



**ACBL Educational Foundation Minutes
141st Annual Board of Trustees Meeting
Saturday, March 21, 2020, 11 am
Teleconference GoToMeeting**

1. Call to Order – Joel Kramer

Joel Kramer called the meeting to order at 11:00 am. Foundation members attending the meeting were Jane Champion, Paul Cuneo, Mitch Dunitz, Kristen Frederick, Barbara Heller, Bryan Howard, Greg Johnson, Joel Kraemer, Craig Robinson, Betty Starzec and Robert Todd. Guests attending the meeting were Sharon Anderson, Dennis Carmen, Greg Coles, Ned Irving, Joe Jones, Bryon Jenkins, Suzi Subeck, Stephanie Threlkeld and Jackie Zayac.

2. Approval of Consent Agenda

The board approved the February 2020 Financials and Board of Trustee Minutes from November 30, 2019.

3. Proposal of New Board Member – Joel Kramer

Joel Kramer nominated Dianne Belk to serve as a Trustee to the Foundation. The board approved Dianne Belk as a Trustee.

4. Treasurer's Report – Paul Cuneo

2019 in Review - Paul Cuneo reported that 2019 was a great year for the Foundation with major gifts and increased fundraising activities.

Special Games - The February Educational Foundation Special Games brought in \$142,000.00 which was \$42,000.00 over projected income from the games.

Investment Update – We currently have 1.46 million dollars in assets. There have been \$169,000.00 in recent market losses which were offset by \$14,000 gain from other investments.

5. Legal – Bryan Howard

The Schwartz case mediation is scheduled for April 6, 2020. We do not need to attend the mediation.

6. Program Committee Report – Robert Todd

COVID-19 - The pandemic has had a major impact on grants and initiatives.

Boys & Girls Club - The Boys and Girls Club project was just getting underway before it was forced to stop. Ideally, it will serve as a pilot project that could be scalable to expand the program across the country.

Military Program -The Military Program had the inaugural launch in Columbia, South Carolina. Lon Sunshine and Patty Tucker reported they will work closely with the bases to better market the program to increase participation.

Tricky Bridge - Tricky Bridge was scheduled to give a presentation at the Spring NABC in Columbus, Ohio. Since NABC was cancelled, there will be a virtual presentation within the next week.

Youth Bridge – The program committee is looking for a way to establish an online platform for youth to learn and play bridge. The USBF works with training future world champions and has created a club on BBO for coaching, play and special events. There should be a similar program to engage youth who are interested in learning, improving and competing in bridge who are outside of the track to become world champions.

NABC Teacher's Breakfast – Betty Starzec organized a teacher's breakfast for Columbus to address the need of providing bridge teaching materials. There were 50 teachers signed-up to attend. The breakfast will be rescheduled for Fall 2020 NABC in Tampa.

Teacher's Workshop – Robert Todd will hold a Teacher's Workshop at the Summer 2020 NABC in Montreal to brainstorm with teachers about areas of their specific interests. The goal is to allocate specialized funding geared to programs that teachers are interested in pursuing.

7. Executive Director's Report – Kristen Frederick

The pandemic has had a major impact on programs. Four grants have been put on hold. The Foundation has seen a growing response from individuals and clubs making a donation to the Foundation in honor of another. The Foundation has contracted with a third party to manage state approval for soliciting donations.

8. New Business – Board Discussion

Impact of CoVid-19 on Foundation Activities – The CoVid-19 pandemic has had a major impact on the Foundation. Grants and outreach to major donors has been put on hold.

Addressing our Goal #2: Social Bridge -

- **ACBL Board of Directors Social Bridge Focus Group Results – Sharon Anderson**
Sharon Anderson reported that the ACBL Board of Directors created a Strategic Committee to focus on Social Bridge. The committee determined that social bridge players want to have fun, want to connect with other social bridge players, want to be respected and do not want to be intimidated. The Board of Directors realize that social bridge players are a significant component to the future of our game and seek ways to partner with the Educational Foundation and ABTA to connect with social bridge players.
- **Connecting Social Bridge Players – Strategic Case Statement – Joel Kramer**
Social Bridge was identified as one of the top priorities of the Foundation that has not been addressed. This needs to become a major focus and initiative of the Foundation. There are millions of social bridge players. We have a current donor base of 23,000 and ACBL has a member base of 160,000. Most of those bridge players know people who play social bridge. Other networks for social bridge players include community centers, senior centers, Osher Lifeline Living Institute programs and country clubs.
- **Online Platform to Engage Social Bridge Players – Robert Todd**
There is a need for an online platform for social bridge players. The platform must be easy to use with good technical support. Robert will review various bridge game platforms. We will be able to market the social bridge game through existing contacts. Technical support will be critical. Joe Jones and Greg Coles indicated that ACBL could be contracted to provide technical support. Joel Kramer made the motion to authorize up to \$50,000.00 to support the creation

of a social bridge platform. Betty Starzec seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Board Engagement – Kristen Frederick would appreciate increased feedback from board members when she sends memos, reports and updates.

9. Adjournment – Joel Kramer

The meeting adjourned at 12:39 pm. The next meeting of the ACBL Educational Foundation will be Saturday, July 18, 2020 in Montreal, CA.

10. Executive Session