

**CHICAGO CONTRACT BRIDGE ASSOCIATION  
SPECIAL MEETING  
MINUTES  
APRIL 30, 2023**

The meeting was called to order at 6:32 pm by President Mark Stein on Zoom. Present and constituting a quorum were:

<b>Bill Anspach</b>	<b>Joe Connelly</b>	<b>Sarik Goyal</b>	<b>Jamie Rubenstein</b>
<b>Phyllis Bartlett</b>	<b>Betsy Downs</b>	<b>Loring Knoblauch</b>	<b>Joe Stokes</b>
<b>Jan Churchwell</b>	<b>Guy Franklin</b>	<b>Steve McConnell</b>	<b>Suzi Subeck</b>

Absent: Bob Maxson.

Also present: Peter Wilke (ACBL Tournament Director and District 13 Tournament Coordinator)

**MINUTES (Jan Churchwell)**

Approval of the Minutes of the meeting of April 16 deferred to the next regular meeting.

**PURPOSE of MEETING (Mark Stein)**

The meeting is being held to discuss whether the CCBA could get a Sanction for the Jeremiah Bridge Clubs to hold a Silver Point Sectional during the week of June 12-16.

President Stein read a statement. In his opinion the CCBA cannot and should not give a Sanction to a private club. The main points are summarized below:

1. "IRS 'private benefit' rules would be violated." (No relevant section(s) or citation provided).
2. Other clubs would request same treatment. "CCBA's role is to sponsor Sectionals and we cannot outsource this role..."
3. "Legal and Financial Concerns" (list of responsibilities that remain with Unit).
4. The District "has the right of approval for Sectionals conducted by its Units."

President Stein said he had given Suzi Subeck his proxy for any vote on approving a Sanction and turned the meeting over to Vice President Loring Knoblauch.

VP Knoblauch said he was not conversant with the issue, having not attended the meeting on April 16. He asked Jan Churchwell if she wished to make a statement. Jan said she agreed with Betsy Downs' email to the Board following the April 16 meeting wherein Betsy said she believed the CCBA should look for ways to support clubs and help them rebuild, not for ways to block discussions about doing so.

ACBL Field Supervisor Peter Wilke said he knew of no intrinsic problem with the concept of a Sanction for a private club, but that naturally all ACBL regulations and guidelines would control. In this case the requested dates do not meet notification standards. Further, Districts have authority to "control or limit the number of" special events for member Units, and he has to follow District directives.

Peter also pointed out that as of January 1, 2023 the ACBL has created 2 kinds of Silver Sectionals — "Championship" and "Local" — based on table count. Local Sectionals are limited to fewer than 25 tables and may be run by a Tournament Assistant. At the moment there is only one TA in U123.

The Board agreed that a Sanction cannot be issued because of the nearness of the date(s) requested; however, the members also agreed we could continue to discuss the issues.

Board members generally thought that most objections raised by President Stein could be managed by proper advance planning. The IRS "Private Benefit" rule is in a different category, and Bill Anspach said he would like to hear from an ACBL lawyer about some of the specifics (or lack thereof) in the ACBL Codification. Peter Wilke warned this would not be a quick project; in fact, it would be difficult to put it into effect this year.

Guy Franklin suggested a committee be formed to research the issues and report to the Board. VP Knoblauch asked Jan Churchwell to chair the committee. Steve McConnell and Suzi Subeck volunteered as well, and Jan asked other Board members to let her know if they would like to be involved. The committee will prepare a report by the end of the summer for discussion at the October meeting (and December if necessary). The goals are (1) to determine whether the Unit can give a Sectional Sanction for a private club, and (2) if so, to have a complete format to share with club owners by 2024.

Joe Stokes recommended that the Board approve private Sanctions “in principle,” with the final outcome dependent on resolving all perceived problems. Peter Wilke offered to work with the committee, and he will call District President Neary to let her know the results of the meeting. Jan Churchwell will notify President Stein about the formation of the committee and its focus.

She suggested the CCBA let clubs participating in the Unit STaC scheduled for August keep 100% of the profits. She suggested this could help mitigate losses for clubs during the most profitable weeks of the year due to the NABC in Chicago.

**Next Board Meeting: June 25, 2023.**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 pm.

Jan Churchwell  
Secretary