

**American Cribbage Congress
Board of Director's Meeting
RADISSON PAPER VALLEY HOTEL - APPLETON, WISCONSIN
FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2012**

Valerie Sumner led the **Pledge of Allegiance**

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

Approved Agenda

Action: Paul B. made a motion to approve the agenda and the motion was 2nd by Valerie S.
Motion Approved.

Minutes of the February 9th, 2012

Action: Paul B. made a motion to approve the minutes and the motion was 2nd by Roland H.
Motion Approved.

Old Business: At the request of Don B., Roy H. discussed our legal position regarding our Ethics Committee Procedures and use of personal information provided on our Membership forms with Doug Henderson (ACC Member/Attorney), and a letter was distributed to the BoD with Doug's findings (pro-bono).

A Thank You letter has been written by Jeanne H. to James Aleschus, Jr. for donating a flag to the ACC, which he received while serving in Afghanistan. The flag was presented to Barbara Woodward in Reno. The entire BoD has signed the letter and it will be sent out as soon as possible.

Jeanne H. thanked Valerie S. for her past service as the ACC Recording Secretary and welcomed Peggy S., who has volunteered to take over the position.

Election of Officers (P. Schmidt): **President**-2 Nominations; Jeanne H. & Dave A. **Jeanne H.** elected. **Executive VP**- 1 Nomination **Todd S.**- Unanimous vote to accept Todd S as Executive VP. **VP of Policy**- 1 Nomination, **Catherine P.**- Unanimous vote to accept Catherine P. as VP of Policy. **VP of Operations**- 1 Nomination, **Dave C.** - Unanimous vote to accept Dave C. as VP of Operations. **Member at Large**- 2 Nominations Jeff S. and Roland H. **Jeff S.** elected.

Update of Grand National XXXI:--Joan R. said we have approximately 384 entries at this time and that plans are moving along smoothly with no major changes.

Update of Grand National XXXII: Dave O. had a brief discussion on plans for GN32. The hotel in Atlanta will have a room rate of \$95 and will hold up to 800 people. Dave O. said that it is very close to many attractions and the hotel will provide free shuttle, parking and internet service.

Update Grand National XXXIII: Brian N. and co-directors, Denise F. & Valerie S. said they will extend the tournament to 10 days in Arizona. More information will be discussed at our next meeting.

Bids for Grand National XXXIV: Todd S. said that we only have one bid from Scott Kooistra to host the GN in Yankton South Dakota. Scott K. shared information regarding the GN in South Dakota. The hotel has locked in a room rate of \$81-\$99, based upon room type, and a rate of \$20 for the awards banquet. The hotel has 121 rooms with a Super 8 in the same parking lot. Scott K. has sponsors lined up to pay for trophies, printing and lunch for the BoD meeting.

Action: Todd S. made a motion to accept the Bid from Scott K. to host the GN XXXIV in Yankton SD; Herschel M., 2nd – **motion approved.**

Treasurer's Report: Marlene L. discussed the income statement, comparative balance sheet and cash balance sheet; \$1,000 more to the Youth Program for school starter kits this year; increase in income for the Grass Roots due to the Regional and National tournaments fees increased from \$12 to \$15 estimated increase income by about \$7,000; printing expense of \$2,245 for 60,000 score cards; expense for 68 laminated bracket boards for \$1,300.

Action: Don H. made a motion to approve the Treasurer's report; Paul B., 2nd – **motion approved.**

All American Award-All Star committee: All American Award-Don B. gave a report from the ad Hoc committee. In responding to the mandate to reach out to ACC members, the committee developed a questionnaire which it sent to 136 members who finished the previous year in the top 30 in each of the three regions in terms of generation of MRP's or who had been in competition for the All America team. After analyzing and discussing all options, the committee voted to recommend a compromise proposal.

Discussion: There was much discussion as to the questions and concerns of changing the current policy to include the region/regions that were not represented in the top 10 and there were many valid points made. It was even suggested that we send this back to a committee for more review, if this would help anyone make up their mind. It was determined that the committee did a great job of gathering the opinions of ACC and bringing them back to the BoD.

Action: Don B. made a motion, effective with the 2012/2013 Cribbage Year: "The annual All America Team of the American Cribbage Congress shall consist of the top ten MRP generating players nationally plus, if not otherwise represented, the top MRP point generator of any and all regions not represented.", Jeff S, 2nd – **motion passed.**

Catherine P. said that this would amend 6.9b.2 policy. Jeanne H. asked Don B. if he would write up something for the Crib World and thanked him and the committee for their work.

Action: Larry P. made a motion to "retroactively add the names of people from the previous years to the All American Team." Catherine P. 2nd motion- Catherine P asked if this was for written purpose only or if it would include the award also. Larry P. said that it would include all aspects of the award. Don H. said that he is not in favor of this, that we should move forward. Jeff S. is not in favor because it would then mean we would have to decide how far back we would have to go. **Motion did not pass.**

All Star Award- Don B. said that the committee recommends the following proposal, effective with 2012/2013 Cribbage Year: "The annual All Star Teams shall consist of the top ten MRP generating players from the previous year for four regions, East, Central, Northwest and Southwest where Southwest is defined as players from Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, New

Mexico, Nevada and Utah while the Northwest is defined as players from Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Oregon, Washington, Wyoming and the Canadian provinces of Alberta, British Columbia, Saskatchewan and Yukon. The All Star match shall consist of 15 games per player with the match scheduled to begin at 6:00 p.m. on the Thursday before the annual Tournament of Champions each February in Reno”.

Action: Bob M. made a motion to amend the current proposal from 10 players to 8 players, Herschel M. 2nd motion- **amendment passed.**

Action: Don B. made a motion to accept the proposal, “The annual All Star Teams shall consist of the top eight MRP generating players from the previous year for four regions, East, Central, Northwest and Southwest where Southwest is defined as players from Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, New Mexico, Nevada and Utah while the Northwest is defined as players from Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Oregon, Washington, Wyoming and the Canadian provinces of Alberta, British Columbia, Saskatchewan and Yukon. The All Star match shall consist of 12 games per player with the match scheduled to begin at 6:00 p.m. on the Thursday before the annual Tournament of Champions each February in Reno”. Roland H. 2nd motion- **Motion did not pass.**

Policy Manual Changes- Catherine P. said that there has been a question as regarding our policy on our membership application that now defines Joint membership as 2 people living at the same address.

Action: Catherine P. made a motion that we do not further define joint membership. Jeanne H 2nd motion. **Motion passed.**

Cell phone policy @ tournaments- Valerie S. proposed that the BoD discuss creating a policy about not having cell phones on while playing in a tournament, or at least have rules about this. Bob M. said it would be difficult to create a policy and we would not be able to enforce the policy. It was discussed that the tournament director should instruct the players to not use their phones. Jeanne H. asked Valerie S. to write up an article for Crib World about cell phone usage at tournaments.

\$1 sanctioning fee form Consolation tournaments- Valerie S. said that Tom Cookman asked her to propose the implementation a \$1 sanctioning fee for the consolation tournaments with 100% of the proceeds used to promote cribbage in order to increase our membership in the ACC. There was discussion that many clubs are able to advertise for free and that we need to discuss ways to keep the members we have and find ways to get new members. More on this topic will be discussed when we cover PR/Publicity later in the meeting.

Youth Master points- Valerie S. wanted to discuss awarding master points to the youth to create more interest. It was suggested that youth players could be eligible for a special award each year to be awarded at the Grand National or location to be determined. Valerie S. will follow up with Dan Z and bring back to the BoD in February.

Awarding of deal in playoff matches to higher seeded player- Annett E. proposed a change to the current playoff procedure of players cutting for deal in the first game, and the loser of each game dealing each subsequent game. Annett E. proposed that the higher seeded player, as determined by their score in the qualifying round, earn the first deal in each match. The deal would then alternate for the remainder of the match.

There was discussion to support this thought, along with opposing opinions that the playing field should be level once the players get to the play offs.

Action- Annett E. made a motion: In all play-off matches, the higher seeded player, as determined by the qualifying round, shall deal first in game one and the lower seeded player shall deal first in game two. Thereafter, the first deal shall alternate until the completion of the match. Don B., 2nd motion- **Motion did not pass**

Annett E. was given permission to advertise on her tournament flyer and try this format on one tournament and report back to the BoD about how it was accepted.

ACC Trademark- Annette E. reported that both of the ACC Trademarks went in for review in May of 2012. Annett E. said that the current ACC rule book does not have a copyright filed and should have one, at a cost of \$35.

Action: Peggy S. made a motion to obtain a copyright for the ACC rule book. Cathy P. 2nd motion- **Motion passed.**

Dave A. and Annett E. will look into seeing if we should have a copyright on the Crib World and report back to the BoD.

Discussion of Larry Hassett's report on New Masterpoint software & back-up for Membership Secretary – Bob M. said we still need to get a back-up for the Membership Secretary as well as every position so if anything were to ever happen to someone, the ACC would not suffer. Peggy S. will write up an ad for Crib World asking if anyone would be interested in contributing in any capacity such as software, advertising, administrative tasks and other positions within the ACC.

Action: Bob M. made a motion to table discussion on Master Point Software until February BoD meeting. Valerie S. 2nd motion- **Motion passed.**

Proposal for compensation for recording secretary- Jeanne H. proposed compensation for the recording secretary for the considerable amount of time it takes to produce the minutes. Discussion was around the amount of time it takes to prepare the minutes and the need to have them submitted timely.

Action- Jeanne H. made a motion that a stipend of \$150 per set of minutes be given to the Recording Secretary. The minutes must be provided by the deadline of April 10th for the February meeting, and November 10th for the GN meeting. This is effective immediately. Herschel M. 2nd motion- **Motion passed**

Proposal for renaming TOC to Syl Lulinski TOC- Roy H. proposed a new title for the American Cribbage Congress Tournament of Champions". He would like to honor a man who contributed so much to our organization by renaming it the "Syl Lulinski Tournament of Champions". Syl's contributions to the ACC are multitudinous. A compromise was discussed to rename the tournament for 2013 and then see if we want to continue in Syl's name in the future, or honor others who have also contributed to the ACC.

Action: Amendment of the motion: Herschel M. made a motion to honor Syl Lulinski , by name the this year's 2013 TOC: the "Syl Lulinski Invitation TOC tournament". Bob M. 2nd motion- **Motion passed.**

Motion: Roy H. made a motion to honor Syl Lulinski by naming the 2013 TOC tournament after Syl. Jeff S. 2nd motion- **Motion passed** 19 yes-5 no.

Special recognition award- Jeanne H. discussed awarding Joan Rein the "Outstanding Meritorious Service" award. This is an award that is presented with a Gold Ring with the ACC logo, and only two others have received this award in the past, Syl Lulinski and Delynn Colvert. We discussed the many contributions that Joan R has made to the ACC over the past, and that Joan R. is very deserving of the award. It was estimated that the award will cost approximately \$1,000.00

Action: Valerie S. made a motion to award Joan Rein the Outstanding Meritorious Service Award at the Grand National XXXII. Don H. 2nd motion- **Motion passed.**

Board Actions communicated to Tournament Directors- Herschel M. wanted to get clarification on the rule regarding play offs for one day tournaments being mandatory 3 out of 5 games, except for special circumstances. Roy H. said that tournaments that were previously approved with flyers made stating playoffs being 2 out of 3 games were not required to change. Dave C. said that if we are able to post the minutes in the Crib World sooner we could get the word out to everyone. It was brought up that communication is way to get the word out to everyone sooner.

Move Ohio from eastern to Central Region- Dave C. wanted to see about moving Ohio members (15 members) to the Central as they play most of their tournaments in Michigan. Cathy P. said that Ohio was moved to the East due to Grass Roots. Topic was tabled for future discussion.

Placement for BoD & Award's region based on where you play most- Dave C. said that he would like to see anyone that plays the majority of their tournaments in a different region than their home region not be eligible to earn awards in their home region. It was discussed that this would be difficult and would involve waiting until the last week of the season as many people travel to many tournaments all over. And that it be kept as is, with the address listed as their legal address as to where the person would fall for regional award purposes.

Limiting wrap-around tournaments to legacy tournaments – Dave C. would like to see a limit on two wrap around tournaments where there is a weekday prior to the weekend and one after the weekend tournament. It was discussed that it appears that the number of attendees at the weekday tournaments are getting smaller and sometimes the same person can win the main tournament and place in the consolation. Cathy P. read our current policy that states that there is a limit of 3 weekday tournaments per region per quarter. Cathy P. said she would look at our current policy and see if she could come up with some suggestions around this topic for the meeting in February.

Committee Reports:

Executive – Jeanne H. said that \$300 was paid to Delynn C. for transporting the awards to the awards banquet. Jeanne H. said that Sharon H. resigned from the BoD and Herschel M. was placed on the BoD, and Valerie S. has stepped down as recording secretary and Peggy S. has replaced her.

Ethics- Ron L. shared that we had 10 complaints which resulted in 6 suspensions and 3 warnings with one pending case. A letter was sent to Douglas Henderson (attorney) asking about our current policy relating to suspensions and disciplinary actions, and we received a letter back that said that he believes the rules in place are sufficient for the purposes of due process as it relates to the ACC.

PR/Publicity- Norm N. was not in attendance. Jeanne H. said we need to recruit new members. We need to try to get people to come back once they visit, make it a fun experience, and find ways to retain our members. There was discussion around ways to make it a positive experience. We discussed having Cribbage Ambassadors on a voluntary bases which would be a group of people that would take it upon themselves and help educate and show the new players how things work. Jeanne H. suggested that we could send out a letter to new members, and maybe a membership kit. It was also discussed that we should use our avenues of getting the message out to the seniors in our areas, though senior fairs, newspapers, senior housing, ect. Cathy P. said that she and Norm N. have been looking into advertising in the senior magazines to get new members, but the cost has been very expensive. All BoD members are urged to spend some time thinking of ideas about how to build and retain membership, for discussion at the February meeting

Grass Roots- Joan R. said we have 4,511 paid members in the Grass Roots. We now have Nancy Rojas as the Statistician for Region IV, and Annett E. is the Regional Commissioner for Region IV. Joan R. has changed the bank that she uses due to high cost. Joan R reported that Paul Gregson has been doing great work on the website and has been spending a lot of time getting things updated. Joan R. is asking that we pay a monthly stipend to Paul G. for the work he does. Joan R. and Dave C. will review the current budget for Grass Roots and make any adjustments that are needed and share at the next BoD meeting. Joan R. wrote an article regarding our Travelers Club and will send a copy to Dave A. to post in the Crib World. Joan R. said that she will look into the results of the Regional Tournament getting entered quicker this year.

Action: Larry P. made a motion to pay Paul Gregson a monthly stipend of \$200 for 12 months, beginning in October 2012, for maintenance of the Grass Roots website. Paul B. 2nd motion-
Motion passed.

Internet- Bob M. said we had 243 tournaments last season on the internet. There were 223 people that earned e-master points. Two of the tournaments are moving from Game Colony to e-cribbage. Revenue has been down from Game Colony due to people not paying to play cribbage. Bob M. said that about 90% of cribbage players online are ACC members.

Web Site- Todd S. said that Diane W. has added a separate page to the website that includes all tournament flyers so they are available even after the tournaments are over. It was requested that Diane W. convert all tournament flyers to PDF format prior to uploading to the website. There is also a page that shows all previous recipients of ACC awards. It was determined that Diane W. has approval to post information that she believes should be posted on our web site, if there is ever a situation that is unclear, it will be taken to the Executive Committee. Dave C. said the all forms will be available online for directors to access and use very soon. Todd S. said that if there is anything that the BoD would like to see on the Web Site to let them know and they would be happy to help out.

Discussion: Fred W. will look into seeing if we can have notification, or if a welcome message could be communicated when someone searches online for cribbage and they go to our website.

Tournament Rules & Guidelines- Roy H. said that Dave C. will approve all sanctioning requests for Cribbage cruise tournaments.

President's Report – Jeanne H. reported that she wrote a letter to a tournament director in the Midwest at the request of the executive committee and the situation is resolved. Jeanne H. also wrote the letter to Doug Henderson (attorney) asking for his legal opinion around our Policies and Procedure questions. Jeanne H. made sure that the agenda was sent out early to all BoD

members and posted online. It was requested by the BoD that Jeanne H. write a letter in her column telling about renaming the TOC this year after Syl and about his contributions to the ACC.

Executive VP Report – Todd S. wanted to thank the Ethics committee for their hard work and for Ron L. for taking over as the committee head. Todd S. wanted to let everyone know that we need to think about our next GN XXXV tournament in the East in 2016.

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

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

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

Next BoD meeting will be February 7, 2013 @ Sands Hotel/Casino Reno, NV starting at 9:00AM.

Cathy P made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Valerie S. 2nd. Meeting Adjourned 3:40 p.m.