

PITTSBURGH BRIDGE ASSOCIATION
Meeting April 20, 2007

ATTENDANCE:

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

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

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM by President Lou Joseph.

PRESIDENT'S REMARKS

President Lou Joseph thanked the members for attending the meeting. He mentioned that Kay Havrilla's game had lost its sanction. Bill Holt clarified that we don't publish the results of non-sanctioned games.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes from the meeting of February 9, 2007 were previously e-mailed to the members. The minutes were approved.

CORRESPONDENCE

Lou presented a thank-you note from Vince Simak regarding the donation made in memory of her sister. Lou presented a letter from Aileen Osofsky, ACBL Chairman for the Goodwill Committee, announcing that nominations are being accepted for National Goodwill Member of the Year.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Was distributed. The Spring Sectional turned a profit. The education program has a large attendance so increased funds are expected. In response to a question as to why the report isn't done via software: Ivan doesn't do it that way.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Friendship/Condolence—Maryanne McNeirney sent out 7 condolences. Maryanne requested that members inform her of deaths or other newsworthy occasions regarding bridge players. Bill Holt asked if there is a way to fund a game at a sectional in honor of, or in memory of, a person. This will be discussed in the future under New Business. It will also be discussed at the District meeting regarding the Regionals.

Post Mortem—Arlene requested members to report any news regarding bridge players, including illnesses and deaths.

Education—Arlene reported that the teaching program has a very good attendance. There are 23 beginners at the Thursday evening class, 6 beginners Monday morning, and approximately 34 intermediate students on Mondays. Most of the beginners learned of the classes through advertising in the newspapers. There will be another set of classes in the summer. Arlene plans to start a game of supervised play on Thursday evenings following the classes, if she can get the space (probably Rodef Shalom) and asked for volunteers and a director. Patty Katz will assist. The board suggested that she get a sanction for the game.

Business Manager—Mary reported that she refurbished the bidding boxes. She reported on a meeting held with the managers of the Blackridge facility. The meeting was held on March 23. Representatives of the PBA were A. Ulke, L. Joseph, I. Port, and M. Carns. Representatives of Blackridge were Bill Miller and Jen Suiters. We reviewed problems with the physical facility including: the serious need for repaving the parking lot and improving outdoor lighting; deficits in the restrooms and the kitchen; the possibility of replacing the appliances in the kitchen. We learned that The Blackridge Civic Association was formed without a source of funding and money has been a problem all along. The managers are volunteers. Plans are already underway to pave the parking lot which is expected to begin by May 1. We expressed a desire to help with outdoor lighting and will provide the funds if Churchill gives permission to install lighting near the road. The BCA is using a year-long weekly drawing as a funding source and the PBA purchased a ticket. The BCA was given permission to attempt to sell tickets at occasional Friday night games. A previously requested rent increase, which had been on hold pending the meeting, was agreed to begin June 1. The PBA will continue to lease the building for the entire day on Friday, and rent the space to Gus Costanzo for the morning/afternoon, as is currently the practice.

Operations Manager—Asim had nothing new to report.

Novice—Darlene reported that she has been polling the 199ers at her games to learn what might entice them to play in a game on Friday evenings. The only thing they were interested in was a 1-session Swiss Team. The board agreed to hold a 199er Swiss Team in conjunction with the upcoming Unit Championship Swiss Team on May 11. Darlene will recruit the players and form teams, and will be present at the game to assist. Bill Holt will create a flyer which will also be distributed at area novice games. The game will be advertised in the Post Mortem. If this game is successful, periodic games can be held on Friday nights in conjunction with the Unit game.

Membership—Marilyn Painter was absent but provided a report that all is well.

Webmaster—Bill Holt reported no problems with the website. He continues to post tournament schedules and results.

Unit Improvement/Site Search Team—West—Bill Holt said that the Wexford YMCA is not suitable for sectionals but might work for a class. He is arranging to speak to the new YMCA in Wexford. There was nothing to report from North and East. South—Maryanne McNeirney reported that the manager at the site of a former Burger King in Crafton was not interested in showing her the site. City—Arlene Port had no news. Lou Joseph will contact Phyllis Geinzer who works for the Diocese.

OLD BUSINESS

Unit Game Relocation—Lou asked members for their thoughts about moving the unit game to Saturday afternoon at the Masonic Center. Sandy Schuchert is willing to donate her game to this function. Lou's motive is for the long run: nighttime bridge is dying, and he wants to be proactive. Points in the discussion included some negative and positive things about the site, the thought that decreasing opportunities to play bridge (by stopping the Friday night game) is not a good idea, and the tradition of the Friday night unit game in Pittsburgh. Most board members were personally opposed to the idea. The consensus was to drop the idea for now and revisit it in the future if necessary.

Site for Sectionals—Mary presented information regarding possible relocation of sectionals to the Monroeville Expo Mart. She has been negotiating with them and has an offer for a contract for the 3 sectionals in 2008. Perceived advantages are greater safety of the area, ease of travel, and proximity of restaurants. Negatives are greater cost, very limited flexibility for dates, no availability of a kitchen, high cost of food if provided by the Expo Mart, and inability to guarantee a place to store our equipment. After discussion with the executive committee, Mary declined the contract. The Sectionals will remain at the Palisades through at least 2008.

Bridge Survey—John Gillette received approximately 100 surveys that had previously been completed, and approximately 100 additional results from surveys he had distributed. He will present the results at the next meeting.

Spring Sectional—The board thanked the committee for doing a wonderful job. The consensus is that players are getting used to the site. The people at the Palisades are easy to work with and are clearly interested in keeping our business. The profit was approximately \$3000. Several people reported hearing very positive comments. Mary Jo Johnson encouraged those from the Greensburg area to attend, and Darlene Mannheimer has been recruiting novices to attend.

Awards Night—Will be held on May 18. Mary Jo Johnson is working on the letters. Lou will make certificates. Mary Paulone Carns has ordered medallions. Maryanne McNeirney reported that the committee for the Milt Frazier Award will be meeting in a week and she is collating the Blue Ribbon Nominees.

NEW BUSINESS

Supervised Play at CMU—Arlene reported that CMU has requested a game with supervised play. If she can find a suitable time, she will schedule the games. Board members agreed to help on occasion with supervising play.

Summer Sectional—Bill Holt reported that there will be a new event: Compact KO Friday morning and afternoon. There will also be a free meal on Friday between sessions since a Saturday meal was successful at the Spring Sectional. Ride sharing will also be encouraged.

Summer STAC—Thursday: The board agreed to hold a game. Lou will talk to Sue McQuillen about obtaining Rodef. Asim will arrange a director.

—Sunday: Vince and Darlene are chairs. Darlene will attempt to recruit some novices.

Unit Representatives to District 5 Meeting—The meeting will be held on Sunday between sessions at the All American Regional in Independence, OH. Our unit sends 5 voting representatives. The Board appointed: Roni Atkins, Arlene Port, Mary Paulone Carns, Bill Holt, and Maryanne McNeirney. First alternate is Lou Joseph; second alternate is Asim Ulke.

NEXT MEETING

The next Board meeting will be on June 15, 2007 at 6:00 PM.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:25 PM.