

Unit 241 Board Minutes November 2<sup>th</sup> 2019

Attending: Cookie Hoberman, Pierre Flatowicz, Scott McIntyre, Tim McCollough, Rick Ackermann, Jill McDermott, Thom Pigaga (humble notetaker)

Meeting began with a discussion of Tournaments and the decline in attendance (and overall membership) of the Unit. 11% of the Unit's members' dues is returned each year from the ACBL.

What are the Unit's options? What should be its focus?

Cookie suggested that we need at least a year in advance to plan and implement an education program with a committee to plan and implement outreach to area players. Are there steps that can be taken in the meantime?

Rochester MN was cited as an example of improvement by Deana Liddy, the Unit's representative to the District. Especially noted were active adult education programs.

Are there ways to outreach duplicate tips and lessons in the possible conversion of social bridge players?

The Education Foundation brings opportunities to fund such programs.

Kansas City was also cited as a regional example of pro-active steps to improve membership and attendance.

Steps being taken to improve the profitability and viability of the Regional:

- A Rate Raise in table fees

- Cathy Rawlings as an outreach ambassador

- Casino promotions?

The Unit has no contract after the 2020 Regional contract. We CAN look elsewhere from the MAC.

North Dakota was cited as an example promoting smaller events, such as 0-499 MP Regionals to attract players.

It was decided (moved and seconded, and voted) to cancel the Spring February Sectional, since the JCC may still be involved with remodeling. There is still time to make it possible, but the new Board will have to determine if they wish to follow that up.

October's Sectional contract with the JCC is ready to sign.

There are three new Board Members and 3 Board chairs to be filled.

There will be an outreach brainstorming meeting with (possibly) old and new Board members and volunteers on Saturday November 23<sup>rd</sup> from 0900-1100 at Cookie Hoberman's meeting place in the Swanson Towers.

Submitted by Thom Pigaga