

## American Cribbage Congress

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES

Comfort Inn & Suites—Omaha, NE

September 23, 2022

**Approved 3/11/2023**

#### I **Call to Order:**

President James Morrow called the meeting to order at 9:00 am.

#### II **Roll Call:**

Jeanne Jelke read the roll call. In attendance were David Aiken Rick Allen, Patrick Barrett, Willie Evans, Richard Frost, Tammy Gibbons, Roland Hall, John Hazlett, Jason Hofbauer, Jeanne Jelke, Jennifer Johnson, Cy Madrone, James Morrow, Lana Newhouse, Dave O'Neil, Sandy Sands, Todd Schaefer, Dan Selke, Rick Shea, Mark Soule, Vickie Soule, David Statz, Terry Weber, Fred White, and Keith Widener. 25 Board members were in attendance. We had a quorum. Also in attendance: Ivan Wells, Scott Harker, Brenda Nason, Marlene Lazachek, Scott Kooistra, Sally Henderson, and others.

#### III **Approve Agenda:**

James M. made three amendments to the Agenda:

1. Move the Hall of Fame (HOF) discussion from Agenda item V to New Business
2. Move the Treasurer's Report to earlier in the meeting
3. Add another proposal for consideration under Agenda GN XLIII item VII B

#### IV **Approve Minutes of March 3, 2022:**

Jeanne J. presented the draft minutes of March 3, 2022, held at the Sands Regency in Reno, NV. Keith W. noted that under Agenda Item V, the percentage of Board members needed to elect a candidate to the Hall of Fame should be changed from 75% to 66%. No other corrections were noted. **Action:** Keith W. made a motion to approve the minutes of 3/3/22 as amended; seconded by Jason H. **Motion approved.**

#### V **(Moved to New Business)**

#### VI **GN XL & XLI**

##### A. **GN XL Update:**

Scott Kooistra reported that there are around 330 people registered for GN 40. He noted that there had been great fundraising for GN 40, and thanked Richard F. for his help. Thanks to the fundraising, there will be great payouts.

Scott K. described the sports-themed Awards Banquet which will be hosted tailgate style at the Fireman's Hall. Rides will be provided. He also invited

everyone to attend a reception that afternoon from 4 – 5 pm honoring ACC charter members and former GN winners. He thanked to Willie E. and others for providing candy treats for the players. He passed out \$20 each to BOD members and officers to purchase lunch at the food trucks outside.

**B. GN XLI East:**

Jack Howsare reported on preparations for GN 41, which will be October 10 – 15, 2023 in Virginia Beach, VA. There is a block of 91 rooms at the main hotel, at \$104 plus tax for a standard double and \$142 plus tax for a suite. A nearby Best Western is available for overflow. Rooms are being reserved for BOD members who have responded and those who sign up today. There will be three tournaments (with separate entry forms that he passed out.) The first, on the afternoon of Tuesday, October 10<sup>th</sup> will be a 12-game main with no consolation. The second, the 22-game Midweek tournament will be on Oct. 11 and 12. The BOD meeting will be on Friday, October 13, with breakfast and lunch provided. Grand National 41 will be on October 14 & 15. The Awards Banquet will be on October 14 and will cost \$45 per person.

**VII GN XLII & GNXLIII**

**A. GN XLII Western:**

Dave A. said that planning for GN 42 is underway. Dave A., Troy Thorson and Kathy Pacocha will be the TD's. It is planned for November 13 – 17, 2024, after the Veteran's Day tournament in Reno and perhaps a tournament in Topaz. The contract with the Rampart Casino in Las Vegas is finally in hand. There are a few minor things to discuss, but it will be signed very soon. Room rates are \$99 plus a \$30 resort fee that can be applied towards casino and hotel amenities. There will be no charge for the playing room. The Rampart is also kicking in \$2,500 for payouts. Dave A. noted that at the last BOD meeting, the holding of GN 42 at the Rampart was approved in principle, delegating the formal contract signing to the Executive Committee. That didn't happen because the contract has just been received. **Action:** Keith W. made a motion to sign the contract for GN 42 at the Rampart Casino in Las Vegas; seconded by Willie E. **Motion approved.**

**B. GN XLV Central:**

James M. stated that there are two bids for GN 43 in the Central Region in 2025:

Bid 1: Presented by Dave A., this bid is for October 1 – 5, 2025 at the Lodge at Deadwood. Dave A. has the contract in hand. He said that the hotel rate will be \$89 for a standard guest room Sunday – Thursday, and \$119 on Friday and Saturday. There will be no charge for the playing space. Although the casino is not huge, there are lots of casinos around. The playing area is spacious, enough for at least double the 180 players they have had previously, and perhaps as many as 400. The hotel has around 180 rooms. The region around Deadwood has lots of history and sightseeing opportunities.

Bid 2: Presented by Terry W., this bid is also for October 1 – 5, 2025 at the Crown Plaza at O'Hare Airport in northwest Chicago. He would be assisted by Dan S., Pat and Linda Barrett, and Bob Joslin. Richard F. will be in charge of

fundraising. Although the hotel cost may seem high at \$134, it will be offset by the convenience of and lower airfares to a major airport. He also noted that there will be a free airport shuttle, free playing space (there is 55,000 sq.' of meeting space), and a \$7,000 minimum Food & Beverage requirement, which will be met by just the Awards Banquet. The Awards Banquet will be \$55/person. Terry offered some comparisons on airfares from about 35 cities in various parts of the US to fly into O'Hare as opposed to those to get to Rapid City, SD. If you take the average of these flights, it is \$188 cheaper to fly into O'Hare than Rapid City, SD. Therefore, if the airfare and hotel costs are taken together, it will be about the same cost to players for Chicago as Deadwood. Also, there are three restaurants in the hotel, so if players are on their own for lunch that will allow about \$30K more in the payout fund. He is anticipating as much as a \$4,000 prize for first place. He noted that the Crown Plaza is in the Rosemount District, a very nice and safe area of Chicago. There is a park and large entertainment area nearby, nice restaurants, comedy club, as well as a huge shopping mall and casinos. All are walkable from the hotel. Hotel parking is discounted at \$17/day.

There was discussion following the presentations. Cy M. pointed out that for those that drive from the west, Chicago is a more costly option because of parking and the difference of 900 miles between Deadwood and Chicago. Terry W. noted that this GN will be in the Central Division, and that Chicago is much more central for 99% of the players in the Central Division.

A vote was taken by paper ballot. Deadwood Lodge received 14 votes to the Chicago Crown Plaza's 11 votes. James M. announced that GN 43 will be held in Deadwood in October, 2025. James M. thanked both presenters for putting together their bids.

## **VIII Old Business**

### **A. Update: Online payments for dues -membership**

Ivan W. reported that Phase 1 of the online payment system is up and running, and its use is rapidly increasing for both ACC membership and GR dues. Phase 2 development is underway and should be fully functioning by late 2023. At that point we will reevaluate. The process is self-sustaining through Shopify. There is a monthly and yearly fee, as well as a transaction processing fee. Payments from Canada have been added, but not other international customers.

### **B. MRP data program:**

James M. said that this agenda item is tabled for now. More information is needed from some people to resolve issues with the system. Marlene L. noted that the situation is getting worse. She said that some people who have renewed their ACC dues after Larry Hassett retired [as Membership Secretary] are not showing up online. John H. noted that two volunteers, David Hayes and Alan Bengsten, are working on programing it, but they have to study the system to understand how it works before making changes. There is a possibility of a fix. David H. is working on the double-elimination and Consy Lite, and Alan B. is

working on importing the old membership data to the MRP system. Chris Bailey is not able to work on it and Scott Harker is working on the GR data base.

## IX New Business

### A. Mandatory HOF online voting and Nominations:

Jennifer J. presented two issues. First, she discussed the current HOF timeline. She asked BOD members to confirm their panelists contact info by October 15<sup>th</sup>. After discussion, the timeline was confirmed as: Call for nominations December 1, 2022 to January 15, 2023; Voting website up & packets out by the end of January; Voting the last two weeks of January through February 15<sup>th</sup>. The call for nominations and the timeline will be published one time, in the December Cribbage World (CW). This timeline is consistent with the ACC Policy & Procedures Manual except for publishing twice in CW. **Action:** Jennifer J. made a motion to amend the ACC Policy & Procedures Manual requiring the call for nominations to be published only once in CW; seconded by Mark S. **Motion approved.**

Jennifer J. went on to propose that voting be done online going forward. This creates great savings by eliminating printing and mailing packets. First, Jennifer J. proposed that all existing panelists who voted online last year continue doing so, and any new panelists must vote online. The eight panelists who needed hard copy packets will be grandfathered in and continue to receive hard copies by mail. Secondly, nomination letters must be submitted in electronic form such as by email. Finally, each nominee will have an ACC-generated coversheet which will include all the nominee's statistics so there is no need to repeat them in nomination letters. **Action:** Jennifer J. made a motion to approve the proposal to move to online voting for the HOF 1) by all current and new panelists excepting the 8 who are grandfathered in for hard copy packets; 2) with nomination letters submitted electronically; seconded by Dave A. **Motion approved.** **Action:** Jennifer J. made a motion that the ACC provide statistics once for each candidate and not included in nomination letters, and that the ACC Policy & Procedures manual be revised accordingly; seconded by Mark S. **Motion approved.**

### B. Eligibility of unadded score cards:

Rick S. proposed that it be mandatory for players to add up their game points on their scorecards if they want to be considered for qualifying. Otherwise, if they leave their game points blank, they are conceding that they don't qualify. The reason for is to enable crosscheckers to quickly identify the potential qualifiers and avoid overlooking a qualifying card that wasn't added up. Discussion followed, including concern about alienating new players, and procedures for reminding players to add up their scorecards. Following this discussion, Rick S. withdrew the proposal.

### C. Online tournament commissioner budget:

Dave A. stated that Internet Cribbage awards have never been budgeted by the ACC. Sally H. requested that internet awards be a line item. She noted that Internet Cribbage is the gateway to the ACC, and Internet Cribbage should be viewed as an equal division of the ACC. Awards are meaningful to internet players

and should be similar to the other divisions. This year to date, for instance, there are 38 new ACC members from Internet Cribbage. Last year there were 81 new members. John Shafer said that at least \$1,000 a year was needed for awards.

**Action:** Dave A. made a motion to add a budget line item of \$1,500 for Internet Cribbage awards; seconded by Rick A. **Motion approved.**

**D. One day/ mid-week tournament Limits:**

Rick S. stated that people like cluster tournaments, and this is the only growth area. He proposed raising the limit of 5 midweek tournaments per region per quarter. Rick clarified that one-day midweek tournaments still must be attached to a regular weekend tournament, so midweeks on Tuesday through Thursdays must be two-day tournaments. **Action:** Rick S. made a motion to raise the limit to 8 midweek tournaments allowed per division per quarter; seconded by Cy M. 24 for; 0 against; 1 Abstention. **Motion approved.**

**E. New Grassroots awards - Commissioners Award:**

James M. proposed creating a new "Grass Roots Commissioners Award," similar to the Regional Commissioners' Volunteer of the Year Awards. With this award, the Grass Roots (GR) Commissioner can recognize someone as an outstanding volunteer/ GR ambassador for the year. James M. stated that the Executive Committee approved this idea. **Action:** James M. made a motion to ratify the Executive Committee's establishment of the "Grass Roots Commissioners Award"; seconded by Dave A. **Motion approved.** Ivan W. noted that there wasn't a procedure for determining this award. Pat B. said that he gets input from various people in his region before deciding on the regional volunteers of the year. Ivan W. will develop protocol for this award with the GR committee.

**F. Changing chapter 9(i)(d) Allow VP of policy to Assume or appoint the Ethics Committee Chair:**

Keith W. explained that prior to Valerie Sumner, the office of VP of Policy & Ethics was automatically both the VP in charge of Policy and Ethics Committee Chair. He proposed that this be officially changed so that the VP of Policy & Ethics can either assume the position of Ethics Committee Chair or appoint the Chair. If appointed, the Ethics Committee Chair should be a member of the BOD and approved by the Executive Committee. **Action:** Keith W. made a motion that the Policy & Procedures Manual be changed to allow the VP for Policy & Ethics to either assume or appoint the Ethics Committee Chair, who must be a member of the BOD, with the approval of the Executive Committee; seconded by Dave A. **Motion approved.**

**G. ACC member not in USA or Canada, Crib world only online:**

Terry W. noted that we previously spent \$311 per month on mailing Cribbage World to international members. We were able to cut that down to \$82 by only mailing hard copies to Canadian members through a third party. He noted that providing Cribbage World through the internet only (except for Canadian members) is providing a savings to the ACC.

#### H. **Element 3 Health:**

Sandy S. introduced an opportunity for GR clubs to earn money by participating in “Element 3 Health.” He distributed packets explaining the program. He said he looked into it further because at first it looked suspect. “Element 3 Health” partners with certain supplemental health insurance companies such as United Health Care and its affiliates to provide incentives to clubs that provide socializing activities for seniors. The program is backed by Medicare. Participating clubs send in a monthly report of the number of socializing activities by members who have partner insurance policies. The club will receive \$1 per member per activity (up to 10 times a month). They have also added an “ambassador program” and add an additional \$100 to the club for distributing the information by email and social media. Sandy S. said he has piloted the program, and so far it has been very positive. No personal or HIPAA information about individual members is collected by “Element 3 Health.” There is a little work involved for GR Club directors in sending the monthly reports. Element 3 Health will assist them with reporting method options. Also, if GR members report that they played at home during the week, those can count as well as participating in actual GR tournaments (up to 10 times a month.) Sandy S. will get together with Ivan W. to communicate with GR clubs about this opportunity.

#### X **Reports**

##### A. **Membership Secretary:**

Terry W. reported for Brenda N., referring to her report. The biggest thing is the new online payment system, which is now working well. For the first three months, it wasn’t making any money, but since July it has been generating more than \$100 per month. There’s also an inventory of 100 bumper stickers. By consensus the BOD approved to give away the bumper stickers while supplies last. Brenda is also doing an inventory of ACC Life Members and updating addresses and removing deceased members.

##### B. **Treasurer’s Report:**

Marlene L. referred to her written report which had been circulated to the BOD. She noted that our investment account was down to \$44,500 because the stock market is down. Over the last 8 years, \$24,000 in \$3,000 increments has been taken out from an initial investment of \$50,000, which is overall a significant gain. **Action:** Keith W. made a motion to leave the money in the investment account; seconded by Dan S. **Motion approved.** Marlene L. also stated that a major expense was \$4,200 for printing and shipping 100,000 scorecards. She also announced that Jerry Gruber left the ACC \$15,000 to the general fund.

##### C. **Grass Roots - Grassroots Awards:**

Ivan W. referred to his emailed report. He stated that this past year was more “normal” but still experiencing some effects of the pandemic. There are around 195 – 196 GR clubs, which is about 10 better than last year. The GR membership still is not completely up to pre-pandemic levels. He said that a lot of changes to awards had been implemented in an effort to cut down costs. In the process, a larger selection of awards choices is now offered. Ivan also noted that the first

batting average award will be given out at the Awards Banquet. The winning batting average percentage is 70%. The online store is up and running. The online payment system is also working well. Marketing focus at the GR level is on what we can do to get more players. Ivan W. stated that slow play is getting to be a big issue and that the GR Committee has started discussing it, and it will be opened up to club directors for input. There's a number of ways people are dealing with it. Perhaps eventually there will be guidance in the policy manual.

**D. Internet tournaments:**

James M. reported for Sally H. He stated that although International Cribbage Day has been held successfully in the past, it is a lot of work. He indicated that it will be skipped this coming year unless someone steps up to coordinate it.

**E. Web Site:**

John H. reported that he is working on a few things for the website, particularly improving the security functions. Another project is reducing the profile of the big red payment button. The fillable tournament report forms for TD's are almost completed. He is looking into a dedicated page for annual champions of various divisions, GR and Internet Cribbage. A couple of people are working on finishing up the MRP system and resolving issues such as double-elimination formats and Consy Lite.

**F. Marketing:**

Jennifer J. reported on the Marketing Committee efforts. As new members enroll, she sends them information about GR clubs in their area. Dave A. described how the committee experimented with a recruitment billboard for one week in the Grand Rapids area in August. Basically, it was a bust. Another initiative was a free promo booth at the "Woods & Water Weekend," which draws 15K people in the Michigan area. They made a lot of good contacts, maybe enough to start a GR club there. Later in the meeting, Dave A. presented a new "Cribbage Anyone?" brochure, thanking Teri Murdy for designing it. 5,000 printed copies are available for distribution, particularly to GR clubs.

**G. Rules:**

Dave O. reported that the Rules Committee is recommending several rule changes as described in the handout he circulated. The first recommendation added clarification verbiage to Rule 9.2.c. regarding Pegging Out of Turn as follows: "If the dealer's incorrect order of play results in pegging into the OUT hole, there is no false claim to game. Pegs are retracted and pone counts first." **Action:** Dave O. made a motion to approve this clarification wording to Rule 9.2.c; seconded by Mark S. **Motion Approved.** The second recommendation was to remove the word "penalty" from Rule 8.7 so that the second sentence on page 41 reads: "The nonoffender receives two points." **Action:** Dave O. made a motion to approve this clarification wording to Rule 8.7; seconded by Mark S. **Motion Approved.** The third recommendation was to reword Rule 7.2 to help judges be more consistent in applying the rule. The proposed wording is in italics: "A player may peg any points earned during the play of the cards and is permitted a

reasonable time to do so (i.e., a polite pause.) Then, either player may play another card, call “go”, call muggings, or announce the total of his or her hand. **However, once either player announces “go” or “15” or “31”, no more points may be scored once the player’s hand is removed from the peg.** When a player’s opponent has no more cards or calls “go”, the other player may play all playable cards.” There was considerable discussion regarding the difference when approaching 15 as opposed to 31. **Action:** Jeanne J. made a motion to delete mention of “or 15” from the proposed additional verbiage to Rule 7.2; seconded by Keith W. **Motion Approved.** **Action:** Dave O. made a motion to approve this clarification wording [less “or 15”] to Rule 7.2.; seconded by Keith W. **Motion Approved.** The fourth issued involved the inconsistent enforcement of the rule about cutting the deck (specifically, when a player spreads the deck to pick a card, rather than cutting the deck as prescribed in the rules.) Discussion followed, as to whether a penalty should be imposed for failure to follow the proper cutting procedure. Several people suggested that the rule as stated was clear enough and should not be changed just to address a specific individual’s behavior. No further action was taken on this topic. Discussion followed as to the timing and process of making these changes. The consensus was to implement rule changes immediately and to communicate with the membership and judges to amend their rule books. **Action:** Dave O. made a motion that the three approved rule changes be published in CW, and updated on Facebook as soon as possible; seconded by Jeanne J. **Motion Approved.**

#### H. Ethics:

Keith W. reported that there have been 2 or 3 suspensions. The Ethics Committee has two letters to write. In addition, two issues were brought to the committee’s attention today. Keith W. is also planning on bringing to the next BOD meeting a proposal to a change the Policy & Procedures manual to publicly list the names of people suspended by the Ethics Committee for the duration of their suspension as well as providing the exact wording in the code of ethics that they violated to get suspended.

#### I. Judges:

Keith W. stated that an updated list of judges has been posted on the ACC website. It is maintained on the website by John H. New judges are added by John H. when Sally H. notifies him. Keith W. will take care of making sure the master list is updated.

#### J. Youth Program:

James M. noted that the Youth Program report by Dan Ziesler was emailed to the BOD.

#### K. Tournament Commissioners:

Pat B. reported that after 4 bids, 100K scorecards (9, 12 and 22 games) were printed, and cases shipped to Rick S. and Mark S. The cost was \$2,800 for the scorecards and about \$4,200 total. This number of scorecards will cover the next 5 years or so. He stated that there has been growth in the number of tournaments held since the pandemic. There were 53 tournaments in the 20-21



season, 136 tournaments in the 21-22 season, and an estimated 150 tournaments scheduled in the 22-23 season. Pat B. said that he and Mark are hoping to find someone to resume doing tournaments in Florida and in Savannah, GA. Mark S. stated that Joe Bowen is taking on more tournaments as TD. Rick S. noted that most tournaments in the west are coming up and cluster tournaments are becoming more popular. He reported on the Sands remodeling project, noting that the third tower (now currently the economy rooms) will be either torn down or turned into condos. Mel's Diner is gone and will be replaced with an upscale restaurant. Our contract with the Sands expires in November, 2023. The Sands will be bringing a proposed new contract to the BOD meeting in March that will be considerably different. The Sands will continue to provide free playing space, free coffee and probably coffee cake, \$10 in free play and contribute to the prize fund, but possibly on a reduced basis. The Sands will also guarantee dates and rates in advance. Changes include that the ACC will have to handle the money, and they will not issue any more 1099's. Also, free storage for ACC stuff is going to end, and we are probably going to have to rent storage space. Room costs will go up. The BOD will consider the Sands' proposed contract in March, and if we don't like it, we may need to seek bids from other locations.

**L. Social media:**

Vicki S. said that she is getting a lot of response to "Thursday Question." Dave A. reported that the use of the ACC Facebook site is going along fine. It is desirable to use other platforms such as Instagram and Twitter, but people don't post. Vicki S. also noted that the Grass Roots Facebook site needs to be fixed, as it is not like the ACC page and is not user-friendly. A suggestion was that the old Instagram site needs to be deleted and start all over again.

**M. Nominating:**

Jeanne J. had nothing to report.

**N. IT/tech:**

Ivan W. referred to the report he circulated, noting that this will be his last IT report. He was stepping down as chair of the IT Committee, asking that someone else take over, preferably an officer or member of the BOD. He said that the online payment system is working well, although they are working to simplify the wording. The MRP system is the main issue. It needs a single point of contact. Those working on include Alan Bengsten, Scott Harker, and David Hayes. Willie E. thanked Ivan for his service as committee chair.

**O. Awards:**

Mark S. reported that all the awards have been ordered and received. He thanked Richard F. and Vicki S. for their help with getting the awards lined up. The awards will be presented tomorrow night at the Awards Banquet.

## XI. Executive Committee Reports

**President:** James M. said that the Executive Committee reviewed the stipend given for the past year to the Membership Secretary (\$500). When Larry Hassett retired, it was decided to split the \$900/mo. stipend he was receiving and split it between the Membership Secretary, Brenda N. (\$500/mo.) and the IT support by Scott H. (\$400/mo.). Brenda N. has been doing a very good job, but she's working more than twice the hours that she originally signed up for. Consequently, the Executive Committee has decided to adjust the Membership Secretary's stipend by an additional \$200/mo. based on an expectation of a 25-hour work week. This will be reviewed again in a year. James M. thanked the Executive Committee for their work.

**Senior Vice President:** Rick S. noted that the Sands/Reno situation has already been discussed. He observed that the Redding/Carson City/Reno/Topaz cluster has been finalized for late February/early March, 2023. [Note: At the time of this draft, this cluster has been changed to Redding/Carson City/Topaz/Topaz, due to the TOC and ACC Open being moved to June, 2023.]

**VP Ethics /Policy:** Keith W. passed out revisions to the ACC Policy & Procedures Manual.

### **VP Operations:**

Terry W. had no further comments except to repeat that there has been considerable savings in postage due to the changes to getting CW to international members.

### **VP Competition:**

David A. stated that he already reported on everything he is working on.

## XII. Adjournment:

James M. reminded BOD members that we are in the spotlight during the tournaments, and to exhibit good behavior when playing. **Action:** Keith W. made a motion to adjourn; seconded by Jason H. **Motion approved.** The meeting ended at 2:30 pm.

**Next meeting date:** Thursday, March 2, 2023 at 8:00 am at the Sands Regency, Reno NV

**[Please Note: As of the date of the draft minutes, the TOC and ACC Open have been rescheduled for June, 2023. The next BOD meeting will be virtual and held in the spring of 2023, date and time TBD.]**