BoD could take action on a non-agenda item. There was also a brief sidebar discussion on banning certain words from appearing in Cribbage World. Jeanne H. asked for and received consensus from the BoD to table this item until the next meeting.

19. Proposal to Rename Back-ups to Assistants & Publish Their Contact Info: Rick A. brought up this topic mostly for discussion purposes. He noted that we are doing a lot of technical things with computers that are managed by a single source that no one else knows how to do. He advocated a more formal back-up system for every position. Dave C. noted that most positions do have a back-up, but some do not. He believed that every paid position does have a back-up. Rick A. doesn't have a back-up, and Paul G. doesn't either. Larry H. said that it is not only important to have back-ups but to also have written procedures for each position. Rick S. supported that idea, and further suggested that a copy of the position's procedural manual be held elsewhere. Rick A. will form a committee to look into this and come back with suggestions at the next Board meeting.

20. Proposal for additional awards to Masters, Grand Masters & Life Masters: Terry W. stated that the choices for weekend tournament awards, such as rings and jackets, are too limited for those reaching milestones. Jeanne H. will look into some additional options.

21. Random Seating: Jeanne H. said that this issue has been previously discussed at length, but she would allow some limited discussion for the benefit of newer Board members. Cy M. asked for 10 minutes to speak on the issue. He argued that requiring random seating would provide for greater transparency and eliminate speculation that seat assignments were prearranged for whatever reason. Jeanne H. noted that there already is a provision for random seating in the Tournament Director's manual. After Cy completed his presentation and some additional discussion, Jeanne H. referred him to go through the Tournament Commissioners if he wanted to pursue this issue further.

22. Compensation & Expense Reimbursements: Bruce S. prefaced his comments by stating that his bringing up this issue was not an attack on any individual but about the system in general. He said that when looking at the dire straits of the ACC's finances, he questioned whether we can justify spending more than \$50,000 for stipends. He noted that ACC policy states that "We are an all-volunteer corporation, and all board members and officers serve freely as volunteers without salary or wage compensation for their services." He is not saying that some people in some positions don't deserve to be compensated for their time and space, but we need to find a way to sharpen pencils and reduce costs. Jeanne H. appointed Dave O. as chair of a committee

to look at this issue and report back at the next Board meeting in Maryland with some suggested direction. Other members of the committee are Dan Selke and Rick S. Dave O. indicated that the committee will have some good ideas to report in October.

23. Board Member Emeritus: Bruce S. defined "Board-member-emeritus" as an honorary post for a retired [former] Board member who provided distinguished service. "Emeritus" translates as "on the shelf." It is a title for a former BoD member who has no specific duties and no voting rights, but who can attend meetings if desired and serve as an advisor to the BoD. Already there are two: J. P. Wergin is President Emeritus and Syl Lulinski is honorary Vice President Emeritus. **Action:** Dave O. made a motion to honor Cathy Perkins as Director Emeritus, 2nd by Phyllis S. **Motion Approved.**

24. Bonding for Grass Roots Commissioners: Joan R. sent out a proposal on behalf of Dave C. that three to four Grass Roots positions be added to the four positions that are already bonded. Bonding allows people in these positions to open checking accounts. Mike Barrett explained that bonding is an insurance policy for positions to perform their duties properly, in this case the handling of large volumes of cash. It is paid by position, not the individual. The premium for bonding is \$25 per position per year. Dave A. listed the current bonded positions as the ACC Treasurer, ACC VP Operations, ACC Membership Secretary, and GR National Commissioner. The proposed additions include the GR Regional Commissioners and the Grand National Director. Larry H. advised to make sure there are financial records associated with each bonded position. **Action:** Dave C. made a motion to add 3 to 5 bonded positions including GR Regional Commissioners and Grand National Director, 2nd by Don H. **Motion Approved.**

25. Press Releases by PR Committee: This agenda item requested by Henry B. will be referred to the PR/Marketing committee.

26. Changing Fiscal Year: Henry B. proposed that the ACC's fiscal year [currently July 1 – June 30] be changed to coincide with the cribbage year [currently August 1 – July 31.] He reasoned that it would make it easier to see the financial impact of changes when comparing one year with another. Jeanne H. stated that the Treasurer, Marlene L., expressed strong opposition to this proposal for two reasons. First, it is not important enough to change. Second, it is not worth filing another tax return that would be necessary if the fiscal year was changed. **Action:** Henry B. made a motion to change the fiscal year, 2nd by Roy H. **Motion Failed.** [Failed by an overwhelming majority—no hand count taken.]

27. Manual Name: Henry B. said that the ACC's Policy and Procedures Manual is referred to by several different names. He proposed that it be called consistently by one title to avoid confusion. **Action:** Henry B. made a motion that the manual be referred to consistently as the "ACC Policy and Procedures Manual", 2nd by Rick A. **Motion Approved.**

28. Board of Directors Acronym: Henry B. made a case for capitalizing all three letters of the Board of Directors acronym. Instead of "BoD", the acronym would be "BOD." During discussion, it was noted that many documents have "BoD," and "BoD" has become customary. **Action:** Henry B. made a motion that all three letters of "BoD" be capitalized, 2nd by Rick A. **Motion Failed.** 10-For 12-Against 1-Abstained.

29. Board of Directors Voting Accountability: Henry B. stated that BoD members should be held accountable for their votes, and that the ACC membership has a right to know how each member votes at BoD meetings. Other than for the election of officers and when a motion passes unanimously, the names of those for, those against, and those who abstain should be listed. Several people raised concern about extending the meeting time and length of the minutes by recording every name for each vote. **Action:** Henry B. made a motion that the minutes state

how directors voted by name and who abstained, 2nd by Bruce S. **Motion Failed.** 9-For 13-Against 1-Abstained.

30. Procedure for Documents Approval Before Distribution: Henry B. expressed concern, particularly in reference to BoD minutes, that documents are being published with grammatical and spelling errors. This reflects badly on the ACC. He referred to a section in the Policies and Procedures Manual that states that documents be sent to the BoD for review before they are disseminated. There was a discussion about the practicality of having the BoD vet every document before it is made public. As for BoD minutes, from now on unapproved minutes will be designated as "DRAFT." Approved minutes will be posted as such.

30 a. Additions to the Website Committee Report: Henry B. provided a progress report on the Additions to the Website Committee. Once the committee finishes gathering the information, there will be more to report at the next BoD meeting.

31. Committee Reports:

Executive- Jeanne H. reported that the Executive Committee discussed the contract renewal with the Sands Regency, which was covered earlier in the meeting [Agenda 10 a.] The codification of tournaments issue was referred to the Tournament Commissioners to study and come back with a recommendation.

Ethics- The Ethics Committee report will be given in Closed Session after the regular meeting.

Grass Roots- Joan R. reported that the Grass Roots Committee is saving a bit of money, mostly by changes in the Grass Roots awards program. Last year, \$32,000 to \$35,000 was spent on awards. Joan R. passed around a proposed revision to award choices that eliminates the ring from the Bronze level and a few other items, and adds a roller bag. If awardees wish they can "buy up," with the additional cost spelled out. They can chose "down" with no additional cost. She said that until the orders come in, we won't know how much the revised award program will save. Joan R. stated that Grass Roots is the backbone of the ACC. There are 197 active clubs and 6 to 8 "light" clubs (which play 6 games.) Joan R. also noted that a new process of notifying Grass Roots clubs of lapsed memberships when they record data is really helping [to reduce the number of delinquent dues that have to be chased up at the end of the year.] The Grass Roots Committee is meeting Friday, 2/12/16 at 8:00 p.m. in the Palm Court. Wayne Momsen, on behalf of Ron L., said that Ron L. is spearheading an informational piece proposing that Grass Roots members be given credit (GRP's) when they score 12 points or more as visitors at another club besides their home club. Wayne M. requested that this proposal be deferred until Ron L. is available to help take it forward.

Internet- John Schafer said that Internet Cribbage participation per tournament is down a little bit, although personally, he's observed that some on days it is higher. Overall, Internet Cribbage is holding its own.

Judges- Jeff S. had three quick items. He:

- Will form a 3-person team (one from each region) to work on the recertification process. Larry H. (West) volunteered to help, and Jeff S. (Central) and someone from the East will form the team.
- Will review the list of senior judges. He may make a few adjustments to cover more tournaments than some of the senior judges currently go to.
- Asked for guidance in how to respond to a request from an inmate in prison (who is not an ACC member) to take the test because he wants to run a tournament. Jeff S.

will talk with Al M. and Wayne S. about this. In any event, even if the inmate is allowed to take the test, he cannot be a certified judge unless he is an ACC member.

PR/Marketing- James M. took over as committee chair from Norm Nikodym. The committee has prepared a press release template to send to Grass Roots directors, along with ideas of where to send and post it. It will also be available on the GR website. Valerie N. is spearheading a marketing plan to reach more people online. James M. has copies of the marketing plan for those who are interested. With input from Dave C., Dave A., James M. and Paul G., she designed a survey of the ACC membership that is nearly ready to send out. The survey will help in crafting marketing messages for the best target audiences through various electronic media. She tested placing ads on Facebook in January [with funds donated by her employer] with success. A budget will be needed to proceed with implementing this marketing plan, not just on Facebook but on other social media. Board members were receptive to her ideas, applauding this future-oriented and cost-efficient approach to reaching new members. Valerie N. was invited to write up the proposed online marketing plan's budget and present it to the Executive Committee.

Rules- Wayne S. said that this subject was covered under Item 14a.

Tournament Commissioners- Roy H. said that he had received comments from two people in his GR club that they decided not to come to the TOC because of muggins. After some discussion, a straw poll of the BoD was conducted. The vote was 13 in favor of keeping muggins, and 10 against. The consensus was to announce a survey in Cribbage World and see what kind of results are received. Dave C. will set something up to conduct the survey.

Youth Program- Dan Zeisler circulated a handout. He said that the Youth Program provides a good service, and that there have been four requests for [start up] manuals. He announced that the 23rd Annual Sierra Youth Tournament will be held on February 20, 2016 in Grass Valley, CA. He is anticipating around 70 youth participants. He also thanked the Sands for donating 75 T-shirts for the upcoming youth tournament. The Youth Tournament at the 2017 Grand National looks like it will be a go. All the funding is already procured, and more details will follow. The proposed Youth Master Point system was described in the handout. Dan Z. invited Don "Grumpy" Howard to speak to the handout. Don "Grumpy" H. said that the Youth Master Point formula was simple. He stated that we need a youth movement and this was a good way to encourage youth to become active in the ACC when they get older. He said that Rick A. agreed to be the statistician. To make things less complicated, there will be no registration fee anymore, although parental permission is needed to register. There was some discussion regarding the \$3 youth membership fee on the ACC membership form and how to integrate the ACC membership data with the youth master point data. The details can be worked out. Don "Grumpy" H. stated that the Youth Committee advocates for using the term "Youth", not "Junior" [as in "Junior Member."] He said he was personally dedicating five years to growing the Youth Program to become truly nationwide. There was additional discussion about developing eligibility criteria for youth to qualify for the TOC. Members of the BoD encouraged the Youth Program leadership to go with this, especially since no funding is involved. **Action:** Richard F. made a motion to proceed with implementing the Youth Master Point system in principle, 2nd by Dave A. **Motion Approved.**

32. Officer Reports:

President – Jeanne H. provided a quick report on three items:

- Reimbursement for Dave O. was approved.
- Grass Roots awards changes have already been discussed.
- The All Star Tournament tonight will be the last one that DeLynn Colvert will oversee. Jeanne H. expressed a big thank you to DeLynn C. for overseeing this event for the last

25 years, upon which he received a standing ovation from the BoD. Roland H. volunteered to take over managing the tournament next year, and will get together with DeLynn C. in the meantime to ensure a smooth transition.

Executive VP Report – Todd S. indicated that he had not yet received any formal proposals for the 2019 Grand National, which is slated to be in the Eastern Region. Henry B. was considering a proposal to host GN XXXVIII in New Hampshire, but so far he hasn't identified a place. However, he was mindful of two Jewish holidays that fell within the early October, 2019 dates he was considering for GN XXXVIII. He presented a handout with three scenarios, including the current seven day schedule and two other schedules. He proposed moving the BoD meeting to Monday, leaving a six-day option for non-BoD members. He emphasized that this six day schedule would provide a welcome convenience and money-saver (meals & hotel) for non-BoD members. He pointed out four other advantages: allowing the ACC membership time for input to the Directors before the meeting, giving Directors ample time to meet informally and discuss the agenda before the formal meeting, allowing more time for newly elected board members to get to know other board members, and allowing committees more time to get together prior to the BoD meeting. During discussion, several disadvantages were noted by other members, including that BoD members may be tired by Monday, non-BoD members might not be able stay around to attend the BoD meeting (even if they wanted to), and announcements coming out of the BoD meeting couldn't be made at the Grand National. Henry B. conducted a straw poll to see what BoD members thought of this idea. A show of hands indicated only three in favor, while the majority did not support this idea. Todd S. said that a John Pettigrew from Pensacola had expressed some interest in hosting the tournament in Florida. Aside from enthusiasm from the Chamber of Commerce, Pettigrew did not provide any details, nor was Todd S. familiar with Pettigrew. Todd S. invited parties interested in possibly hosting the 2019 Grand National to give him a call. Finally, Todd S. urged BoD members to be observant about the ACC website, and to notify Diane Waite directly if something needs to be corrected or updated.

VP of Policy Report – No report.

VP of Operations Report – Dave C. – nothing to add to what he's already reported.

Member at Large Report – Terry W. - nothing additional to report.

Adjourned to Closed Session.*

33. Next Meeting: Jeanne H. announced the next BoD meeting will be Friday, October 7, 2016 at the Bethesda North Marriott Hotel, Bethesda, MD @ 9:00 a.m.

34. Adjourn: Jeanne H. thanked Barbara W. and the Sands Regency for the portfolios given to BoD members. **Action:** Cy M. made a motion to adjourn the meeting, 2nd by Valerie S. **Motion Approved.** Meeting Adjourned 5:18 p.m.

* Note: Following the regular agenda, the BoD met in Closed Session to discuss an ethics violation issue. After the Closed Session, the regular meeting was resumed. Minutes of the Closed Session will not be made public.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeanne Jelke
Recording Secretary