

WESTERN CONFERENCE
Meeting of the Board of Directors
Riverside, CA
February 5, 2015

The meeting was called to order at 7:14 p.m. The following board members were present: President Bonnie Bagley, Darwin Afdahl, Marion Robertson, Roger Smith, and Teri Atkinson. Ken Monzingo was conducting regional tournament business elsewhere and arrived later. Secretary-Treasurer Tom Shulman was also present.

The President warmly welcomed new board members Darwin Afdahl (D17) and Roger Smith (D21).

Minutes of Previous Meeting

The Board reviewed the minutes of the February 2014 Albuquerque annual meeting. Upon motion and second the minutes were approved.

Treasurer's Report

Tom Shulman presented the Treasurer's report, copies of which had previously been emailed to the Board. WC had a net loss of -\$16,447 in FY 2014. As of November 30, 2014, WC had a net worth of \$59,083. After a brief discussion, the Treasurer's report was ACCEPTED.

Money to Districts

The Board discussed whether any money should be returned to the districts in light of the rather big loss experienced in 2014 and in light of the draft budget for 2015 that did not show a profit. Teri Atkinson moved to forego a rebate this year, and Roger Smith seconded the motion. A vote was called and the motion CARRIED.

New Business Part A

Because Ken Monzingo had not yet arrived at the meeting, the Board took this opportunity, in Ken's absence, to discuss personnel matters that impacted him.

In de facto Executive Session, the Board approved a \$2,400/year (\$200/mo.) increase (retroactive to January) in the amount paid to Ken Monzingo, bringing the total to \$8,588 per month for a 12-page issue. Shortly thereafter, Ken arrived and was in attendance during the remainder of the meeting.

STaC

Bonnie Bagley reported on the STaC table counts and the top STaC award winners, and Teri Atkinson reported on her collection process and success. There was discussion about the STaCs but no action was taken.

Forum

Ken Monzingo reported on *Forum* operations and told the Board that the Forum was doing fine. Ken's two employees (Sergio and Leticia) are still there and still doing a wonderful job. Ken said the *Forum* is the only monthly paper in the ACBL.

New Business Part B

The Board discussed the necessity of creating additional revenue to make up the anticipated shortfall in 2015, and focused on raising the amount of the rate charged to the districts for their four or more non-common pages in each issue of the *Forum*. During the period December 2001 through November 2014, the cost to publish the Forum increased by more than 46%, from \$160,000/yr. to \$235,000/yr. During that same period, the fee charged to the member districts for their Forum pages did not increase at all; the page charge has remained at \$350/pg. for the past 13 years. Roger Smith moved to increase the page charge by approximately 14% to \$400 per page. The motion was seconded and CARRIED. [After the meeting, pursuant to Bylaws permitting voting by email, it was moved, seconded and CARRIED that the increase shall become effective with the April edition of the *Forum*.]

D21 noted that any future Reno, NV regional would now be a D21 regional.

Old Business

The Board briefly discussed the Board's ongoing attempt to learn about and record the history of the Western Conference. Mention was made that there are few people around who have personal knowledge of or information about the early days of the Conference. Suggestion was made to contact Mary Hardy who might have access to relevant documents that might have been in the possession of her husband, Max Hardy.

Election of Officers

Marion Robertson was nominated to be president. No further nominations. Marion Robertson was elected.

Tom Shulman was nominated to be Secretary/Treasurer. No further nominations. Tom Shulman was elected.

Next Meeting

The Board decided that the next meeting would be in D21 at the Monterey Regional on Thursday morning, January 7, 2016 at a time TBD.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:50 p.m.