

**ACBL Board of Directors  
Online Meeting via Zoom Webinar  
September 9, 2021  
Special Meeting**

The meeting was called to order by President Georgia Heth on Thursday, September 9, 2021 at 2:03 p.m. CST.

Present: Leo Weniger #1, Carlos Muñoz #3, Joann Glasson #4, Brian Ellis #5, Margot Hennings #6, Mike Kovacich #7, Georgia Heth #8, Jeff Overby #9, Larry Sealy #10, AJ Stephani #11, Dennis Carman #12, Suzi Subeck #13, Deana Liddy #14, Warren Smith #15; Paul Cuneo #16, Cindy Shoemaker #17, David Johnson #18, Tim White #19, Laurie Rowe #20, Stu Goodgold #21, David Lodge #22, John Jones #23, David Moss #24, and Carole Weinstein #25.

Absent: Flo Belford #2

Also Present: Doug Couchman, Board of Governors Chair, Joseph Jones, Executive Director, Peyton Dodson, Director of Finance, Linda Dunn, In-House Counsel, Greg Coles, Director of Bridge Services, Mary Stratton, Director of Marketing, Susie Cordell, Director of Information Technology, Stephanie Threlkeld, Marketing Manager, Sara Beth Raab, Meeting Services Manager, Sabrina Goley, Administrative Coordinator, and Craig Rehak, Vice President of Global Accounts at ConferenceDirect.

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**Approval of July and August Meeting Minutes**

The July 14-16, 2021 regular Board meeting and August 20 and 25, 2021 special Board meeting minutes were approved.

Carried                      Absent: 2

**Item 21S7-03 Approval of future NABC sites**

Sara Beth Raab gave an oral PowerPoint presentation on the Spring 2025 and Fall 2026 North American Bridge Championship (NABC) site selection options recommended by ACBL management. Given that the Board recently lifted its moratorium on the ACBL committing to future NABC sites, Ms. Raab requested permission for ACBL management to begin or renew hotel/convention center contract negotiations with hotels/convention centers in these locations, warning that other convention holders were in the same situation as the ACBL post-COVID rebooking events and that these locations were desirable ones. The dates that the ACBL has

planned may be unavailable if the ACBL delays negotiations. The presentation focused on the recommendation of Memphis for Spring 2025 and San Diego for Fall 2026, including the pros and cons for each recommended location (including alternate sites considered) and a financial estimate. She reported that the Renasant Convention Center in Memphis has recently undergone a \$200 million renovation and new restaurants have opened in the vicinity which largely addressed the complaints raised by Spring 2019 attendees. Peyton Dodson reported on the methodology used to calculate future table counts and provide financial estimates for the recommended locations. Craig Rehak from ConferenceDirect, the ACBL's housing provider, explained that there are other organizations interested in securing the space in Memphis. He strongly recommended moving forward with securing Memphis as the Spring 2025 site.

Following discussion, it was moved that the Spring 2025 NABC be held in Memphis, TN over March 13-23, 2025 and the Fall 2026 NABC be held in San Diego, CA November 26 through December 6, 2026 and that ACBL management may proceed with negotiations for such NABCs in Memphis and San Diego.

Carried

Absent: 2

Mary Stratton then gave an update on the status of the Fall NABC in Austin, TX. The ACBL will continue working with a third party for vaccination verification, provide office hours with an onsite medical resource, and consider whether the types of events offered require modification in order to safely hold the event. Meeting Services is working with the two Austin hotels to consider the options to reduce the ACBL's liability if the decision is to move forward with the NABC, including both hotels removing their minimum room night commitment and reducing the food and beverage minimum commitment by half. If the decision is to cancel the NABC due to safety concerns, rescheduling a future NABC in Austin is an option. ACBL management will closely monitor the status of the Fall 2021 NABC, giving consideration as to whether Austin/Travis County is still in Stage 5 coronavirus risk. Mr. Rehak departed the meeting following this discussion.

**APPEALS & CHARGES COMMITTEE**

Stephani (C), Overby (VC),  
Carman, Hennings, Liddy, Rowe, White

Staff: Gordon

As reported by Committee Chair

**Item 21S7-01 Report on Hearings**

No hearings were held since the last Board meeting on August 20, 2021.

## STRATEGIC COMMITTEE

Cuneo (C), Weniger (VC),  
Belford, Goodgold, Rowe, White

Staff: Jones

### **Item 21S7-04 Decision regarding online special games for October 2021**

The decision regarding proposed online special games for October 2021 was deferred until ACBL management announces the decision regarding October tournaments. The Board would like ACBL management to propose opportunities in October or November for sanctioned silver point events at clubs offering face-to-face games.

Deferred

## FINANCE COMMITTEE

Glasson (C), Lodge (VC),  
Ellis, Munoz, Smith

Staff: Dodson

As reported by Committee Chair

### **Discussion Item: 21S7-01 Reimbursement of District/Unit Tournament Expenses**

The Finance Committee provided a proposed procedure to review Unit or District reimbursement requests of their major costs incurred as a result of ACBL management's decision to not staff a sanctioned tournament in August 2021 or later. The proposed procedure includes criteria for eligibility and the requirement of supporting documentation. A written committee decision would be submitted by the Finance Committee to the full Board for review. The procedure will be finalized based on the feedback received and will be presented as a motion at a future meeting.

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The Board adjourned sine die at 4:45 p.m. CST.