

PITTSBURGH BRIDGE ASSOCIATION
Meeting February 9, 2007

ATTENDANCE:

Present: L. Joseph, I. Port, M. P. Carns, D. Averbach, B. Bergman, K. Bergman, R. Franck, J. Gillette, W. Holt, M.J. Johnson, P. Katz, W. Kelsey, D. Mannheimer, M. McNeirney, M. Painter, A. Port, A. Ulke,

Absent: C. Benedict, F. Feldman, V. Simak

The meeting was called to order at 6:08 PM by President Lou Joseph.

PRESIDENT'S REMARKS

President Lou Joseph thanked the members for braving the elements to attend the meeting.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes from the meeting of December 1, 2006 were previously e-mailed to the members. The minutes were approved.

CORRESPONDENCE

Lou presented a note from Sandy Schuchert, thanking the Board for the gift presented to her in honor of her recent presidency. Maryanne McNeirney received a letter from the ACBL Charity Foundation thanking the Unit for their contribution of \$96 via Charity games held in 2006. Information and publicity materials concerning the upcoming Olympiad were received from District 5. Information is on the website.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Was distributed. The Club Game in 2006 had losses greater than in 2005, secondary to decreasing attendance. Ivan presented a table reporting attendance for each month from Jan. 2005 through Jan. 2007, with income and net gain (loss) per month and year. Loss in 2005 was \$1720.49, and in 2006 was \$2979.64. Number of tables in 2005 was 435 compared to 346 in 2006.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Friendship/Condolence—Maryanne McNeirney sent out condolences, get-well cards, and a 50th anniversary card.

Post Mortem—Arlene reported that there has been a price increase from \$110 to \$150 per month for printing. This is still a good deal—estimates from other sources were between \$300 and \$500. The Post Mortem also appears on the website.

Education—Arlene reported that there are arrangements to hold classes starting in April and in the summer. We will advertise in an attempt to obtain students who are not current ACBL members. Roni Atkins will help with ad placement. Arlene plans to hold regular classes. We have a site: Rodef Shalom in the mornings; possibly Temple Sinai in the evening. Starting in March, there will be supervised play at Rodef Shalom from 10:00 to 11:30 AM. Arlene asked for volunteers to help with supervised play. Also, Arlene will teach a class at CMU.

Business Manager—Mary reported that she will start refurbishing the bid boxes before the sectional. Occasionally the boxes are used by players at the games on Thursday and Friday mornings. In view of the help that Gus Costanzo provides in setting up the Friday night game, we will make no attempt to prevent this use of the bid boxes.

Food Manager—Asim had nothing to report. Marilyn Painter reported that she donated a chocolate fountain that may be used at any Unit functions.

Novice—Lou stated that the 299er Game seems to be defunct. He asked Ward Kelsey to surrender his Chairmanship of this committee. Darlene Mannheimer will attempt to resurrect the game. A discussion was held about possible incentives to attract newer players: free play the first time, lectures, trophies, hand records, recruiting novices from the Rodef game. Bill Holt reported that he talked to the novices in Sewickley about attending the Sectional and got a negative response.

Membership—Marilyn Painter reported that she needs new directories. Jimmy Klein is preparing new directories which should be available soon.

Webmaster—Bill Holt presented usage statistics for pittsburghbridge.org. He has been posting schedules for area tournaments. The site is working well. The Board thanked Bill for his continued good work on the website

Unit Improvement/Site Search Team—West—Bill Holt said that the Sewickley YMCA is not amenable to holding games there. He is arranging to speak to the new YMCA in Wexford. There was nothing to report from North, South, East, and City.

OLD BUSINESS

December Holiday Party—The Board thanked Marilyn Painter and Darlene Mannheimer for hosting the Holiday Party.

Bridge Survey—Bill Holt reported that he doesn't have the time to finish the work on the survey, nor to go to games to pass out and collect surveys. Lou Joseph asked John Gillette to take over this task. John agreed.

Spring Sectional—Chairs are Bill Holt, Ron Franck, and Patty Katz. Bill reported that they met with Ray at the Palisades. Plans are for better food, better refreshment service, and free food between sessions on Saturday. Ron is coordinating Texas Hold 'em for charity to be held after the 2nd session on Saturday. He has good prizes, including a weekend in Atlantic City worth \$250. All proceeds will go to Arsenal House.

NEW BUSINESS

Entry Fee for Friday Night Game—Table fees will increase by \$1 per player, to \$6, starting March 9. This was passed by acclamation.

Unit Game Relocation—Lou Joseph asked Board Members to consider moving the game to Saturday afternoon at the Masonic Center. Sandy Schuchert is willing to turn her game over to the unit. This will be discussed at the next meeting.

Site for Sectionals—Mary and Roni Atkins met with the Expo Mart about holding sectionals there. Mary has been negotiating with them and has an offer to hold sectionals there in 2008 and possibly beyond. Cost would be \$2000 per weekend including only the site. Coffee and soft drinks would have to be purchased from them. We could bring in our own snacks but prepared food would have to be catered by/bought from them. The dates they have available in 2008 are Feb. 1-3, June 27-29, and Oct. 31-Nov. 2. These would be the approximate dates in the future also. There are no dates available in March or April that we can afford.

Mary's evaluation of the offer is that the perceived safety and ease of travel to Monroeville is the main positive point. The negatives are that the dates are not what we are used to, there is little flexibility regarding dates, they charge for drinks, and that the overall cost would be more than at the Palisades or the Masonic because we have no access to a kitchen. After some discussion, the board agreed that Mary would continue to negotiate and learn details about what the drinks would cost. If a suitable contract can be negotiated, Mary will sign it after consultation with the Executive Board.

Business Issues regarding Sectionals—Mary reported that the ACBL requires plans for sectionals to be submitted at least 1 year in advance. This includes at least the chairperson, site, and sanction. Schedules are to be submitted at least 6 months in advance. We don't even come close to following these guidelines. If we get a permanent site, these guidelines will be easier to follow, so this issue will be further discussed after the Expo Mart negotiations have concluded.

Mary also reported that she is planning to separate the supplies for the Sectionals from those for the club game. Currently the supplies are all mixed together, which makes it difficult to keep track of inventory, and to transport them to the site of the sectionals.

Recycling—Mary reported that she attempted to start a recycling program at the Unit game by providing separately labeled receptacles for trash and for recyclables (glass, plastic, and aluminum). Players made little effort to comply. From now on, Asim will supply empty soda bottles and any other containers for her to recycle, but she will no longer sort through trash to find recyclables that have been discarded.

Board Area on Website—Bill Holt has developed a password-protected area on the website, available to Board members, where minutes, agendas, bylaws, and committee structures may be viewed.

Awards Night—Is scheduled for May 18. Mary will send information to Mary Jo.

NEXT MEETING

The next Board meeting will be on April 20, 2007 at 6:00 PM.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:27 PM.