



ACBL Educational Foundation Minutes - Draft
Board of Trustees Summer Meeting
July 19, 2022 - 7:00 PM EST Providence and on Zoom

1. Call to Order - Joel Kramer

Joel Kramer called the meeting to order at 7:18 PM. Foundation members attending the meeting were: Allison Freeland, Barbara Heller, Greg Johnson, Paul Cuneo, Jane Champion, John McAllister, Betty Starzec, Bryan Howard, Michael Berkowitz, Robert Todd, Kristen Frederick, Joel Kramer, Reese Koppel and Barbara Clark. Guest members attending were: Stephanie Threlkeld and Joe Jones.

2. Approval of Minutes - 148th Meeting: March 12, 2022 - Reno, NV

Robert Todd moved that the Board of Trustee minutes of March 12, 2022 be approved. Allison Freeland seconded. The minutes were approved unanimously.

3. Executive Director's Report - Kristen Frederick

We are celebrating one year of BridgeWhiz. Our first major donation of \$40,000 was from the Hawaii Bridge Center. Adding Mitch's generous donation of \$6,000, we are ahead of last year by approximately \$9,000. Representatives from Hawaii will attend our reception and be recognized by Robert. Kristen asked us to tout ourselves wherever we go so that people know about us and that we need support.

A welcome letter for BridgeWhiz was sent out in conjunction with the ACBL for bridge memberships. All received lanyards and certificates of achievement. An article on the King of Bridge will be in the August Bulletin. Information will be available on Digital Summer Camps after Labor Day and Military Initiative will continue. Working with Paul to develop additional articles for our page.

Robert will highlight the very successful Educational Foundation Junior Fund. He was instrumental in creating a charity auction with people from San Francisco to send kids to the international championships in Italy, along with Allison who knows them. A goal of \$50,000 was established and almost \$54,000 raised. Excellent job! Mitch was thanked for sending kids to the Youth NABC.

A report from Al Bender was included in the pre-read information sent out to everyone. Al Bender is now on staff with us. We're launching a BridgeWhiz website August 1. Thirty five new teachers have been added. Registrations have increased from 1000 to 3000 kids.

Paul and Betty were thanked for their efforts to expand BridgeWhiz in additional schools. District 16 supplemented coverage with a gift of \$4,000 for schools in the Houston area.



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Robert stated that marketing this might spearhead competition among other districts to do the same.

4. Treasurer's Report - Paul Cuneo

Financials: January - June 2022
Investments Updated

Kristen provided Paul's financial report to everyone as a pre-read.

Through June, our income is up due to increased donations and our expenses are in line with the budget. Our net assets are down around \$200,000 due to the decline in the stock market and we believe there will be continued volatility throughout 2022. The Federal Reserve has embarked on a policy to raise interest rates which negatively affects the value of our fixed income investments especially in bond funds. The Finance Committee sold the bond funds in March discussed in our Reno meeting. Money from those funds has been invested in US Treasury Bills which will mature in October and December of 2022. It is our intention to continue to invest for short term income as the Federal Reserve raises interest rates and then build a bond ladder after rates stabilize. Our cash position remains strong with over \$140,000 available to meet expenses.

Reese asked about our long term plan to get back into the stock market. Joel and Paul responded that we were still in the market.

Robert thanked Paul for his last financial report as treasurer. Joel said that Paul had been an outstanding treasurer.

5. Program Committee Report - Robert Todd

Pro-Am Auction - Robert Todd
BridgeWhiz - Kristen Frederick
Collegiate Initiative/Digital Teacher Training - Stephanie Threlkeld

Robert first provided updates on grants. A slight uptick since 2020 and 2021, not a large number this year. The Program Committee approved a grant for Sorry, Partner, a podcast about bridge and all things interesting to bridge players. Although not submitted in our traditional format and limited primarily to editing software, the committee decided that this fell under the category of doing good for bridge awarding \$1,500. While not a quid pro quo, the Educational Foundation will probably receive some advertising as a sponsor. Future grants of this nature will be decided per case.



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Our largest grant is with the American Bridge Teacher Association (ABTA). This traditional grant is organized by Betty Starzec and Henry Meguid. Robert asked Betty to discuss the grant.

Betty clarified that it's actually two grants. The first is to help the convention itself. The Educational Foundation supplements AV requirements negotiated by the ACBL and provides the Teacher Breakfast. A blanket amount of \$9,700 was given to the ACBL, amount needed for AV equipment was unknown with the expectation that a refund would be issued for unused funds. The second grant was for anyone who has taken the ACBL Accredited Teaching (online teaching) course or the Best Practices workshop to be given a one year free membership in the ABTA. This creates a place where teachers function and get together. it's a multi-year grant, probably \$10,000 used with enough funding remaining for four or five years.

Stephanie Threlkeld, if they graduated, we purchased a membership for them. The online teaching program is easing off a bit. Paused program, not a lot of interest. Will offer it again in the fall. Will update Zoom presentation.

Betty - Teachers attending in Reno had a positive experience. Stephanie, turn out was good for Best Practices, about 18 or 19. They enjoyed it, lots of fun.

Stephanie - College Bridge Bowl. 80 students representing 18 schools (est. \$37-40K plus scholarships). 8 teams received travel packages, 6 paid by ACBL. 2 from 2020 paid by ACBLEF. 21 Pairs receiving travel packages (13 paid by ACBLEF, 3 Mitch Dunitz). Mitch Dunitz hosting Pizza and Pros on Saturday evening.

Teams:

1st Place - \$10,000; 2nd Place - \$5,000; 3rd Place - \$3,000; 4th Place - \$2,000.

Pairs:

1st Place - \$3,000; 2nd place, \$2,000; 3rd Place - \$1,000 Open. 1st Place - \$2,000; 2nd Place - \$1,000 99er.

Youth NABC - 83 pre-registered, expecting 100. Slowly gearing back up.

Scholarships: Baron Barclay pairs, 2,000. Master Point Press Sportsmanship Award, \$1,000. ACBL Educational Foundation BridgeWhiz Teams - \$4,000.

Robert - Pro - Am Auction - Alex Kolesnik, Head of USBF, approached Robert about 16 kids interested in playing in the world junior championships in Italy. Two members of the team had funding. Tracey Bauer and Andrew Gunthers have organized events and were the driving force in this effort. Robert's vision for involvement of the Educational



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Foundation, was that it would be good if it resulted in funding for other youth programs. Tracey was on fire, as Robert characterized her momentum, expertise, dedication and charisma. Working tirelessly, she and Andrew communicated with Robert as they organized, campaigned with pros and ams, and solicited commitments and donations for this monumental Junior Fund event. This hugely successful opportunity to bid on an array of amazing world champions, bridge celebrities, authors and legends to partner with, the best in the business, was incredible! They exceeded their goal of \$50,000 giving \$1,000 stipends to each kid. They were also able to send a few additional kids who learned through this effort about the program.

Allison asked if there was a way to thank all of the pros/sponsors (alpha list) in the ACBL Bulletin. This will encourage, even those not on the list, future participation and show our appreciation.

Joel was also very excited about the potential of this resource for the Foundation, having names of pros in our data base is a great asset for future fundraising. Robert said that the infrastructure is in place to replicate online fundraising next year. It took four and a half weeks from the first conversations to execution. Next year we'll have more lead time, good donor list. The professional bridge community is more aware of youth bridge.

Reese commented that it shows that all of them are interested in the good for bridge and that a lot of behind the scenes work took place.

Robert said they would be thanked later in the Bulletin and Press Releases. There is a video of the Zoom after party with the experts enjoyed by all. Please thank Tracey.

BridgeWhiz - Year one expenses were under budget, about \$75,000 which is the same amount spent in year two. Al has kept expenses low. Very appreciative of the job Al has done. He is now on salary with us after working the first year free. We're looking for a person to assist Al, a Head Teacher. This is for stability of the program primarily. Teaching is a huge part of the program, technology and organizational skills needed.

The website is interactive, it moves, not static, is easy to navigate and more kid orientated. It contains a welcome letter and how to enroll your child information.

Barbara Heller asked if kids had their videos on when they take the class. Robert responded that it was not a requirement. Barbara said that they could be more engaged when they take the class. Robert said that Al is very protective of children. Some parents object. Some teachers went towards privacy and independent learning.

Last year we kept kids isolated longer. This year we are moving into more social aspects. Reese was also concerned about the social aspects for kids. We now have interactive websites, Trickster Bridge, now online.



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The issue of harassment is monitored by the software. Can put kids in table of four. As we grow we're offering supervised play staffed by the Youth Bridge Association (YBA), once per week. Can move to more frequently, once a day. For our graduates, advanced classes, the Seattle model may be used. Instead of us managing it, create something where teachers can do it. Teachers may also use the curriculum to teach parents of their students for pay. The hope is that parent/child partnerships will be created so that they can play in bridge clubs.

6. Discussion - Joel Kramer

Schedule for Future Board Meetings
Recruitment of New Board Members

Joel proposed that Tuesday night dinner format be adopted for our meetings. It was agreed that they would be held on Tuesday nights of the NABC.

When Joel opened the discussion for consideration of new board members, Barbara Heller took this opportunity to announce her resignation from the board. She mentioned that she attempted to do it once before, she has enjoyed her work on the board, she's leaving it in good hands. She mentioned her work on the national board. Board members thanked and applauded her and said that she would be missed.

Several recommendations were made for new board members. Kristen said with our large population of BridgeWhiz students from Canada, a Canadian representative should be on the board. Board members also said that a representative from Mexico should be on the board.

Betty Starzec recommended Patricia Herrera from Mexico. She is President of the National Bridge Foundation, District 16 Board Education Coordinator. Many trustees knew her. John McAllister said, great name. He shared a personal experience of her kindness and character.

7. New Business - Joel Kramer

Closing Comments from 2019-2022 President, Joel Kramer
Presentation of the 2022-2023 Officers
Opening Comments & Vision for 2022-2025, President Robert Todd
Introduction of New Committee Chairs

Joel was happy with his accomplishments and contributions to the board. He thanked everyone and said that he was excited to see Robert in the position as President. He said he knew that Robert would do a great job. Kristen presented a gift and a card to Joel who was very pleased with the painting received symbolic of his legacy of good marketing efforts.



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Slate of Officers - Joel Kramer

Robert S. Todd, President; Joel R. Kramer, Vice President; Barbara L. Clark, Secretary; Allison Freeland, Treasurer.

Members of the Executive Committee

President: Robert S. Todd; Vice President, Joel R. Kramer; Secretary, Barbara L. Clark; Treasurer, Allison Freeland; Legal Counsel; Bryan Howard, Esq.; Development Committee: Mitch Dunitz; Program Committee Chair: Michael Berkowitz; Marketing/Communications Chair: Joel R. Kramer; Liaison Committee, Paul Cuneo.

Robert thanked Joel for his hard work. He said he was super appreciative of the infrastructure that Joel has put in place. He's happy that he will still be involved. He mentioned our transition from a grants based to a programmatic structure working with all of our partners. He wants to talk to Reese about more college oriented events, expanding the college program. Kristen was thanked for her work and he looks forward to working with her. He thanked the board for trusting him with the job.

The above Slate of Officers and Committee Members were previously approved.

8. Adjournment of Annual Meeting - 8:56 PM
9. Executive Session