

PITTSBURGH BRIDGE ASSOCIATION
Meeting June 16, 2006

ATTENDANCE:

Present: S. Schuchert, L. Joseph, I. Port, M. P. Carns, D. Averbach, C. Benedict, F. Feldman, J. Gillette, M.J. Johnson, M. McNeirney, M. Painter, A. Port, V. Simak, A. Ulke

Absent: R. Franck, W. Holt, W. Kelsey, D. Mannheimer

The meeting was called to order at 6:08 PM by President Sandy Schuchert

PRESIDENT'S REMARKS

Sandy thanked Mary Jo Johnson and Charlene Benedict for doing a great job with Awards Night

Sandy spoke with Nadine Frye of the ABA regarding the ACBL-ABA Unity Game scheduled for Saturday June 24. Sandy got a sanction from the ACBL to hold this session at her regular Saturday afternoon game. The format will be a Club Championship with hand records; approximately 4 tables of players from the ABA are expected. Sandy asked for unit members to support this game.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes from the meeting of April 21, 2006 had been previously e-mailed to the members. There was a correction: the proposal to start the Friday evening Unit game earlier was made by Asim Ulke, not Maryanne McNeirney. The minutes were approved as corrected.

CORRESPONDENCE

Sandy received a letter from Paul Weintraub of Elkins Park, PA regarding his efforts to promote a special game for the benefit of Multiple Sclerosis. They are attempting to recruit 100 clubs, mostly in the NY-NJ area, to hold a game the week of Oct 9-16. Currently the PBA is scheduled to hold a Unit Championship that week. This request was tabled until more information can be obtained. Mary will correspond with the ACBL and determine whether our club is permitted to hold any extra charity games.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Was distributed. To date in 2006 there is a profit, whereas there was a loss in the first part of 2005. The difference is attributable largely to the Spring Sectional and the educational program, neither of which was held in 2005. The club game continues to lose money.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Friendship/Condolence—Maryanne McNeirney sent 11 sympathy cards so far this year, and she sent 2 get-well cards this month

Post Mortem—Arlene Port asked Charlene Benedict and Mary Jo Johnson to provide her with news from the Greensburg area. Vince Simak announced that Angela Collura will be a member of the USA II International Junior Team, and has been invited to attend the World Youth Camp later this summer. Mary Anne McNeirney pointed out that announcements regarding the annual election, upcoming in October, were supposed to run in the Post Mortem in June, July, and August. The elections chair is Ward Kelsey, who was absent from the meeting. Fran Feldman agreed to see that these announcements are published.

There was a discussion concerning how and whether special events are promoted. There was a consensus that we could be doing a better job of promoting these events. Mary Ann McNeirney volunteered to examine the calendar, talk to the chairs of the events, and write articles to be published in the Post Mortem, in an attempt to better publicize upcoming special events.

Education—Lou Joseph reported that this year's Education program was a success. There were 7 students in the Club Series, and 38 students in the Special Series (most are already ACBL members). The teachers do make an effort to enroll non-members in the ACBL. There was a discussion concerning the purposes of the educational program, and the fact that it is not intended as a moneymaker. It was suggested that educational classes be held continuously, i.e. when one class ends, another begins. Lou said that he personally would be unable to provide this service.

Lou provided flyers for the upcoming Labor Day Regional, and flyers for the TAP and EZBridge courses which will be held during the Regional

Equipment & Business Managers—Asim requested that board members and others help with cleanup after the Friday evening game. Mary ordered supplies for the upcoming Sectional and is refurbishing some of the bidding boxes.

Novice—Darlene Mannheimer was absent.

Membership—Vince Simak reported no activity since the last meeting

Webmaster—Bill Holt was absent. Mary Paulone Carns passed out proposed surveys, developed by Bill, and asked for feedback.

OLD BUSINESS

Unit Awards—Mary Anne McNeirney reviewed the awards:

Milt Frazier Award—for people who provide service. The nominees are Blue Ribbon nominees. Mary Anne asked board members to be more active in nominating people for this award

Jane McIntyre Award—this award is intended as a Goodwill Award, but its implementation has been poor. It is not a service award. After discussion, the board agreed to Mary Ann's suggestion to cast a die for a small pin to be awarded to the winner. Mary Ann will be in charge

Fred Sorenson Award—for the person who earns the most points in unit-wide events, usually the sectionals and the unit game

Mary Anne will write an article for the Post Mortem, yearly after the awards party, giving information about those for whom the awards are named.

Mary Jo Johnson was given permission to change the letter that is sent to the awardees

World Wide Pairs—Was held on June 2. There was some dissatisfaction with the high fees and the apparent lack of interest in playing in this game. The board voted not to hold this game in the future.

Pittsburgh Bridge Survey—Is being handled by Bill Holt, who was absent.

299er email Survey—Was done by Ward Kelsey, who sent the results and his comments to board members. Following discussion, the following motion was passed: For a trial period of 3 months, bridge will be offered to the 299ers, even if there isn't enough attendance for a sanctioned game. Director services will be provided. This information will be publicized to the 299ers.

Starting Time of Unit Game—Mary Paulone Carns presented the results of her informal survey regarding whether certain people (mainly those who work) would be unable to attend, or less likely to attend, if the starting time were to be earlier. Mary Anne McNeirney also spoke to people about this. Mary reported that although she personally opposed a change in the time, the consensus was that it wouldn't affect the attendance of most people. (There were a few people who wouldn't be able to attend). Mary Anne talked to a few more people who were opposed. Following these reports, the motion was withdrawn by Asim Ulke, the original maker of the motion

District 5 Meeting—Arlene Port reported that District 5 has \$20,000 available to promote education. She will be sending out a letter to all of the units regarding the possibilities. The possible ways to advertise in the general media (examples: Post-Gazette, Pennysaver, Jewish Chronicle) were discussed. Eventually each unit will appoint an Education Director.

NEW BUSINESS

Sunday STAC—will be cancelled: there is no site

Summer Sectional—Is planned for June 30 through July 2. Vince Simak reported on progress; Bill Holt is doing prizes; Ron Franck is handling equipment; there will be door prizes (baseball tickets)

Pro-Am Charity Game—Is scheduled for September 8. Chairpersons are Darlene Mannheimer and Francene Feldman.

Grant Money for Charity—The ACBL has \$321 available for Unit 142 to designate to Charities, based upon the unit's participation in ACBL Charity activities. The unit may designate up to 3 Charities, who may receive at least \$100. The unit voted to designate the entire amount to The Intersection in Mckeesport. This helps people who "fall through the cracks", and provides food, clothing, and halfway houses.

NEXT MEETING

The next Board meeting will be on August 11, 2006 at 6:00 PM

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:25 PM.