Unit 239 Board Meeting (via Zoom)
Tuesday, November 12, 2024

Marilyn Croft called the meeting to order at 2:00 pm.

Present: Marilyn Croft, Karl Anderson, Steve Lowe, Janet Kruger, Karen Miller, Kyle Larson, Greg MacCoubrey, Van Stone and Lela Lowe.

Karen moved and Steve seconded that the minutes from the August 13, 2024 Zoom meeting be approved. No objections.

TURKEY BOWL SECTIONAL – Steve Lowe

Steve mentioned that we would receive 2 free Cougars hats for give-aways.

Dan had been contacted and asked for the following to be picked up and delivered – 40 tables, 2 containers of bidding boxes, 2 coffee pots, signs and cups. Delivery date has been changed to Sunday afternoon at 2:30 pm. No board members need to be there as everything is just being dropped off.

Set up is Tuesday, November 26th at 9:30 am. Bill Harris will be there and he will be bringing the boards and his computer. Steve will bring the bridge pads and servers for Bill to test how they will work in the new space.

Board members who volunteered to help with set up on Tuesday morning at 9:30 am are Steve, Lela, Van, Karl and Greg.

Karl will do the Free Plays.

Lela discussed the “Fast Food” list for those close to Route 38 in Geneva and those close to Route 64 in St. Charles.

Steve has been given access for the Cougars WiFi for us to use for the tournament.

Lela talked about the hospitality for the tournament. We have been given some leftover Halloween candy and we bought some the day after Halloween. Our plan is to pick up donuts at Jewel as well as fruit for the morning sessions. We will place the donuts on turkey platters and have turkeys to place around the room.

Doors will be open at 8 am.

Karl asked about a “bank” for Bill Harris. Karl will provide $1, $5 and $10 to begin the games. The rate for the game is $14.

For the first time, Kyle will not be at the Turkey Bowl as she will be playing bridge in the Las Vegas NABC.

FINANCIALS

Janet Kruger had emailed the profit and loss sheets and the comparatives for the Rockford tournament. Balance for our checking and savings account combined is $11,330.66.

Our profit is $3,537.03 total for the whole year most of which is from our investments.

We will be filing a short return for next year as we are converting to having our financial year begin on January 1st and not July 1st. The District 8 fee of $2,645.76 was for 2 years and not for the June Regional Tournament.

Rockford Financials – we made $77.85 even though we had 8 tables more and charged more for the non-life master. Kyle and her group bought all the fruit and all the candy and all the coffee and did not charge us. Otherwise, we would have had a loss.

Van moved and Steve second that we approve the financials reports. No objections.

Our Tax Accountants just need to send Janet one page for her to make the correction on the names of the Directors corrected. Their bill is twice as much as last year. Marilyn said that they are asking her to come in and sign which to her would indicate that they have done the return twice. Janet said that they have only done it once and they are not getting back to Janet even though the returns are due on November 15th. Janet is sure that she left all documents with them but the accountants are saying that they do not have them. They have been good for us but this year seems to be one of difficulty. The charge is around $800 to $900 which is for a bunch of returns not just one.

Rockford Non-Life Master Regional and Sectional.

Kyle said that the only complaints that she heard or came to her were the lighting (which we can not remedy) and the quality of the Director. Everything else went very well in her opinion.

Discussion concerning the Directors for the Rockford tournament.

We did not have Peter as we usually do and Marilyn had a discussion with Peter with assurance that we will have him for our next Rockford Tournament.

Issues Noted:

Did not bring enough supplies and Kyle had to go and get more Convention Cards. He did not compute the scoring correctly. Karl pointed out that the points were wrong but not sure if they were fixed. Marilyn said that they were fixed because the points that Steve and she received corrected points.

We will never use that Director ever again as he was terrible and did everything wrong including the financials. Marilyn spent 2 weeks looking at the financials and realized that he had shorted us 25 tables after she looked at the table counts. After Marilyn called and told him that he had not given us credit for 25 tables, which would have been $1,300 which is where we should have been for the tournament. Peter had looked at the financials but had not looked at the table counts. After a phone call to the tournament director, Marilyn received a check from him for $1,240 because we had to pay ACBL table fees for those 25 tables. At the District 8 meeting, Marilyn heard from others who had attended our Regional that we have given all gold points instead of gold and red points. Luckily Peter was also in attendance at the District 8 meeting and heard the discussion regarding our tournament..

Other comments were that he did not leave the table, was rude to players, was creating boards while play was going on which made a lot of noise, did not apologize for the incorrect scoring.

Mike Strong is nice but still inexperienced.

Peter told Marilyn that he has brought in another tournament director who is a woman. Marilyn thinks she lives in Wisconsin. Tournament Directors are getting older, retiring and are becoming difficult to find.

We will have another Rockford Non-Life Master Regional and Sectional and Kyle and Dave Jenkins will be the co-chairs.

ANNUAL MEETING MAILING will be in February as the Annual Meeting will be April 5th. It was decided to be February 22nd with RSVP to be returned by March 14th. Van, Lisa, Steve, Lela, Karen and Greg will be part of the "Assembly" team for the mailings. If we get some more "local" people, Karen and Greg may not have to travel down from Crystal Lake.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Greg will be the chair.
Going off will be Van, Amy
Terms up but staying on will be Steve and Kyle
Replacement names for Van and Amy are Randy Miles and Gary Brigel

NEW BUSINESS

Marilyn shared a few items that the District 8 board had received from Region 7.
ACBL is doing better financially.
Investments gained $400,000 because of the Stock Market

Gains from Operations is $775,000 and exceeds the budget by $9,150 and much of this increase is that they renegotiated the table rate with BBO for 18 boards..

The NAP and GNT finals will be identical in terns of the stratifications. They are making the following changes. Four Flights – C will be 0 to 750 masterpoints and you can be a Life Master, B will be 0 to 3000, A will be 0 to 6000 and Championship flight will be unlimited.

Management plans to migrate most pigmented points (gold, red, silver) from online games to the ACBL Clubhouse in 2025. They are taking pigmented points away from club games. Our Region 7 representative argued against this and management agreed to keep red. Marilyn made a call to the Regional Director and stated that when you played in North American Pairs or the Club games, you get double points and why was this not true when they are done on-line? ACBL did agree to increase the NAP qualifying games to 1.5%. They will look at having some silver point increase.

EDGAR which is the on-line cheating tool. They have examined 17,501 players so far. Given 242 players "red" which means severe discipline. 189 are yellow which means further investigation. 44 received fast track discipline, 36 have been negotiated resolutions and 11 pending before the bridge institute for arbitration as they said no to the discipline and asked for arbitration. (8 are pairs and 3 are individuals) At the current rate they plan to screen 83,000 players in about 18 months.

OTHER BUSINESS

Marilyn and Karl have already submitted the flyer for our June Regional to ACBL and it has been approved. It will be printed when the Annual Meeting materials are printed. They had made a slight modification to try "Flight Pairs" which would be Gold Rush, a middle flight and an upper flight. If it affects attendance, it will be undone. We will still have Swiss Teams on Friday.

Steve motioned and Karl seconded that we raise the Regional fee to $16. Passed.

Janet motioned and Kyle seconded that we raise the Rockford Non-Life Master Regional to $15 and the Sectional to $14. Passed.

NEXT BOARD Meeting will be zoom on March 11th at 2 pm.

Steve motioned and Van seconded to adjourn the meeting at 4:01 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Lela Lowe