

PITTSBURGH BRIDGE ASSOCIATION
Meeting August 10, 2007

ATTENDANCE:

Present: L. Joseph, C. Benedict, B. Bergman, K. Bergman, M. P. Carns, R. Franck, W. Holt, M.J. Johnson, P. Katz, M. McNeirney, M. Painter, V. Simak, A. Ulke

Absent: F. Feldman, J. Gillette, A. Port, I. Port, W. Kelsey, D. Mannheimer

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

PRESIDENT'S REMARKS

Lou Joseph thanked the members for attending.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes from the meeting of June 15, 2007 were previously e-mailed to the members. The minutes were approved.

CORRESPONDENCE

The following correspondence was distributed for perusal by the board members:

1. Letters were sent by President Lou Joseph congratulating the winners of the Scholarship to the upcoming Olympiad: 1st place Steve Nolan, 2nd place tie Robert Kleinmann-Brigitta Day
2. Minutes of the executive board of District 5 (May), the full board of District 5 (May), and agenda for the upcoming full board meeting (September)
3. Darlene Mannheimer and Don Averbach resigned from the board due to inability to attend meetings

TREASURER'S REPORT

Had been provided to Mary by Ivan who was absent. The report was distributed. Lou commented that income is up this year compared to last because there was no teaching program in 2006, and this year's Sectionals have done well.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Friendship/Condolence—Maryanne McNeirney sent out cards for condolences and get well, as well as a 95th birthday card. Her request to the ACBL to provide information about members' significant birthdays was declined because of privacy concerns.

Post Mortem—Lou reported in Arlene's absence. He thanked Charlene Benedict and Mary Jo Johnson for their contributions to the Post Mortem. He asked board members to submit articles.

Education—Lou reported in Arlene's absence. There will be classes in the fall and dates are being set. Arlene is running a supervised play course through the ALL program at CMU and some board members are helping with supervision. She is currently running supervised play sessions on Thursday evenings.

Business Manager—Mary reported on the following:

1. New cards—the playing cards are difficult to use because they are too thin and fall out of the boards. The unit owns 7 sets of boards (36 boards each). Asim suggested replacing cards for only the 1st 30 boards in each set. The approximate cost will be \$400. The board agreed to this expenditure.
2. Salary for director if game cancelled after director already there—After discussion, it was agreed that the director will receive ½ of the normal pay.

Operations Manager—Asim reported that BCC is starting over with the parking lot project. They are taking bids and say that work should start in 4 to 6 weeks. Also there will be no janitor for Sept. 6-7. Gus will set up, and will benefit by not having to pay his portion of the setup fee. Sept. 7 is the Pro Am game and the Pro Am committee will be responsible for clean up and tearing down tables.

Novice—Darlene has resigned from the board. Lou asked Charlene and Mary Jo to assume this position but they declined. After a discussion of what this position should involve (to do it well, it would include a teaching program, novice game, supervised play, and recruiting players to play in novice events), Lou said he will probably appoint someone from outside the board to this position.

Membership—Marilyn Painter reported that all is going well. She continues to be frustrated that "snowbirds" change their permanent address when they go South, thus causing loss of funds to the unit. It isn't necessary for snowbirds to change their permanent address, just their temporary mailing address. Another notice will be put in the Post Mortem to this effect.

Webmaster—Bill Holt reported that for the upcoming Pro-Am game, he has added a list of available Pros to the website. The site is getting approximately 20 hits per day and has resulted in some registrations. Board minutes are being posted to the website.

Unit Improvement/Site Search Team—

--Vince mentioned a site in North Versailles that she has discussed in the past. The consensus is that this site would be perceived as too far from Pittsburgh

--Marilyn Painter asked about the Irish Center (Commercial Street). Lou said that it isn't available for Friday nights and would be unavailable for sectionals

--Ken Bergman is investigating the Glenshaw Moose, where Gus holds a game. The site is on Saxonburg Blvd., and has parking for 70 cars. They don't have tables but the site appears to have adequate facilities. Ken will continue to investigate.

--PFT Building is now being used only for their own functions thus will not be available to us

--Maryanne had no activity in the South

--Ken Bergman reported that the Masonic might be willing to commit far enough in advance for sectionals to be held there. He will talk to them about 2009

OLD BUSINESS

Nimmy Award—Bill Holt received a check from Dr. Somani (\$2500), which will endow the Nimmy Award, a trophy for the Non Life-Master in unit 142 winning the most MPs each year. Bill will be in charge of obtaining the trophy and Mary Paulone Carns will compile the data. The award will first be presented at Awards Night in May 2008 honoring the winner in 2007.

Summer Sectional—Bill Holt distributed information with the table count from the last 8 sectionals. Table count in Summer 2008 was up by 21 tables, which is approximately the turnout for the compact KO. There was negative feedback about having too many simultaneous events on Saturday. There was a discussion concerning whether \$10 is too high for a session. Bill said that the price was raised in order not to lose money. Remember that our Regionals have an entry of \$10 which is kept artificially low by the District, using funds from the 2005 Nationals.

Pro Am Game—Marilyn Painter reported that there are 26 pairs so far. She thanked Bill Holt for developing the flyer, helping with the gift, and advertising on the website.

Fall Sectional—Barb Bergman reported that the flyer is ready to distribute at the Wheeling sectional this weekend. Sunday Brunch has been added.

Olympiad Scholarship—Results above, under correspondence. Mary Paulone Carns reported that over the 5 qualifying weeks, there were 20 pairs of 0-750 players, averaging 1 table per week. The majority of these players don't usually attend the Friday Night Game, and several indicated that they planned to attend the Olympiad because of this promotion. The promotion was felt to be a success and will be repeated in the next Olympiad year (2009).

NEW BUSINESS

STaC Chairs—Mary suggested that one reason for the lack of success of recent unit-sponsored STaC games is that there aren't specific chairs for some. In the future, each Sunday STaC and each Thursday STaC will have a chair who will be responsible for securing a site, a director, refreshments, and advertising to include a flyer, arranging notice in the Post Mortem, and on the website. In the future these chairs will be appointed at the Planning Meeting in November. The Chair for the Sunday STaC in December is Asim Ulke. Lou plans to appoint Sue McQuillen as the chair for the Thursday STaC in December.

Sectional Chairs—Mary announced that the unit is out of compliance with the ACBL's guidelines for Sectionals in that the chairs should be appointed at least 6 months in advance. Because chairs are usually appointed at the planning meeting, the Spring Sectional is out of compliance. Vince Simak agreed to chair the upcoming Pittsburgh Winter Sectional (previously named Pittsburgh Spring Sectional) Feb. 28-March 1. At the November 2007 Planning meeting, chairs will be appointed for the Summer 2008, Fall 2008, and Spring 2009 Sectionals. A similar appointment schedule will be followed in the future.

Election—Ken Bergman was appointed Elections Chair

Jane McIntyre Award—Maryanne McNeirney reviewed the qualifications for this award: It goes to a person who helps everyone enjoy the game. It is not a service award. Jane welcomed people to her game, helped newer players become Life Masters, and demanded courtesy. The first 3 winners were Sandy Schuchert, Peggy Hoffman, and Tom Lordi. Originally, the winner was chosen by a committee of Jane's friends: Maryanne, Phyllis Geinzer, Don Averbach, and Darlene Mannheimer. The thought was that new winners would join the committee and some former members would drop off. Last year the format was changed, and Maryanne was in charge. There was some dissatisfaction and confusion with this, and the board decided to return to the original format. The committee will consist of 4 standing members: Maryanne, Phyllis, Don, and Darlene, plus the most recent winner. The board voted for this change.

Election of Officers, upcoming—Mary reported that in recent years there haven't been enough people running for the board to require an election. If the same situation occurs this year, officers will be elected at the October meeting. (Deadline for submitting petitions is 2 days before the meeting). This will allow efficient scheduling of the Planning Meeting, since the election, if held, isn't until Nov. 10 (Saturday of the Fall Sectional).

Representatives to District 5 Meeting—Unit 142 sends 5 representatives to the twice-yearly meeting of the full board. The next meeting will be held Sunday, September 2, between sessions of the Regional, at the Radisson. The board appointed the following representatives: Bill Holt, Maryanne McNeirney, Arlene Port, Roni Atkins, Mary Paulone Carns. Lou Joseph will be an alternate.

Support for GNT by the Unit—Mary reported that the District is evaluating methods of supporting District representatives to the GNT. The ACBL no longer provides any financing for the teams. Several units in District 5 provide some financial support if unit members represent the District at the GNT finals. The Board previously agreed to hold an annual game to support the GNT, but these funds go to the district to support all district finalists, regardless of Unit affiliation. There was a consensus that the unit should provide a contribution, and a discussion followed about methods to obtain funds. After discussion, this motion passed: **There will be a surcharge of \$1.00 per person to the entry fee for the Sunday Swiss Team at each of the 3 Pittsburgh Sectionals. The resulting funds will be accumulated until such time as a player(s) residing in Unit 142 represents District 5 in the finals of the GNT.** When this occurs, at the next Board meeting, the board will determine the amount of funds to be distributed, based upon factors such as the amount of funds available, the location of the NABC, and the number of players from the unit who are on the team(s). Mary will ask Peggy Shivetts if the Greensburg Sectional wishes to participate in this endeavor.

NEXT MEETING

The next Board meeting will be on October 12, 2007 at 6:00 PM.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:25 PM.