

American Cribbage Congress
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes—Approved 3/1/18
CHINOOK WINDS RESORT & CASINO – LINCOLN CITY, OR
SEPTEMBER 8, 2017

1. **Call to order:** President Jeanne Hofbauer called the meeting order at 9:00 am.
2. **Pledge of allegiance:** Valerie Sumner led the Pledge of Allegiance.
3. **Roll Call:** Jeanne Jelke read the roll call. Present: David Aiken, Rick Allen, Patrick Barrett, David Campbell, Willie Evans, Richard Frost, Jeff Gardner, Paul Gregson, Roland Hall, Don Hannula, Audrey Hatto, Jeanne Jelke, Pat Llewellyn, James Morrow, Valerie Nozick, Dave O’Neil, Todd Schaefer, Rick Shea, Jeff Shimp, Mark Soule, Valerie Sumner, Diane Waite, Terry Weber, Fred White, Keith Widener. All twenty-five members were present. We had a quorum.
4. **Approve Agenda:** Jeanne H. skipped this agenda item. Later in the meeting, a proposed revised agenda was presented by David C. [after he was elected President.] **Action:** Rick A. made a motion to accept the revised agenda presented by David C., 2nd by Paul G. **Motion Approved.**
5. **Approve minutes of March 2, 2017:** Jeanne J. introduced the minutes, explaining that they had been vetted by President Jeanne H. and circulated several times to the full BOD for input. **Action:** Valerie S. made a motion to approve the minutes of 3/2/17 as presented, 2nd by Paul G. **Motion Approved.**
6. **President’s comments:** Jeanne H. stated that she had a few things to say before stepping down as the ACC’s president. She said thank you to the members of the BOD who were re-elected and that it had been a pleasure working with them. She said she was sorry that she won’t be able to serve with the new members, but she had confidence in them. She urged them to serve in the best interests of the whole organization, not for personal agendas and not necessarily from their own region. After her comments, the BOD gave Jeanne H. a standing ovation.
7. **Election of Officers:** Jeanne H. introduced Jeanne J., who has been selected by the Executive Committee to succeed Phyllis Schmidt as chair of the Nominating Committee. Jeanne J. stated that she was honored to serve in this capacity, and that it has been a learning curve. There is little in the way of written guidance as to nominating committee procedures, and she will propose some at the next BOD meeting. She thanked Dave A. for stepping forward to help her and become a member of the Nominating Committee. She described the election process. Each officer position was introduced in order listed in the ACC Policy & Procedures Manual, with nominations submitted prior to the Nominating Committee. Nominations from the floor were invited and the nominees asked if they accept their nomination. There was a motion to close nominations. [Note: motions to close nominations were not noted in the minutes.] After close of nominations, each candidate was given time to make a brief statement in support of their candidacy. Uncontested officer positions were conducted by a hand vote; written ballots were issued when there were two or more candidates.

President: Nominations from the Nominating Committee: David Campbell; from the floor: none. David Campbell was elected President by unanimous hand vote.

Executive/Marketing VP: Nominations from the Nominating Committee: Paul Gregson and James Morrow. Paul Gregson was elected Executive/Marketing VP by ballot vote 17-8.

VP Ethics & Policy: Nominations from the Nominating Committee: Valerie Sumner; from the floor: Keith Widener. Valerie Sumner was elected VP Ethics & Policy by ballot vote 16-9.

During her brief statement, Valerie S. drew attention to the revised ACC Policy & Procedures Manual which she prepared and distributed to members of the Board.

VP Operations: Nominations from the Nominating Committee: Terry Weber and Patrick Barrett; from the floor: none. Terry Weber was elected VP Operations by ballot vote 13-12.

While waiting for the results of the voting for this position, Rick and Peggy Shea provided a Grand National themed gift to each Board member.

VP Competition: Nominations from the Nominating Committee: Rick Allen and Keith Widener; from the floor: David Aiken. First ballot vote did not result in a majority vote for any of the three candidates. A second ballot vote was held for the top two vote getters, David Aiken and Keith Widener. David Aiken was elected VP Competition by ballot vote 13-12.

Jeanne H. congratulated the new Executive Committee. She wished to especially congratulate her successor, David C. President David C. took over running the meeting at this point, and thanked Jeanne H. for her years of service.

8. **Update of GNXXVI:** Rick S. stated that the Chinook Winds Casino has been good to us. There are 470 players registered so far. There are also 224 signed up for the Awards Banquet, which might be a record. The first Youth Grand National will take place on Saturday. Willie E. thanked the Shea's for all their hard work.
9. **Update of GNXXVII:** Terry W. reported that everything is starting to come together for the 2018 Grand National (September 21 – 23, 2018) at the Crowne Plaza in Milwaukee, WI. He said it looks like it will be another great Grand National!
10. **Bids for GNXXVIII:** Paul Barnes explored having the 2019 Grand National held in Florida, but it didn't work out. David C. and Todd S. proposed that the 2019 Grand National be held at the North Conway Grand Hotel in North Conway, NH, from October 25 -27, 2019. David C. presented a packet with information about the hotel. David C. will be the Tournament Director. The playing room holds 450 people. Hotel room rates are \$109 for 4 days and \$129 for 2 days. North Conway is 1 ¼ hours from Portland, ME; 1 ½ hours from Manchester, NH; and 2 hours from Boston. This is a tourist area

and there are lots of side trip opportunities. **Action:** David C. asked for approval of the proposal to hold the 2019 Grand National in North Conway, NH. **Approved unanimously.**

11. **Treasurer's report:** Marlene Lazachek, referring to the written financial report, indicated that printing costs went up, including \$4,950 for score cards and production of 43 more playoff posting boards. She said that in March, another \$3,000 was taken out of the investment account from interest earned, leaving a balance of over \$50,000. The investment account balance is now back up to \$52,608. A \$500 balance remains from the donation of \$1,000 by the "Hand of the Day" person to subsidize memberships for a year period, which is now up. In addition, \$580 was raised for the membership subsidy program, of which only \$60 has been spent, leaving a balance of \$520 in that fund. In a future Cribbage World, Dave A. will remind grass roots and TD's of the opportunity to apply for the subsidy. Marlene L. expressed frustration in communicating with Paul regarding the development of the ACC master point tracking system software. She suggested that Paul G. not be paid any more until this software is up and running. \$12,800 has been spent so far on the contract that started 3-1-15 and now it is 2 ½ years later, with a \$6,400 balance. Paul G. indicated that he was happy to oblige and will not be paid until he completes the contract obligation.
12. **Membership Secretary's Report:** Larry Hassett passed out an updated Membership Secretary's report that included August data. He offered to answer any questions. He noted that there are a lot of life memberships with bad addresses. He indicated that he notifies the Grass Roots club of record when there is a bad address.
13. **Old Business:**
 - a. **Membership Payment Options:** Larry H. said that there has been a lot of talk about using credit cards or Pay Pal to pay for memberships. He made a list of requirements and sent it to David C. We need a system that works efficiently for members as well as for him, as our situation is somewhat unique. He stated that another part of this is when Grass Roots memberships are being renewed all at once. David C. noted that the option of payment by credit card will have to happen at some point. Dave A. stated that members will have to have access to pay from the website. Jeff G. and Valerie both said that the ACC needs to have a way for people to pay electronically, since that's our target demographic. Larry H. said that there would be a lot of problems with online payments. For instance, a lot of members don't remember their ACC #. The matter of membership payment options was referred to the IT committee.
 - b. **New Masterpoint software:** Paul G. admitted that there has not been much progress since the last meeting. He sent Marlene L. a version of the software for testing. She ran into some problems, and he needs to address those issues. He still thinks he can get it done by the end of the calendar year [12/31/17]. He understands that payment will be withheld until it is completed. David C. invited Marlene L. to contact him if she continues to have difficulty communicating with Paul G.
 - c. **Tournament director's manual:** David C. said that he is taking over updating the manual from Roy Hofbauer, and will be assisted by Dave O. and Sally Henderson.

- d. **"29 Hand" pins:** Jeanne H. passed around a sample 29 pin that the BOD authorized her to order. 500 have been produced. She suggested that the pins be given out retroactively. Marlene will verify people who are entitled to a pin based on whether there is evidence that they received the \$100 check.
- e. **Implementation of Grass Roots points for visitors & Grass Roots Report:** Joan Rein described the implementation of the Grass Roots points for visitors. Members who miss tournaments at their home club can make them up by visiting other clubs. At the end of the season after the number of club tournaments attended and points earned at their home club are calculated, any points earned as a visitor at the first make-up tournaments (up to the total of 36 tournaments) will be calculated and added to the club points. These visitor points count towards cumulative and divisional awards, but not towards club champion. Joan R. said that we are still going to continue the Traveler's Club. There was an extended discussion on the transfer process. Referring to the Grass Roots Metrics report prepared by Paul G., Joan R. said that we are up to 194 active clubs, including a couple of new clubs. There are a few more "Lite" clubs. David C. suggested revisiting the idea of a membership drive competition. Joan R. also mentioned the Rookie of the Year, and reminded that guests can play only 4 times before they must join. She requested and received permission to go forward with a membership recruitment e-mail for people trying to start a new club in an area where there are no local clubs.
- f. **Codification of nonstandard tournaments:** The three tournament commissioners have decided to drop this as an agenda item. If it becomes an issue again in the future, members are invited to bring it up.
- g. **ACC Archives:** Fred W. reported that he is hopeful that by March all the arrangements will be in place so that he can ship off ACC memorabilia to Barbara Woodward for storage at the Sands. There are about 8 boxes of items. Some of the items will be for display in honor of Joe Wergin.
- h. **Additional awards for Masters, Grand Masters, Life Masters:** Terry W. said that this idea is being dropped for lack of interest.
- i. **Additions to the Web Site Committee findings:** Fred W. suggested that the pdf's of documents collected by Henry Bergeron [mostly previous BOD minutes] be added to the website. There will not be any edits of approved minutes. Rick S. asked if there is enough room on the website to accommodate these items. Diane said that she can post them. David C. noted that space issues will be addressed in the larger context of revamping the various ACC-related websites. **Action:** Fred W. made a motion to put pdf documents compiled by Henry B. on the website, 2nd by Roland Hall. **Motion Approved.**
- j. **Automation of tournament paperwork:** Paul G. said that he has no report on the proposed automation of tournament paperwork, but it will be addressed after the software is updated.

14. **E-mail addresses on the ACC & Grassroots systems:** Valerie S. stated that there should be an option for members that have a listed email address listed to still have their membership renewal reminders sent by mail. Larry H. will work on it.
15. **Cribbage.org email addresses:** Valerie N. stated that we need to brand ourselves more. Everyone on the Board and holding an official position should have a cribbage.org email address which they use for ACC business. ACC email addresses by position also helps with succession. Diane W. has already created ACC email addresses for certain positions. Jeff G. also noted that this helps maintain confidentiality on sensitive issues like ethics issues, instead of being sent via personal email addresses. James M. asked whether this will work for committee and group emails and Diane answered yes. Valerie S. asked about security and who will have access to seeing emails or changing the email addresses. Diane answered that our cribbage.org email system has good security, and only cribbage.org administrators will have access. Diane said that she can also associate the cribbage.org email address with the personal email so that it automatically forwards to the personal email. Diane W. said that there are over 200 cribbage.org email addresses available. Diane W. will establish addresses and instructions as to how to set up cribbage.org email address at home. **Action:** Valerie N. made a motion that we set up cribbage.org email addresses for every Board member and all official committees and positions, 2nd by Terry W. **Motion Approved;** 23-for, 2 abstained.
16. **Requiring cribbage.org URL on ACC materials:** Valerie N. stated that after reviewing many tournament flyers and other ACC materials, almost none include the ACC's URL [<http://cribbage.org>]. She handed out good and bad examples of materials that did or didn't use the URL. She advocated for doing so to help brand the ACC and so people know where to go to get more information about the ACC. Pat B. noted that if we adopt this policy, it will be required on all tournament flyers. Jeanne J. suggested that this will work for generic materials, but that it needs to be identified as the ACC's URL, so as not to be confused as a specific event's URL. Discussion arose as to whether the ACC's logo should be redone to include the URL. The official logo will remain the same, but Valerie offered to design an optional version of the logo that includes the URL. **Action:** Valerie N. moved to require an official ACC URL, "official" to be determined by the Executive Committee, to appear in a prominent position on all public materials, beginning January 1, 2018, 2nd by Roland H. **Motion approved.** Marketing Committee will review all generic marketing materials.
17. **Posting on Facebook as administrators:** Valerie S. expressed concern that some ACC Facebook postings appear under an administrator's individual name, making it seem like a personal posting. Postings should give equal opportunity for those aren't administrators to get credit as authors of ideas. Valerie S. was also concerned that it appears like the administrators are doing more for the betterment of the ACC than other Board members. Valerie N. said there is no way on Facebook to differentiate between someone posting in the role of administrator as opposed to as an individual. She also noted that there is a difference between the ACC Facebook page (which gives general information) and the ACC group discussion, which is what we are talking about here. She suggested identifying the four administrators by name in the prologue to the group discussion, and to make it clear who is the author of each discussion item. There are 4 administrators: David C., Dave A., Valerie N. and Paul G. and more than 1,000 in the

Facebook group. The discussion concluded that there wasn't much more that can be done to address Valerie S's concerns.

18. **Discussion of work being done on ACC Website:** Diane W. apologized for there being no projector. She described some of the limitations of the current website and that its look is dated. She is working on a new format for the ACC website to make it more modern and useful for marketing. The new format is easy and doable within a 6-month's period. She is using the "Dazzle" webpage template, which works on the current domain. It will have the menu across the top, vs. the menu below, with simple pages. It needs the Sands logo, and she needs also to convert the current content to the new format. She has shown "Version 1" to members of the proposed IT committee, and will finalize the look, colors, etc. She intends to have something to show the Board within 6 months, hopefully by the next BOD meeting. She liked the suggestion to post a statement at the top of our current website, such as "Coming Soon a new Website Skin." The consensus of the Board was to encourage Diane W. to go forward with the website remodel.
19. **Proposal to redesign and merge all the ACC's Websites:** Paul G. stated that it will assist with branding if all our websites were consolidated. "Cribbage.org" is our primary website. Rick A. noted that there are two other sites—one for Youth and one for Internet Cribbage. These websites are in addition to the ACC website and Grass Roots website. It needs to be accessible for those managing each site. Paul G. proposed that a committee be formed to discuss merging the various ACC related websites. **Action:** David C. moved that a committee be formed, with membership to be determined later, to look into merging the [ACC-related] websites, 2nd by Fred W. **Motion Approved.**
20. **Cross checking program demo:** Paul G. introduced Chris Bailey who gave a demonstration of a software program he developed to cross check cards using an iPad or iPhone. He can cross check automatically by inputting the data from each scorecard, and is already doing that with Grass Roots tournaments. If several people are inputting the scorecards it goes quicker. The program flags errors and discrepancies. There was considerable discussion. Chris Bailey indicated that this software is designed only for iPads and iPhones, but Larry H. has a computer program for a laptop. Paul G. noted that this is not a proposal and TD's will not be required to use it. However, it is a useful tool that will be available to download on I-tunes.
21. **Youth Cribbage:** Don "Grumpy" Howard stated that the reason Youth Cribbage exists is because of Dan Ziesler. Dan Z. asked Grumpy H. to take the ball and run with it. Youth Cribbage has made much progress. Tomorrow [9/9/17] will be the first Youth Grand National. Twenty-seven youth are signed up, including 2 from Maine. Grumpy H. gave examples of how many people have helped—for instance, Richard "Frosty" F. brought pegs. Many others have donated items and funds to help Youth Cribbage. Grump H. thanked the BOD for their support and encouraged the BOD to continue working at it. He said that about 25 youth now have Youth Master Points. The second Youth Grand National will be held at the Sands during the July tournament on June 30, 2018, and will be at that time frame from now on so that it is easier for the kids to travel when school is out.

At this point right after the lunch break, David C. presented a memorabilia gift book to be awarded Roy and Jeanne Hofbauer for their years of service to the ACC. He encouraged everyone to write in it with a special pen. He also showed a ring and a trophy for them that will be presented at the Awards Banquet.

22. **Disposition of recent ethics case (closed session) and Ethics Report:**

Minutes of the closed session are attached as a confidential addendum to the full BOD meeting minutes.

23. **Random Seating:** Paul G. said that there have been a few incidents where tournament directors did not follow procedures regarding random seating. He stated that the procedures are fine, they just need to be followed. Pat B. said that most or all the TD's understand what we want them to be doing, but we can't see what they do every tournament because it is logistically impossible. These people are the backbone of the ACC, and we don't want to micromanage them. Pat B. stated that overall, random seating is working fairly well, and he didn't think there's a problem. David C. said that the tournament guidelines permits spouses, relatives and significant others to sit at different tables, as well as to assign seating for handicapped players and distribute judges. However, this shouldn't apply to traveling buddies or prize-splitting partners. Others argued that they should be able to sit at different tables. There was also discussion regarding the transparency of random seating, particularly at small tournaments. In addition, the definition or application of "random" is different. After a prolonged discussion, the three regional Tournament Commissioners will come up with a better wording for the random seating policy for the Board to vote on in March.
24. **Review of 2016/2017 Season metrics:** Paul G. referred to the reports circulated before the BOD meeting. He made some observations and asked for feedback regarding the data. Fred W. asked whether it should be broken down by state or by marketing criteria. Some discussion arose regarding Internet Cribbage and why it seemed to peak in 2012/13. Tammy Gibbons noted that the number of days per week and number of directors went down. Several people suggested that perhaps 150 internet tournaments is too many. Paul G. suggested that board members take time to digest the information in the report and it would be great to hear any ideas.
25. **Year-end tournaments:** Terry W. said that traditionally the "legacy tournament" in Raleigh has been held the last weekend in July, and that the cluster of tournaments in Wisconsin have been held the next to the last week of July. However, this year some scheduling issues came up which made it difficult to avoid holding these tournaments on the same weekend. He suggested that, to help attendance in both places, there be a reciprocal agreement between the Central Division TD's and Eastern Division TD's not to compete. After discussion, the consensus was that all directors involved must work out an agreement between themselves and that this does not need a BOD directive. The BOD will vote on this matter in March if necessary.
26. **Grand National/Grass Roots scheduling conflicts:** Terry W. suggested that there be a regular Grass Roots tournament at the Grand National so that players attending the Grand National can get GR points while away from their clubs. He plans to introduce this

opportunity at the Grand National in Milwaukee. After discussion, it was decided to leave this to future Grand National directors and local clubs if they want to offer this event.

27. **"28 Hand" pins:** David C. stated that we are never going to agree on what to give people for 28 hands [for ACC tournaments, not Grass Roots]. He noted that Dave O. is resigning as the coordinator for issuing 28 hand certificates. It was suggested that Kevin Harris be asked to send these out in his place. On average, there are fifteen to twenty 28 hands per month. Right now, the certificates cost \$.98 in postage. **Action:** David C. moved that we issue 28 pins instead of certificates starting August 1, 2018, 2nd by Rick A. **Motion Approved.**
28. **Time frame for contesting ACC BOD election:** David C. noted that the current two-week time frame for contesting the ACC BOD election created a delay in publishing Cribbage World to announce the results. **Action:** Dave O. moved to amend policy 2-3 #5b, changing the period to contest the results of a BOD election from two weeks to one week, 2nd by James M. **Motion Approved.**
29. **Reducing time of voting period & other changes to ACC BOD Election:** David C. said that approximately one-half of those that voted did so online. Most of the voting took place right after the ballots were sent out and towards the end, but not during the middle. Of the 994 who voted, 560 voted within the first 10 days. The [two-month] length of the voting period also affected the timing for announcing the results in Cribbage World. The deadline of May 31 for postmarked ballots, and preparations on the front end will be shortened by one month. Dave A. said he can adjust putting out the May issue a little earlier in April. **Action:** Keith W. made a motion to shorten the voting period from two months to one month, with ballots postmarked by May 31st, 2nd by Roland H. **Motion Approved.**
30. **Reformation of ACC Committees:** David C. stated that according to his count, there are 16 committees, but no one knows who is on them or what they are supposed to do. Moreover, the requirement that each BOD member participate on at least 2 committees has not been enforced. **Action:** Rick S. made a motion to dissolve all current Board committees and reform new committees and membership, 2nd by Valerie N. **Motion Approved.** Dave C. passed around a list of 17 proposed Board Committees and their chairs, and asked Board members to sign up for at least two committees they are interested in. Membership of certain committees may include non-BOD members. The Executive Committee will meet briefly after the meeting to firm up the composition of the new committees.
31. **Committee reports:**

Executive: David C. indicated that \$200 was spent for funeral flowers, \$3,000 [in accrued interest] was withdrawn from the investment and put in the operating fund, and \$500 to the Washington State Fair cribbage booth. Also, Jeanne J. was appointed chair of the Nominating Committee. James M.'s request for printing of marketing materials was approved.

Internet: Tammy Gibbons reported that Internet Cribbage is running smoothly. She gave

a shout out to Rick S. and Scott Milo for becoming new Internet TD's. The number of tournaments per week is up from 4 last year to 5 this year. She noted that Tim Julkowski is the statistician, and John Schafer provides the technical support.

Judges: Jeff S. said that he intended to announce new Senior Judges, but failed to find the list of existing judges. He will find it and will be making some changes. He will provide an update for next time. Al Miller requested to resign as tester, and Sally Henderson has volunteered to be the tester, and will try to do as much as possible over the internet. She will continue to collect \$3 per test, effective January 1, 2018.

PR/Marketing: James M. reported that since the last BOD meeting, the marketing committee has:

- Introduced certificates to give to GR Directors to give to host sites
- Prepared Youth teaching recognition certificates
- Designed posters
- Designed stickers
- Promoted National Champions

Rules: Roland H. stated that Wayne Steinmetz asked him to take over, and that there were two pending issues being considered by the Rules Committee. The first issue is to change the wording in the rule book for greater clarity regarding correcting the end count when pegging approaches 31. The second issue is to allow judges to take witness accounts when there are disputes over the stated count. These issues will be taken up by the new Rules Committee, chaired by Dave O.

Tournament Commissioners: Pat B. thanked Rick S. for accepting the post of Western Region Commissioner. He also noted that the HOF balloting will change a lot because of new panel members chosen by the new BOD members.

32. **Next BOD Meeting: Thursday, March 1, 2018**

33. **Adjourn:** David C. declared the meeting adjourned at 3:35 pm.