



Board of Directors' Report

Summary of the September 18, 2021 District Board meeting

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The Board of Directors of District 21 ("D21") had a regular virtual meeting on Saturday, September 18. The meeting began shortly after 10 a.m. and lasted till 12:45 p.m., with the Directors covering a lot of ground. This article is intended to present the highlights of that meeting to members of D21 who didn't attend the meeting. I'll use captions to identify the weightier topics.



During committee and officer reports, President Sigrid Price described how well-done was the recent mask-to-mask Sacramento sectional she attended. Vice-President Anne Hollingsworth asked that units contact her as sectional coordinator to schedule their sectionals.

Our District Director, Stu Goodgold, explained that online tournaments are scheduled in October. Out of 22 face-to-face tournaments in October, the ACBL has approved of four, including our local Silicon Valley sectional. The ACBL has disapproved of nine tournaments and nine were still undecided. A final decision on the fall nationals in Austin has been deferred.

Reno 2022 Nationals Chair Jackie Zayac reported that the tournament is still on schedule. A walk-through meeting in Reno was scheduled for the following week. COVID protocol requirements for the nationals are established by the ACBL, not D21.

The Monterey Regional

There was a 20-minute discussion about the planning of the Monterey Regional led by Tournament Planning Chair Nancy Boyd. She explained that we are developing a D21 brand for future tournament promotions. Those who provide proof of vaccination at the Regional will be given wristbands. Daily bulletins including the event schedule and game results will be primarily distributed electronically.

A draft schedule was shared on the screen. Except for the first day, events will start at 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. Based on expectations of a lower turnout, evening games have not been scheduled. Knockout events have been reduced because bracketed Swiss has proved more popular.

The Diamond in the Ruff Newsletter

Communications Chair Melanie Haddad reported that the next issue of the D21 newsletter, the Diamond in the Ruff, is scheduled to be distributed mid-October. Thereafter the goal is to produce a newsletter every two months. Using Constant Contact to distribute the first issue in mid-July allows us to see that there was a 47% open rate and 25% click-through rate, both of which are higher than the industry average. The most popular articles were the district-wide rank advances and the President's report.

If you don't receive a newsletter email by mid-October and you have Gmail, check the "Promotions" folder in your email. Gmail treats Constant Contact emails as promotions, so you need to train Gmail not to intercept the newsletter messages. Click this [link](#) for instructions about how to avoid this problem.

North American Pairs District Final

There was a 45-minute discussion regarding the scheduling of D21's North American Pairs ("NAP") qualifier led by NAP Coordinator Susan Mazzei. She explained that out of 21 Units, only 11 had scheduled Unit NAP qualifiers, and two of those are uncertain. The consequence of this is that a number of people who qualified online in their clubs would not have a convenient Unit qualifier to play in.



Susan made a motion to “allow members who qualified at the Club level to move on to the District 21 Final. NAP Unit games would become non-qualifiers.” The motion was seconded by Anne Hollingsworth. Susan explained that the ACBL’s Conditions of Contest allow a District to dispense with the requirement of holding Unit qualifiers. Stu pointed out that before the pandemic, 16 Units held qualifiers. By a show of virtual hands, the motion passed with only one no vote.

Susan made a second motion to “hold the District 21 Final online.” The motion was seconded by Anne. In discussion, Susan explained that the earlier Tournament Planning Committee had approved of scheduling the District Final to overlap with the Monterey Regional on the Regional playing site. However, after all members of that committee resigned, there was a lack of communication of this plan to the new Tournament Committee. At the Board meeting there was discussion about when during the Monterey regional NAP events would be scheduled and whether the NAP events would compete with tournament events or increase hotel attendance. Also, on one hand, holding an online district qualifier would facilitate participation by members of distant units. On the other hand, there is a concern about cheating, particularly in online events offering travel stipends. After vigorous discussion, a roll call vote was conducted, and the motion passed by 40 weighted votes to 27.

Other Reports

Grant Vance, GNT Coordinator, reported that the Conditions of Contest for Grand National Teams, as distributed to the Board, are essentially unchanged. There are no club qualifiers for the GNTs. Ray Yuenger, 99er game liaison, reported that the All-Western 99er NiteClub had paid out \$6,069 in table fees to D21 virtual clubs in July, August, and September.

As Bylaws Committee Chair, Ray conducted several polls to gather information for the Bylaws Committee. Libby Longstreth made a motion that the Board adopt the Delegation Policy that had been submitted to the Board in advance of the meeting. Sam Earnhardt seconded the motion. Lynn Bartz moved that the motion be amended to either list all the Board’s powers in the motion or in an addendum to the motion. Roger Smith seconded the motion to amend. Jackie Zayac made a motion to table the motions. Cornelia Gould seconded the motion. The motion to table passed.

Goodwill Committee

There was a 20-minute discussion about revising the Goodwill Committee’s policies and procedures led by Barbara Somerville, Goodwill Committee Chair. Barbara presented the following series of proposals: to increase the size of the selection committee; to increase the number of nominations per Unit from one to three; to give up to 20 awards a year; to restrict the President to making nominations, not awards; to publicize the policies of the Goodwill Committee on the D21 website; to provide for making Goodwill awards during the Sacramento Regional at the Sacramento Bridge Center at a dinner that is free to the nominees.

Libby has questions about how much the event would cost, why the President’s awards should be eliminated, and the need to change the traditional January date of awards. Barbara hasn’t worked out the specifics of the costs yet.

Sigrid pointed out that, as yet, there is no Goodwill Committee. Sigrid proposed that Barbara put together a committee and return to the Board with proposals.

Cornelia moved that for this year, the awards be postponed till the Sacramento Regional and the Goodwill Committee will return to the Board with proposals for how to present the awards in the future. Roger Smith seconded the motion and the motion passed by a show of virtual hands.

Other Business

Cornelia Gould, our representative to the Western Conference, reported that she has been elected the President of the Western Conference. As District 17 is dropped out of the Conference, the only remaining Districts are 21 and 22. Attendance at the August STAC was about 25% of pre-pandemic attendance.



A previously tabled motion for D21 to open a brokerage account at Vanguard was removed from the table by unanimous consent. Finance Committee Chair Tom Pajak explained the reasons for the Committee's recommendation while the written recommendation was displayed on the screen. The motion was passed by unanimous consent.

Jackie Ortiz, the Nominating Committee Chair, asked for people to let her know by December 1 about their nominations for the four Board offices.

New Youth Bridge Program

Ray Yuenger, as Chair of the Youth NABC Grant Committee, presented a written proposal to expand the scope of the Youth Bridge Program. Instead of simply funding Youth attendance at the summer YNABCs, the proposal would allow Youth Bridge organizations in D21, and not just their members, to apply for grants for other youth activities. It also contemplates that young players can apply for scholarships to attend local regionals as well as the YNABCs. An additional change is that the grant application will ask about the applicant's financial need. Libby moved that the Board adopt the new program as written. Anne seconded it. After discussion about possible program changes, there was a vote, and by a show of hands the motion to adopt the revised program passed.

The topic of D21's progress with the governance attorney was deferred till a future meeting.

There was discussion about scheduling the next Board meeting. Treasurer Lynn Bartz brought up that if we have Board meetings right after tournaments, we can discuss the lessons learned at the regional. Also, prior to the January meeting, three items should be resolved: (1) a budget for 2022, which would include a Monterey Regional budget; (2) hiring staff for the Monterey Regional; (3) an IRS-approved travel policy to reimburse people for the Regional. Sigrid proposed that a special Board meeting might be needed in November to address these topics. There was general assent before the meeting adjourned.