

**American Cribbage Congress
Board of Director's Meeting
Sands Regency Casino Hotel – Reno, Nevada
Friday, September 30th 2011**

President Jeanne Hofbauer **called the meeting to order** at 9:00 a.m.

Valerie Sumner led the **Pledge of Allegiance**

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

Amended Agenda was approved with additions.

Minutes of the February 10th 2011 Board of Directors was approved as amended; third page, third paragraph under positions; the membership secretary is approved to attend 50% of the BoD meetings, the other positions attend 100% of the meetings. Cathy P made a motion to approve the minutes and the motion was 2nd by Dave O. Motion Approved.

Election of Officers: Phyllis S – nominations/approvals for 2011-2012 ACC Board of Directors Executive Committee.

President – Jeanne Hofbauer – voice vote – approved
Executive Vice President - Todd Schafer – voice vote – approved
Vice President of Policy – Cathy Perkins – voice vote – approved
Vice President of Operations – Dave Campbell – voice vote – approved
Member At Large – Jeff Shimp & Valerie Sumner – written vote – Jeff Shimp approved

Update of Grand National XXX: Annett E - 496 registered so far – the banquet is sold out.

Update of Grand National XXXI: Joan R – plans are moving along smoothly with no major changes. Tournaments before and after the GN in the local were discussed. Rooms are \$89 per night at the hotel. The hotel holds more than 500 people.

Update of Grand National XXXII: Dave O – Brief discussion on plans for GN32. The hotel in Atlanta will hold up to 800 people.

Bids for Grand National XXXIII: Todd S – There are three bids for GN33 in 2014. Brion Neeley for Phoenix, Arizona; Arlene Carle for Anchorage, Alaska and Peggy Johnson for Las Vegas, Nevada. Discussion on voting two years prior or three years prior. Todd S – three years is necessary to allow time for the person running the Grand National. Cathy P – the manual states three years prior to put in a request & at least two years prior to vote on it. The three bidders stated that they need to have the vote within the next thirty days or they will need to go to bid again. Members voted by written ballot (must be a majority of votes for the winner); Phoenix won the bid for Grand National 2014.

Treasurer's Report: Marlene L discussed the income statement, comparative balance sheet and cash balance sheet. Also, the audit was completed. The funding for GN12 and GN13 has been handed out to the tournament directors. Has not received monies for rule books from any region since January; the membership secretary has sold 180 rulebooks. We have reached the point where the cost of publishing the rule books has been covered.

Roy H asked why there was an increase in grassroots expenses. Joan R explained that there were 103 awards in 05 thru 06; this has increased each year with 177 this past year. \$25,000 is what we will see in award costs now. Cathy P stated that grassroots members are playing in more tournaments each year than ever before. Joan stated that in 2005 thru 2006 there were 18 silver awards given out and this year she gave out 44 silver awards.

Cathy P made a motion to approve the Treasurer's report; Ron L 2nd – motion approved.

Membership Secretary's Report and New Master Point Program: Larry Hassett – discussed membership secretary's report; overall we are down 139 members (this includes 57 life memberships which were removed).

Discussed progress with the new master point program and the new software specifications, etc. Larry H will gather progress reports throughout the process of updating the software system for the master point system. The new program will help with tournament reports and information for Cribbage World.

Policy Manual: Cathy P – Discussed replacement pages and a few items (ie: should, etc) that were fixed. Discussed Tournament Director(s) section and not allowing monetary gain; this includes not playing in the tournament for free. This does not include complimentary rooms or food from the place the tournament is run. A motion to add the portion about not playing in the tournament for free was passed.

A motion to accept the reorganized policy & procedures manual to move ahead with the new version is needed. Cathy P made a motion to accept the reorganized manual; Dave O 2nd. Will correct timelines for the Grand National timing of when to put in bids and vote on bids. Paul B – need a means to tell what revisions are listed on the pages; Cathy P states this will all be documented. Motion approved.

What happens if a board member moves from one region to another – Cathy P. IE – Bob M is moving to the Western Region and that would make 11 from the West. Moving from one region to another should still represent the region they started in until the next voting process. Motion to allow a board member to represent original region until next voting process was made by Ron L; Cathy P 2nd. Motion approved.

Discussion on what happens if less than six people run for the Board from one region. Executive Committee should be able to vote to approve someone to put on the board. Cathy P suggests that the group that obtains all the nominations get back to the region where there aren't at least six people running and get them to persuade someone else to run. Cathy P suggests we discuss this again in February.

Number of rounds from the main played before consolation starts. Cathy P - Should we set a policy on the number of rounds played before the consolation begins? Jeanne H – this should be at the discretion of the tournament director.

Adding duty to Regional Commissioners job - Notify tournament directors prior to Cribbage World coming out that someone has been suspended or expelled from the ACC. Some have never seen a list (or any other document) that states who has been suspended or expelled. Larry H would like to ensure this information also goes to the National Statistician. Cathy P made a motion to add 23rd duty to Regional Commissioners duties: notify Tournament Directors (who will hold tournaments prior to the next Cribbage World) and National Statistician of suspensions and expulsions prior to the next Cribbage World comes out. Valerie S 2nd. Motion approved.

Weekday tournament rules – Cathy P - strike where it says “not interfere with Grass Roots”. Dave A made a motion to strike “not interfere with Grass Roots” – Cathy P 2nd – motion approved.

Insufficient qualifiers to fill all slots on the playoff board and putting an explanation on “byes” to fill those slots should be clarified. Peggy S made motion and Don Brown 2nd. Motion approved.

Member at Large is supposed to maintain a list of inventory of equipment used for tournaments, etc. However, this has not been done in a very long time. Peggy S made a motion to strike the statement concerning the Member at Large maintaining an inventory of equipment; Jeanne H 2nd. Motion approved.

Deceased Hall of Fame members. Cathy P - Want to make sure it's noted in the appendix for the Hall of Fame if a member is deceased. Motion – Ron L; Don B 2nd. Motion approved.

Should add the list of judges to the ACC website. Ron L – motion to add; Jeff S - 2nd. Motion approved.

Eliminate the Nick Pond award; greatest percentage increase per season on members attending a specific tournament. Jeanne H – motion to eliminate; Dave A 2nd. Cathy P states this award has not been processed for over five years. Motion approved.

Cathy P would like to review the Membership Secretary contract with the rest of the Executive Committee. Larry H has the original contract and he will get a copy to Jeanne H and the Executive Committee so they can review it and make any changes necessary.

Discussion on the legal age for players – Cathy P has clarified this section where it concerns prize money. Larry P – motion; Jeff S – 2nd. Dave A and Joan R discussed allowing junior players to receive scholarship money instead of prize money. Don B stated they give the prize money to the guardian. Approved with amendment to add “facility” as the site of the tournament.

Term of executive committee - Expires when successor is elected; what happens when a successor has not yet been elected? There is a two to three week period when there

wouldn't be an executive committee member in office. Should we appoint someone for that time period? Jeff S – Executive Committee is already allowed to appoint someone to the committee. There is already an order of succession; i.e. – the person who has been on the board for the most years would move up in succession.

Don B – Master rating point program – points received during a tournament will be earned on the last day of the tournament even if the tournament is played in two playing years. There has been some confusion on this subject; this is for clarification only. When a tournament spans two Master Point seasons, all points earned shall be for the season in which the last day of the tournament occurs – Jeanne H.

Don B – Cross Checking – current section is too informal. Received suggestions from members on making updates to the cross checking section. Jeanne H suggested it should be added to the Tournament Directors handbook as well. Cathy P – motion; Jeanne 2nd – to remove this section from the policy manual and move it to the Tournament Directors handbook. Jeff S always uses a cross-checking committee instead of using Table Captains. Don B states that the Tournament Director should always go over all scorecards after the cross checkers are done. Paul B suggests leaving the cross checking up to the tournament directors and the tournament directors handbook. Motion approved. Peggy S suggested we have Tournament Director Mentors – a group of directors who would be willing to assist new directors. Pat B says the three Regional Commissioners already do that. Roland H– further discussed being more specific with cross checking guidelines/policy no matter where you are in the nation.

Cathy P – All events or just sanctioned events of a tournament to be cross-checked. (The policy manual states all should be cross checked.) Suggested we add the word "Sanctioned" to this section where all sanctioned events must be cross checked. Peggy S – the TOC should be included in this cross checking policy.

Promotional Materials – Charlie F – Discussed items to use as promotional items; business cards, flyers, etc. Charlie F will print items up with specific information and send it to the directors. No cost to you.

BoD Voting Procedures – Julie Mack-Felkins: Discussed the voting process in general; doesn't feel the voting process is valid. Submitting objections on the voting results to Executive Committee could be considered a conflict of interest. We should have a separate committee to do the BoD voting from the beginning of the process to the conclusion where any objections on the results are voiced.

Stuffing the ballot box – heard of members stuffing the ballot box; this should be corrected.

Issue of postage and putting the votes on a post card; should put it in an envelope instead.

Make sure people are put on the ballot in random order instead of alphabetic order.

Information on voting and objections to results should not be made available for public use. Keep in mind that the voting procedures are a sacred event and should be treated as such.

Jeanne H, Jeff S & Ron L: We should look into the process and discuss potential changes to the voting process.

Herschel – Knows of no other organization where the ballots are counted by only one person. Has felt uncomfortable sending in a postcard that someone could change and then the ballot becomes invalid.

Larry H – Ensures all ballots are counted by the one person and then he reconfirms the ballots. Cathy P – The Counter didn't do the counting manually; it was done by computer. Cathy P went back and added the invalid ballots into the process just to see if there were any changes to the order of finishers; the results would not have changed. Checking into a way to allow members to vote on line in the future.

Internet BoD Voting – Paul B - Discussed a couple of ways to allow voting on-line. The startup costs of allowing a company to run the voting program on line are more than what it currently costs for first class postage. Suggests a committee be set up to discuss this way of voting compared to the current way.

Fred W – Is there a way to set up something on the ACC website to find out a response from the members whether or not they would like this way of voting. Don H – Many ACC members are older and don't use computers a lot and would have difficulty voting on-line. Larry H – All ballots would need a control number (whether they vote on line or mail the ballot back in) because that's the only way to ensure all ballots were confirmed. Jeanne H– Let's form a committee and bring back the main points to the board. Cathy P – The board should be willing to spend money on this process to make it work. Cathy P will set up a committee to review this.

Cribbage Boards or CW Over runs to RV Parks – Paul B – Jeanne H brought up the "Cribbage Anyone" brochure also. If Dave A has some overruns; send them to Paul B. Cathy P suggested putting an article in CW asking people to put their CWs in places like RV Parks. Roy H suggested putting them in Doctor's Offices, etc. Dave A states there are extra CWs every month and will drop ship some out to those who ask. Valerie S suggested sending a few to each of the Grass Roots Clubs and have the directors hand them out to their members, who can leave them in different places in their communities.

Proposal to Change All American Team Award – Keith W & Dave C – We are trying to improve the way the awards are given out. The All American team members for this year are all from the Western Region. Some of us feel like it's an attendance award. It doesn't seem fair to all ACC members the way it's currently set up. Propose we change the All American Award and take the top three or four from each region instead. We want to have the award count for what you achieve in your region. We are not trying to regionalize the awards; just trying to make it more equitable. It was noted that the most of the board members did not receive the proposal concerning the All American Team changes.

There was discussion on the fact that members in the Western Region travel long distances also. (Example: From Southern California to Canada, from Alaska to anywhere else, etc.) If you travel from the Eastern Region to the Central Region it's about the same distance as much of the travel across the Western Region. There was also discussion on the fact that

there are not as many tournaments for those in the East and Central to attend. The West has multiple tournaments to choose from on most weekends.

A suggestion was made to use the batting average calculations over the year to see who was in the top group. A further comment was made about using a minimum of ten to fifteen tournaments per year and tracking the batting average of those. However, some members may not want to be tracked at all using the batting average. It was noted that; in order to ensure the batting average system worked; all players from all tournaments would need to be tracked. Dave A posted an editorial in the October 2011 CW about the batting average completion he is running; it will be on honor system and you will report on all tournaments you go to. You must complete a minimum of two hundred games (main tournament only). It was suggested that we wait for the batting average experiment and see how it works before voting to abolish the All American Team Award. Some do not believe the batting average "on the honor system" will give us a good indication of an "All American" status.

Ron L made a motion to eliminate the All American Award and set up All Star Awards for each region; awarding the top eight players in each region and Roy H 2nd the motion. There was discussion on amending the motion to make it retroactive to the beginning of this season. A suggestion was made to change it from eight to ten from each region giving more recognition to members. Some members believe we should wait until next year since this season has already started and some ACC members are already working toward All American status. It was noted that there was already a motion is on the table. Ron L revised the motion to do away with the All American Award and have the top eight in each region receive an All Star Award and to make it retroactive to August 2011 (the beginning of the season). 14 approved – 9 against – motion approved

Lower Dues for Members Choosing to get CW on-line only – Dave C stated this is not a major issue and pulled this item. Dave A will put an article in CW asking those who don't want a paper copy to let him know.

Tournament Regulation Changes – Roy H asked to change to 18 games minimum from 20 games minimum; make it from 18 games to 22 games. Jeanne suggested this be added to the Tournament Directors handbook. Cathy P suggested this would need to go into the master points table as well. Motion approved to change to 18 game minimum from 20 game minimum for a two day tournament.

Roy H wants to change the play offs of a One Day tournament from being two out of three to three out of five for the main; this would then be the same as a two day tournament and master points earned would be more equitable. Tournament directors (with the permission of the Tournament Commissioner) could make an exception and change it back to two out of three in rare circumstances. Cathy P states that points awarded are based on how many rounds you play. All should be 3 out of 5 for one or two day tournaments; otherwise it's not equal. If you play in a One Day Main, you would receive as many points as for a Two Day Main and potentially not play as many rounds of play. Herschel – some tournaments are restricted to a specific time to leave the facility; we barely made the time using two of three; if it changes to 3 out of 5 we will need to stop running the tournament. Larry P would like to see 3 of 5 all the way through or 2 of 3 all the way through. Roy H wants to take away the option of doing 2 of 3 (with certain exceptions). One day tournaments – change to 3 out of

5; allow Tournament Commissioners the right to allow 2 out of 3 with exceptions; for the main tournament. Vote one: 11 for; 10 against; 1 abstain. Vote two: 11 for; 11 against. Cathy P there should be an equal chance to win tournament; all should be 2 of 3 or 3 of 5; should just be equal. Vote three: (Motion to have One Day Tournament play 3 out of 5 in the main playoffs all the way through; can ask for an exception.) 13 for; 8 against. Motion approved

Roy H – all weekday tournaments must be two days; there is an exception for the weekday tournament after the after the National Tournament which has been a one day weekday tournament for a long time; a waiver (from the previous Tournament Commissioner) was granted to earn master points as a one day during the week. Keith W – States that the National Tournament is a Legacy Event and is therefore grandfathered in as being approved; to include the one day tournament following the National. Roy H says they have never allowed exception for any one day during the week and we need to vote on this allowance. The motion to allow this particular tournament to be a one day tournament during the week is approved.

One Day Weekday Tournaments – Larry P – pulled this item.

Straw Poll for Fourth Region – Don B – there has been a lot of work done on reviewing this issue; the Western Region has twice as many players and twice as many tournaments. Don B would like to see if there is any interest in pursuing this issue further. Interested – 7; Not Interested – 13.

TOC – Joan R – this will be the 25th and final year I will run the TOC; Don Hannula will take over. Joan R made a proposal to allow for the Tournament Director of the TOC to have their entry paid for into the TOC. (This event is self-supporting) Charlie F made a motion to allow this; Wayne S 2nd the motion. Roy H stated he was against this because other Tournament Directors wouldn't understand why the Director of the TOC gets their entry for free. Don H says he would like to decline this offer. Motion is denied

Joan R - Discussion on moving TOC to a new location after February 2012; she checked out a few other places and still believes the Sands is the best choice. The others didn't give as many "perks". Joan R made appointments to check out five places: The Atlantis, Circus Circus, Grand Sierra, Peppermill and the Sands. The pros and cons of each facility were discussed. Jeff S made a motion to sign the contract with Sands for three years – Wayne S – 2nd – motion approved

Executive Committee Report – Jeanne H – Declared the Board of Directors ballot valid. Authorized the payment to Paul G for working the Grass Roots website issues.

Ethics Committee Report – Roy H – An ACC member was turned over to Executive Committee for expulsion proceedings. Ron L - Another member from a Grass Roots Club was notified that she must follow the Grass Roots Manual guidelines. Ron L – A complaint sent in on a different player and the results were that no action was taken. However, all parties were not notified of results; this will be fixed in the future.

PR/Publicity Report – Norm N – Handouts were given to BoD members – no discussion on handout. Jeanne H & Cathy P – Discussed an offer from USA Today's Senior 50 plus magazine and taking a quarter page ad out. We will discuss this further in February.

Youth Program Report – Dan Z – program doing extremely well. Many contacts from teachers to request start up kits to help their kids. Thanks to Jeff S to send out boards to three groups; thanks to Valerie & Les S for sending boards to a teacher in Reno. The Youth Program budget continues to grow.

Dan Z - Cribbage questions on website – 5 to 15 questions a week to respond to. Answer some questions; others like judging questions go to one of the experts to answer.

Don B – Are youth program members moving on to the ACC membership? Dan Z – There is no tracking system at this time.

Judges Report – Jeff S – Wants to allow for more visibility of senior judges. Has replaced five judges who don't travel much; Dave Clemmey was added for the East; Robert Frost and Bob Joslin were added for the Central and James Morrow and Jerry Hahn were added from the West to replace the five senior judges who don't travel as much now.

Grass Roots Program Report – Joan R states that we have a new programmer; Paul Gregson who is cleaning up a lot of issues with the program. Cathy P believes the "How Tos" are very helpful.

Joan R - there are approx 190 active clubs. The Travelers Club members can log in to "members Only" now and can see their points; there are approx 77 in the Travelers club now which is up from 50 last year.

Internet Program Report – Bob M – Unavailable ** Note: Rick Allen (Internet Statistician) – received information from Bob M on the awards to be handed out at the banquet.

Website Report – Dave A – Discussed Tournament Director resources; forms, etc on the ACC website. Would like to put a list of judges on the website as well. We are adding lots of information onto the website.

Tournament Rules & Guidelines Report – Roy H – Purchased 40 bracket boards (\$25 each) for Tournament Directors use. Also, need to obtain more scorecards. We had 100 more tournament players this year than we had last year.

President's Report – Jeanne H – Ok'd \$50.00 for licensing of the reprint of a cartoon in CW. Had Marlene give \$500 to the Pullyap fair. \$250 went to Delynn to bring the awards to Grand National. Named Barbara Woodward to receive the President's Award. The ACC Logo is not currently valid as no one renewed it. Annett will work on making it valid again.

Executive VP Report – Todd S – Would like to welcome Don H as the TOC director and Peggy & Rick Shea as directors of the February JPW. Also, I would like to thank Joan Rein and her crew for all their hard work.

VP of Policy Report – Cathy P – Would like to request permission to post the new Policy Manual on ACC website. Jeff S made a motion to post to website; Don H 2nd; Jeanne – just wanted to bring up the idea that many people will start questioning why certain things are being done/not being done/are being done incorrectly. Motion approved

VP of Operations Report – Open position – no report at this time

Member at Large Report – Dave C – An audit (limited) must be completed in 2013 for 2012; an audit (limited) must be completed every two years.

Next BoD meeting will be February 9th 2012 starting at 9:00AM.

Meeting Adjourned