ACBL CHARITY FOUNDATION

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

APRIL 1, 2025 ZOOM MEETING

Bridge - The Game That Gives Back

Call to Order:
The ACBLCF Board Meeting was called to order by Paul Cuneo at 3:05 PM ET. In attendance were Rebecca Brown, Stu Goodgold, Kathy Kimmerling, Cindy Shoemaker, Doug Simson and Jamie Southerland. Absent: Mitch Dunitz. A quorum was met.

Minutes:
The minutes from the January 27, 2025, board meeting were delivered by email for review and corrections. All corrections were made prior to the meeting.
Motion to accept: Shoemaker/Goodgold Motion carried

Treasurer Report:
Jamie Southerland, Treasurer presented his report.

Reports were emailed prior to the meeting. The Foundation awarded $79K in grants last quarter, most approved in 2024. There is currently $859K in UBS. Southerland has been working with ACBL to transition to Quickbooks and is in the process of preparing a financial report for the CF webpage.

Discussion followed on funds received from ACBL Club Charity games. Cuneo stated the 2024, funds of nearly $180K were received, but he suspects that the total will be less in 2025.

Motion to accept: Goodgold/Cuneo Motion carried

Website:
Discussion on how to obtain content for the website and what has been done in the past. Shoemaker will help connect Kimmerling and the web service. One of the immediate goals is to update the News page and refresh the Home page with more current items. Some new content has already been created.

Conflict of Interest Policy:
Stu Goodgold presented a document for consideration by the CF. Discussion followed on whether it should be signed every year by the Trustees or when the begin their term. It was decided that the document should be signed at the beginning of each term, but, as the CF has not had this in place before, all the Trustees need to sign it at this time.

If Trustees discover that they have a conflict of interest with an item, they need to make that known to the board.

Goodgold will prepare the document for signatures and distribute. The completed document will be posted to the CF website.

Motion to accept the document as proposed with annual signature: Brown/Cuneo   Motion carried

District Grant Funds:
Cuneo led the discussion proposing that the CF distribute more funds than last year and give these funds to fewer districts than in the past. In 2024, $130K was given to the districts to award to organizations in their District. The goal is to be able to give $30K to each district on a 5-year rotation basis. Cuneo would also like to see a minimum of $5K as an award to any organization.

In the past, the awards were too small to make an impact and as a result, there was no publicity associated with the award and nothing to post on the CF website. Going forward, it was proposed that there be a photo with the check presentation and a write-up of how the funds will be used to impact the people that the organization serves.

Brown commented on how some Districts/Units have been unresponsive when given the opportunity to receive CF funds for distribution. She also questioned why a District was skipped when they were hosting a NABC that year (although they would be eligible for the funds the next year). Cuneo nor Shoemaker knew the answer and it was decided the NABC donation should be outside the District Award program. Shoemaker will investigate the history behind this policy.

Southland questioned if the grant award was ever related to the size of the district. The answer was that this has never been the case. Brown and Cuneo felt that an even distribution of funds across all Districts would be best.

The follow-through on the 2024 District Awards will be handled by Cuneo. It was suggested by Brown and Shoemaker that each District appoint a ‘Charity Point Person’ to be the liaison between the District and the CF.

There was a discussion on the presentation check and how it should be handled. While a ‘check presentation’ photo is not necessary, the CF will require that a photo be submitted including District and Organization members along with the writeup.

As there were no objections to Cuneo’s policy proposals, the District Grant Policy was adopted.

Disaster Relief Policy:
Cuneo reported that after a discussion with ACBL Executive Director, Bronia Jenkins, if the CF continues to award disaster relief funds, the ACBL would continue to run the ‘Good for Gold’ games at the end of the year. These games realized $50K in 2024.

Cuneo proposed that $50K be put aside, making it possible for CF to grant awards immediately, as needed.

There was a discussion on making a general award to the Red Cross. The board felt the funds would make a larger impact if they were awarded to local organizations. Also, before funds were to be disbursed to an organization in a disaster - an explanation of how the funds were going to be used and if they would stay in the disaster area needed to be verified. At Cuneo’s request, Brown and Southland will develop criteria as to what is a significant enough disaster to award relief funds and the process for vetting the organization. The award needs to be accepted for the disaster, not put in general funds.

Charity Volunteer of the Year:
Cuneo inquired about feedback and if the CF wanted to continue with the award.

Shoemaker reported that while the recipient, Mike Levine, was unable to travel to the event, CF Trustee Mitch Dunitz, who presented the award, handled the situation very well. The award received good publicity in the Bulletin. It was also very generous of ACBL Executive Direction Jenkins to agree to present this award at the Goodwill Reception.

The publicity surrounding this award was good for the CF and there is momentum to build off this opportunity. Despite the rush to decision on the award this year, as it was planned for the Summer NABC, the ability to react to the change was admirable. Shoemaker noted that in the future, there is a need to fine tune the criteria for recipient selection.

Brown reported that due to the change in the awards from summer to the spring NABC, there were other award recipients not in attendance. She also noted that it was Dunitz's desire to use this opportunity for the CF to gain more exposure and perhaps receive donations in honor of the awardee. With more lead time, this may be a way both increase the CF exposure and realize more donations.

Shoemaker and Goodgold will work to further develop the criteria for this award.

Philadelphia NABC Donation:
Cuneo asked for a trustee to be available for the donation presentation of the NABC CF award and to be able to follow up with the contact. Brown will be at the presentation.

Mission Statement:
Cuneo led a discussion on the development of a Mission Statement for the CF. A few suggestions were offered. The tagline: "Bridge – the game that gives back", needs to be incorporated into the statement. Shoemaker suggested that discussion be deferred; Cuneo and Shoemaker will work on this for the next meeting.

Closing Remarks:
Goodgold brought up the idea of dispersing more funds. Cuneo was against this idea because of many factors, including the unknown impact of virtual clubs and charity games on future funds received by the CF. He also believes that the income generated from a larger investment holding could be used for awards, rather than reducing the CF holdings.

Brown brought up the Investment Policy and the Reserve Policy.

Motion to keep reserves intact through 2025: Cuneo/Shoemaker Motion carried

Cuneo suggested moving investments to other funds from Vanguard to Fidelity. Simson suggested shifting funds more slowly. Brown asked if there was an 'Investment Committee; there is not. The thought is to let Fidelity manage the fund with their expertise. The investment will be 25% in equities.

Cuneo proposed a finance committee with himself, Simson and Southland.

It was brought to the board by Kimmerling that there is little to no advance notice/advertising to the membership for the ACBL-wide Charity games and that was a good opportunity for exposure for the

CF. The charity games are now competing with ‘glitter point’ games. Brown felt that most players just show up to play, not for the game type. Kimmerling felt that the opportunity is being missed to promote these games in the clubs – and bring in additional funds and exposure. Kimmerling and Shoemaker will follow-up with Stephanie Threlkeld, ACBL Marketing, to further the discussion about providing materials to the clubs for these games.

Next Board Meeting:
The next meeting will be held on Zoom after the Summer NABC, date and time TBA.

Adjournment:
The meeting was adjourned by President Cuneo at 4:30 PM ET.

Respectfully Submitted -

Kathy Kimmerling
Secretary, ACBL Charity Foundation