

ACBL Educational Foundation
136th Annual Membership Meeting Minutes
Saturday, March 23, 2019
Sheraton Hotel
Memphis, TN

1. Call to Order – Barbara Heller

Barbara Heller called the meeting to order at 9:00 am.

2. Welcome – Barbara Heller

Present were Ellen Anten, Flo Belford, Jane Champion, Paul Cuneo, Mitch Dunitz, Barbara Heller, Bryan Howard, Greg Johnson and Betty Starzec. Robert Todd joined the meeting via telephone. Guests attending the meeting were Kay Enfield, Joe Jones, Kevin Lane, Stephanie Threlkeld, Byron Jenkins, Sharon Andrews, Dennis Carmen, Dan Storch and Jay Whipple.

3. President’s Report-Barbara Heller

A motion was made by Paul Cuneo and Dennis Carmen to the ACBL Board of Directors to make February ACBL Educational Foundation month. Kevin Lane made the motion was defer the decision until the Summer NABC Board of Directors meeting in Las Vegas. The ACBL Educational Foundation is establishing a fundraising account with Amazon Smile.

4. Treasurer’s Report - Mitch Dunitz

Mitch Dunitz reports that the Educational Foundation assets are down \$200,000.00. The Kids Table project is nearing completion and has been an investment this past year. The other projects that are funded annually by the Foundation remain consistent from year to year.

5. Documentary “The Kids’ Table”- Mitch Dunitz

The Documentary is in final production. An additional \$36,000.00 was required to complete the documentary. It will be shown at the Summer 2019 NABC in Las Vegas.

6. Approval of Minutes-Jane Champion

A motion was made by Paul Cuneo, seconded by Bryan Howard to approve the minutes as revised. All approved.

7. Audit Report –Barbara Heller with Byron Jenkins (ACBL)

The 2019 audit is complete, and it went smoothly.

8. Guest: Kay Enfield

Kay Enfield attended the meeting on behalf of Mike Levine. Mike Levine is passionate about supporting programs to promote bridge. His Foundation has supported various programs including the Aces and Knives Documentary, Silicon Valley Youth Bridge and Alan Grave’s program to promote social bridge. The foundation is being restructured and substantial funding is available for the right project.

9. Committee Report from Educational Liaison Committee -

Barbara Heller. Ellen Anten, Robert Todd, Barbara Heller and Betty Starzec met at the Fall 2019 NAB in Honolulu to brainstorm how the Educational Liaison Committee would proceed. The major goal is to partner with ACBL, ABTA, vendors and other groups interested in promoting bridge. The committee would like to hold an Educational Liaison Forum at the Greenville, SC Regional in June. Robert Todd and Barbara Heller would facilitate the round table meeting with District 7 Educational Liaisons. Byron Howard made a motion to approve the forum, Joel Kramer seconded the motion.

10. Guest: Samantha Punch

Samantha Punch with Keep Bridge Alive, Stirling University, Scotland attended the meeting to ask for support from the Educational Foundation. Samantha is a Professor of Sociology and an international bridge player. She combined her two passions to create the global Keep Bridge Alive initiative. She has international support for her program from 26 countries. Nothing currently exists regarding the sociology of bridge. She is working to publish evidence that there is proof of the benefit of playing bridge. She gets a salary from Stirling University. She is looking for funding to hire staff to help with the research projects. Long term goals are to shift the image of bridge, increase participation in bridge and insure the future of bridge. Samantha is prepared to dedicate the rest of her career to this project. She is looking to raise \$30,000.00 in the United States to help fund the next phase of her project to publish two academic papers. Joel Kramer made the motion to match other donations up to \$15,000.00. Mitch Dunitz seconded the motion. The motion carried.

11. Non-profit Status Report – Bryan Howard

All the applications and required documentation has been completed. We should have approval to raise money in all 50 states by April 15, 2019. We need to research the legal requirements for fundraising in Mexico and Canada.

12. Co-sponsored Programs with ACBL – Stephanie Threlkeld

- Collegiate – There are now 50 college programs. We offer stipends, materials including Bridge in a Box. Several schools are offering bridges for credit. Funding 16 schools to the Youth NABC Bridge Bowl. We have added a Bridge Bowl pair event this year.
- Speaker Program @ NABC's – The Foundation pays for all speakers beyond 8 at each NABC
- King/Queen of Bridge – The program is promoted through eblasts, bulletin and scholarship organizations. Last year we had 15 strong applicants.
- Learn to Play Bridge @ NABC's – This program has been well received to promote in the press and to offer to bridge player's friends and family. It is important to have follow-up classes in the local community.
- Teacher's Roundtable – Will now be once a year

13. Grant Report – Flo Belford

The University of Minnesota has inquired into obtaining a grant to send students YNABC. It was agreed that the Foundation is not prepared to offer this funding nationwide and would not be able to consider this grant request.

14. New Business

- Reach – Reach is a multi-day tournament offered nationwide at the club level. Players can register in advance to join the Reach games to earn gold points. Joe Jones has agreed that the ACBL Educational Foundation will be able to partner with the Reach program.
- Nominating Committee – We will have an election of officers at the Summer 2019 NABC. Sharon Anderson has agreed to serve on the committee but will not serve as chair.
- Educational Foundation NABC Games – There was a change in the schedule

The meeting was adjourned at 11:22 am.

An Executive Session followed

Next meeting will be at 8:30 am, Saturday, July 20, 2019, Cosmopolitan, Las Vegas, Nevada.