

Minutes  
EMBA Annual Meeting  
Saturday  
December 12, 2020  
On-Line

Present: Officers: President -Paul Harris, Vice President - Steve Diamond, - President; Linda Robinson, Treasurer; Carolyn Weiser -Secretary  
For The Board: David Aronson, Robert Bertoni, Maureen Bitler, Kathy Cooper , Selen Hotamisligil, Jo Megna-Wallace, Sabrina Miles, Brenda Montague, Neil Montague, Stanley Richmond, Janice Smola, Carole Weinstein, Non-Board Chairs: Elizabeth Gompels,

Absent: Saul Agranoff, Frederick Brown, Hardin Matthews, Dean Panagopoulos, Christina Parker, Ashok Rao, Rosemary Tator,

We thank those members of the Unit who also attended the meeting.

President Harris called the meeting to order at 7:03 PM a quorum being present.

President's Opening Remarks:

Welcome to the first, and I hope the last, EMBA Annual meeting on line. It has been a difficult year for everyone. As a Unit, we had no real activities after the February Sectional. Bridge, as it became, migrated to the web.

Recognition of Board Members who will not be on the Board in 2020.

President Harris noted that two long time members of the EMBA board decided not to run for re-election.

Saul Agranoff has been a member of the board several years and as a member of the Tournament Committee has been responsible for the production and distribution of all the EMBA flyers for many years. His shoes will not be easily filled.

Dean Panagopoulos has served on the Board since 2005. He has served as EMBA President and has chaired many committees. He was particularly active in the I/N Program.

Both will be missed.

A motion was made to approve the Minutes from the Annual Meeting held on December 14, 2019.

The motion was seconded and was passed by acclamation.

Financial Reports

Treasurer's Report - Linda Robinson

Essentially, we had only one tournament this year. We did better than break even. We received the ACBL Membership Retention money and expenses were way down. Our membership was down, but not significantly.

We have a robust cash position. We will look into the possibilities for new investments when our current CD's come due and do the best we can, considering the market. There was some resistance when Stan (Richmond) recommended the purchase of a 10-year CD. This turned out to be a very good recommendation.

All of the Cape tables have been moved to our storage area at the ACEC. Paul Harris deserves a lot of applause for renting a truck and picking them up. Christine Parker, Selen Hotamisligil and Hardin Matthews all volunteered to help Paul and me with the unloading. The modest cost of the move is recorded under Capital items in the Budget.

As soon as it is reasonable, Stan Richmond will hold a meeting of the Finance Committee to complete the budget for 2021.

### Committee Reports

#### Nominating/Election Committee- Maureen Bitler

As Chair, Maureen Bitler was not connected on line at this time; Secretary Weiser made the formal reading of the results. EMBA welcomes Tracy Burlock, Lynn Duncan, Rita Vachani, and Venky Venkataramani to the Board. It is a pleasure to see so many new faces.

President Harris thanked M. Bitler and her committee for all their hard work.

#### Tournament Committee- Steven Diamond

Unfortunately, the Tournament Committee had nothing to do in 2020. We had only one tournament in February. The ACBL has cancelled all tournaments through February of 2021. April is at best problematic. I am biding my time until more information is forthcoming from the ACBL and will call a meeting of the Committee as soon as any concrete information is available. It will be shocking if anything will happen in the first half of 2021. Everything hinges on the vaccine.

District Director Bertoni noted that the St. Louis NABC is awaiting a decision by the local health department as to whether the ACBL can run the scheduled NABC. We need them to cancel us or we (the ACBL) will face huge losses. This is why nothing has been said about St. Louis or Providence yet. We should know soon.

President Harris stated that we have expectations of a tournament until May at the earliest. The probable first sectional will be August. DD Bertoni added that it very well might be September or October.

Lynn Duncan asked when the next meeting would be held.

President Harris stated that as of this moment, we would have little to discuss. I plan to call a meeting as soon as there are issues that need to be addressed. We would certainly have one in the first quarter.

General discussion followed on the condition of bridge during the Covid epidemic and the possibilities as to when face-to-face bridge might be able to return.

(S. Diamond) I will call a meeting of the Tournament Committee as soon as we get any information as to when Sectional bridge will be permitted.

Treasurer Robinson stated that there will be a meeting of the Finance Committee to prepare a budget for 2021. We will base it on the hypothesis that there will not be a tournament until October.

Secretary Weiser asked if the Board would permit the posting of the Minutes on line.

C. Cooper made a motion that the Secretary be permitted to post the minutes of the Board meetings on line. The motion was seconded. Anyone one wishing to vote in the negative was asked to raise their hands. None did. The motion was passed by acclimation.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was seconded and so voted to adjourn the meeting at 7:35 PM.

Respectfully submitted:  
Carolyn Weiser  
Secretary, Unit 108