

PITTSBURGH BRIDGE ASSOCIATION  
Meeting Aug 11, 2006

ATTENDANCE:

Present: S. Schuchert, L. Joseph, I. Port, M. P. Carns, D. Averbach, C. Benedict, R. Franck, W. Holt, M.J. Johnson, D. Mannheimer, M. McNeirney, A. Port, V. Simak, A. Ulke

Absent: F. Feldman, J. Gillette, W. Kelsey, M. Painter

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

PRESIDENT'S REMARKS

Sandy thanked the committee (Simak, Holt, Franck) for the Summer Sectional.

The ACBL-ABA Unity game was held June 24. There were 4 tables of ABA players. In response to a question, Sandy answered that as far as we know, none of those players has returned to an ACBL game so far.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes from the meeting of June 16, 2006 had been previously e-mailed to the members. There was a correction: Arlene Port clarified her suggestion regarding a continuing education program. She suggested ongoing education divided into semesters. The minutes were approved as corrected.

CORRESPONDENCE

There were 2 items of correspondence:

- Julia Charlem thanked the unit for her nomination for a Goodwill award.
- The ACBL is providing Directors and Officers Insurance to each unit free of charge. Ivan Port reported that he has already arranged for the PBA to obtain this insurance.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Was distributed. The investments are up 4% for the year to date. The Summer Sectional had a loss of \$1400, largely due to lower than expected attendance.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

**Friendship/Condolence**—Mary Anne McNeirney sent 3 condolence cards and 2 get-well cards this month

**Post Mortem**—Election announcements still haven't been published, and will be published in the next issue. Arlene thanked Mary Jo Johnson for providing news about the Greensburg area.

Vince Simak reported that Angela Collura's accomplishments in the Junior championships weren't mentioned in the Post Mortem. Arlene asked Vince to write an article.

There was a discussion about advance publication of upcoming events. Various suggestions were made. The consensus was that there should be a regular item, in a graphic format, announcing Unit events at least 2 months ahead.

**Education**—Angela Collura will be teaching bridge at South Allegheny Middle School. The board members wish to support her in any way that she needs. The possibility of providing financial support, maybe from the educational funds set aside by District 5, was discussed. Arlene reported that the District 5 program is still under development.

After discussion, the board agreed to hold a special game for new players at the upcoming sectional. The charge will be \$1.00. The upper MP limit will be low, probably 20. Bridge teachers will be contacted to recruit players. Bill Holt requested that board members provide him with the names of people who are teaching bridge in the area. Several names were provided. He will also use this information as a resource for people who contact him via the website about bridge lessons.

**Equipment & Business Managers**—Asim reported nothing new. Mary asked for help in identifying bid boxes which need to be refurbished. Ron Franck will help with collecting these boxes at the next sectional.

**Novice**—Darlene Mannheimer reported that her novice program is growing. Her games have approximately 6 tables on Thursday night and 9 or 10 on Tuesday afternoon. She recruited over 15 new members to the ACBL, and promotes area Sectional and Regional tournaments.

**Membership**—Marilyn Painter has taken over this position. She was absent from the meeting, but Vince Simak reported that she has given Marilyn her supplies and instructions.

**Webmaster**—Bill Holt reported that the website is functioning well, and unit members seem to be comfortable using it.

## OLD BUSINESS

**Pro-Am Game**—Will be held Sept. 8. Darlene Mannheimer is unable to serve on the committee; the new chairs are Francene Feldman and Marilyn Painter. Marilyn Burke also volunteered to help. Pairing is in progress.

**Sectionals**—The Summer Sectional had lower than expected attendance. Both Bill Holt and Vince Simak thought that the timing, at the beginning of a holiday weekend, was largely responsible. They requested that future summer sectionals not be held near July 4. The fact that some people don't like to travel to McKeesport was also discussed. There was some sentiment that we shouldn't hold a Summer Sectional, but the majority thought that it should continue.

Mary Paulone Carns reported that scheduling in the summer is very tight. There are sectionals in Greensburg, Butler, and Wheeling; District 5 STAC, Summer NABC, July 4 holiday, and two District 5 Regionals. The only open dates for summer 2007 would be opposite the Canton Sectional, or late August, just before the Labor Day Regional. The consensus was to attempt to schedule the summer sectional opposite the Canton Sectional for 2007.

After discussion, it was agreed to keep the site at the Palisades in McKeesport at least through Summer 2007.

**Pittsburgh Bridge Survey**—Bill Holt distributed the survey which he developed. He asked for clarification as to whether it should address bridge in Unit 142 as a whole, or just the unit game. The consensus was that it should include all of Unit 142. The survey will be posted on the website, and paper copies will be distributed to club games. The availability of the survey will be announced in the Post Mortem.

There was a brief discussion about moving the time of the Unit game. Mary reported that the ACBL requires that the Unit game not compete with existing games, without their permission. Sandy reported that she would agree to have the Unit Game replace her current Saturday afternoon game, if that would be helpful.

**Elections**—Ward Kelsey was absent. The election is scheduled for the Sectional, the last weekend of October. The upcoming election has not been advertised, as it should have been. Don Averbach, previous elections chair, reported that he gave his list of terms of PBA members to Sandy. Sandy and Mary will try to locate this information [see additional sheet attached]. Sandy will appoint a new chair, if necessary.

**Requested charity game for MS**—Mary Paulone Carns reported that the ACBL would allow a club to hold an extra charity game, such as this, as long as an extra game is held for the ACBL Charity Foundation. The Board felt that we have sufficient charity games; it was decided not to hold this game.

## NEW BUSINESS

**ACBL-Provided D&O Insurance**—See discussion under Correspondence. Bill Holt requested more information; Mary will send him copies of the correspondence she received.

**District 5 Meeting**—Will be held Sunday September 3. Our Unit is entitled to five representatives. Officers Lou Joseph and Ivan Port are unable to attend. The 5 voting members will be Sandy Schuchert, Mary Paulone Carns, Arlene Port, Roni Gitchel, and Mary Anne McNeirney.

**Instant Matchpoint Game**—Is scheduled for September 14 at 7 PM at Rodef Shalom. Gus Costanzo will be asked to direct. Bill Holt will make flyers.

**Marketing and Education**—Arlene Port announced that Bill Holt has agreed to accept the newly created position of Marketing and Education Coordinator for the Unit. She proposed, and the Board agreed, to have this become a standing committee of the PBA.

**Goodwill Committee Award**—Mary Anne McNeirney announced that Tom Lordi will receive a Goodwill Committee Award. Although he only lives here part of the year, he is very supportive of new players, extremely nice to opponents, and generally helpful and friendly.

**Registration Gifts**—Mary Jo Johnson showed a sheet of stickers (Name, address, ACBL number) which she received as a registration gift at a Regional. She suggested that something similar be done at the Labor Day Regional. This is a district, not a unit, event. She should speak with Roni Gitchel Atkins.

**Fall Sectional**—Bill Holt reported on plans, including starting times (1 and 7 Friday, 11 and 4 Saturday with an evening Zip Swiss), and a Halloween Costume party after the second session Saturday. The proposed flyer was distributed. Possible formats for the Swiss Teams on Sunday were discussed. The board agreed with his plan to investigate the possibility of stratifying into thirds, based on total points.

## NEXT MEETING

The next Board meeting will be on October 13, 2006 at 6:00 PM.

## ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:25 PM.

**PBA Board Members  
2006  
With term expirations**

**PRESIDENT**

Sandra Schuchert  
2006

**VICE-PRESIDENT**

Lou Joseph  
2006

**SECRETARY**

Mary Paulone Carns  
2007

**TREASURER**

Ivan Port  
2007

Donald Averbach  
2006

Charlene Benedict  
2007

Francine Feldman  
2007

Ron Franck  
2007

John Gillette  
2006

William Holt  
2006

Mary Jo Johnson  
2007

Ward Kelsey  
2007

Mary Anne McNeirney  
2006

Darlene Mannheimer  
2007

Marilyn Painter  
2006

Arlene Port  
2006

Vincentina Simak  
2007

Asim Ulke  
2007

