



**Online Meeting  
ACBL Charity Foundation  
October 23, 2024**

The meeting was called to order by President Brown at 5 pm (C).

Present: Shoemaker, O'Neill, Dunitz, Goodgold, Simson. Gordon joining later.

Brown introduced the two new members: Simson and Gordon.

The minutes of the meeting held on 8/18 were approved as distributed.

Financials update: Treasurer O'Neill reported a balance of \$974,000 prior to the distribution of district grants (\$130,000). She also reported that we will forgo an annual audit but will rely on a financial review by an independent CPA. Brown confirmed that this is allowed under NY non-profit law. O'Neill also reported that ACBL collects an administrative fee of 4% quarterly on funds collected on behalf of the CF - amounting to approximately \$12,000 annually.

District rotational grants: 13 in rotation this year, with 100% participation, though Brown recounted that much pursuit of the districts was necessary. She suggested that improved communication about the process is necessary, to include that districts be encouraged to establish charity committees. Brown also recommended that the website include more details about the grants. Dunitz offered to manage the district rotational grants next year.

Brown reviewed the status of deliverables from our 8/18 meeting.

Shoemaker reported that website updates are underway, though she prefers that all items be done at one time.

Individual grants: after significant discussion, Shoemaker moved (second by Brown) that a policy of making Individual grants be placed on hold. (Motion carried). It was agreed that there is a need to establish criteria, Trustee exercise of discernment, and avoidance of administrative overload. Dunitz offered to provide written guidelines for board review.

Shoemaker related the substance of a meeting held on 10/15 with Brown, O'Neill, Jenkins and Webster about partnering opportunities. She reported that the following were addressed successfully: adding a "Charity Volunteer of the Year" award presentation at the annual Goodwill Dinner; ways to elevate the CF brand at the NABCs; "Gold for Good games (fundraising games to be held in December for disaster relief with funds to be distributed by CF).

Simson suggested a fund-raising program: having bridge "pros" donate a game to be

raffled for CF's distribution to a designated charity. It was also suggested that the pro game be offered for play during the Thursday evening session of the NABC.

The Longest Day: there was discussion about the goal of managing the fund-raising for the Alzheimer's Association event. Brown echoed Dunitz's interest, but underscored the need to defer the initiative until the CF is more established in its independence.

Disaster relief: current focus is on disaster relief, encouraged by ACBL. CF should be mindful of broad geographic distribution. Also, discussion reflected concern about not limiting our efforts in this direction; Dunitz suggested that we survey our members to determine their charity goals and also that the CF change its giving focus annually.

Charity Volunteer of the Year Award: included in Chapter 5 of the Codification; selection criteria and process will be drafted by Dunitz. Motion by Simson (second by Goodgold) that the award be presented at the Goodwill Dinner (Motion carried). Motion by Shoemaker (second by Goodgold) to posthumously name Georgia Heth as the 2025 honoree. Motion passed (Dunitz opposed, Gordon and Simson abstaining).

Grants to ACBL Board of Directors; discussion about the desirability of continuing with the \$1,000 per Director awards.

Meeting adjourned at 6:38 pm (C).

Next meeting: F2F, Monday, December 2 at 7:15 pm (local time) in Las Vegas.

Submitted by R. Brown