

Unit 354 Board Meeting Minutes
July 10, 2008
At Barb Bunnell's home

Call to Order: In attendance: Lesley Davis, JoAnn Lowe, Leon Lowe, Bob Welch, Rod Bias, Jamie Rubenstein, Angie Ulrey, Charlie Kelley, Barb Bunnell, Jerry Gaer, and Page Tomkinson. Vice President Lesley Davis called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. and thanked Barb for offering her home and hospitality for the meeting. The May Minutes were approved.

Treasurer's Report: Leon presented a print out to show estimated costs if we use professional movers to help with moving tables to or from tournament sites. Discussion ensued about the pros and cons of using movers for all or part of the table moving job. After discussion, Jerry suggested that we use movers for delivery and pick up of tables, but not for set up. We would try this on a trial basis for our upcoming Regional. Barbara formalized a motion, seconded by JoAnn and passed with an oral vote.

2008 Desert Empire Regional: Lesley very thoroughly checked the progress of each tournament committee. After much discussion about food costs, hospitality, and how we are going to offer "goodies", we decided to let the hotel offer a sandwich bar at individual player expense each day including Sunday. . We will offer granola bars as a morning snack and cheese and crackers as an afternoon snack and chocolate during the evening game. We will keep candy to a minimum. Food and drink in the hospitality suite will be from 4:30 to 6:00 p.m. and 10:30 - 11:30 daily except Monday when we have the Pro-Am reception. We allocated \$300./day for the hospitality room. The Pro Am Hospitality budget is set at \$500. We will serve ice cream bars following the Friday evening game.

A further discussion ensued about prizes. What kind of prize? To whom? At what cost? Barb has researched several unique alternatives and offered her suggestions. However, it was decided that many of her suggestions need to be implemented a year from now at our next regional. We discussed how certain kinds of prizes could promote future tournaments, that is, engraved pens or pencils. It was decided we would use the supply of pens in the trailer for section tops and scrip for overall two session pair winners if possible. Engraved pens or pencils will be used as prizes next year. Marianne will report back on the possibility of using scrip.

Page has the partnership desk under control; Rod will work this week with Clark Ransom to get letters out for the ProAm; JoAnne will get with Rick Hunt on details about caddies. JoAnn also reported that she has all five speakers lined up for the 6:15-6:45 slot Tues. through Sat. Our email ad has been submitted to ACBL and is scheduled to go out on July 14th. Barb will follow through with ACBL to make sure it is sent out.

The District 17 reception will be at Lesley's home. Invitations are being sent for the Friday evening event.

Jerry made a plea to the board for each of us to make an appearance at the ProAm reception Monday late afternoon.

Novice/Education Report: Rod reported that plans are going ahead to offer an after school club bridge program in the Dysart Schools this fall.

Mesa Unit Equipment Arrangements: deferred discussion

Shuffle, Deal, and Play: we are looking into sending a large number of our newsletters by email, thus saving many dollars on printing, paper, and mailing costs. There was a brief discussion about cutting the newsletter to eight pages. August 11 is the deadline to submit articles for the next issue. Heather Johnson has resigned from working with Shuffle. Barb Bunnell has taken over her job and done a super job. She is willing to continue in that capacity.

Horn of Plenty Food Drive: Page will ask Chris and Judy McNaughton to chair the food drive.

Casino Arizona contracts: Jerry reports that the sectional contract has some questions in the air; the regional contract is fine. However, we still do not have a signed contract with Casino Arizona for any of the proposed tournaments. This is of urgent concern to the Unit. Jerry, who assures us that everything is fine, will immediately work with Casino Arizona to have them provide us a signed contract. Charlie has been in contact with ASU West for a 2010 sectional contract. The board fell into an open discussion about future tournaments, when? Where? Changes? It was suggested we may have a two day unit STAC game in lieu of the 2009 Holiday Election Tournament that is being cancelled because of the inability to find a suitable weekend date.

Other Business: Shirley Rhodes has missed more than three board meetings, which makes her ineligible to continue serving on the board. It was suggested that Kim send her a letter. Discussion ensued about the need for further representation from the west side, as we are really trying to adequately serve our west side members. Jamie suggested Rick Starbuck's name as a possible replacement board member.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00. The next meeting will be August 28 at Barb Bunnell's.