

PITTSBURGH BRIDGE ASSOCIATION
PLANNING MEETING
November 19, 2007

ATTENDANCE:

Present: L. Joseph, B. Bergman, K. Bergman, M. P. Carns, R. Franck, W. Holt, D. Mannheimer, M. McNeirney, S. McQuillan, M. Painter, A. Port, I. Port, S. Rohr, A. Ulke

Absent: R. Atkins, J. Gillette

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by President Lou Joseph.

PRESIDENT'S REMARKS

Lou Joseph thanked the members for attending the most important meeting of the year. He welcomed new members Sharon Rohr and Sue McQuillan and returning members Darlene Mannheimer and Roni Atkins (absent).

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes from the meeting of October 12, 2007 were previously e-mailed to the members. The minutes were approved.

CORRESPONDENCE

Lou circulated a copy of a thank-you letter sent by Arsenal House, announced that Jeff Alexander will be DIC for the upcoming sectional, and reported that he received email from the ACBL regarding the filing of Form 990.

TREASURER'S REPORT

There was no treasurer's report. Ivan reported that he submitted form 990 for 2006 and circulated copies for perusal.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Ken Bergman took over the meeting for the first part of the election. Lou Joseph was the only nominee for president and was elected unanimously. Lou then conducted elections for vice president and treasurer. Bill Holt and Ivan Port were the only nominees for vice president and treasurer, respectively, and were elected.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Friendship/Condolence—Maryanne McNeirney reported that she sent 10 cards in the last 2 months.

Post Mortem—Arlene asked for suggestions to change or improve the Post Mortem. The consensus was that no change in format is needed. In response to questions about the number of copies, Arlene reported that the currently produced 375 is the minimum number of copies and that printing fewer wouldn't result in cost savings. More people are reading online.

Education—Arlene distributed the flyer for the upcoming series of lessons scheduled to begin January 17. Lou Joseph will teach beginning bridge and Arlene will teach 2/1 Game Force. Bill Holt should forward questions he receives about education to Arlene. Bill thanked Sue McQuillan for obtaining Rodef Shalom as the teaching site. Arlene told Darlene that there is District money available if she chooses to run some novice programs under the auspices of the unit.

Business Manager—Mary reported on the following:

1. New cards have been placed in the boards.
2. It is possible that some used bid boxes may become available at a good price. If so, she will purchase some for the unit, to replace old-format cards and as a source for repairing boxes with some missing cards

Operations Manager—Asim is working with the BCC to obtain an estimate for outdoor lighting. The board does not want to proceed until a specific estimate is obtained. The board thanked Sue McQuillan for providing a new refrigerator at BCC

Novice—Darlene reported that there were 11 teams of newcomers at the recent Fall Sectional. She is planning to organize some teams of newcomers for KO's at the spring sectional.

Membership—Marilyn Painter is out of directories, which she usually sends to newcomers. It is possible that Jimmy Klein will publish a new directory soon.

Webmaster—Nothing new

Unit Improvement/Site Search Team—Will become inactive. All board members are encouraged to be attentive to the possibility of new sites for sectionals and other games.

OLD BUSINESS

Fall Sectional—Ken Bergman reported that the sectional was a big success. People apparently responded to the return of the tournament to the Masonic. Attendance was up approximately 30%--most of this was accounted for on Friday and Saturday afternoons. Some specific points were that newcomer attendance was up, possibly related to a letter sent by the Bergmans to players with under

300 points. There were some problems related to not enough caddies, and the big turnout resulted in an extra workload on the directors. Lou thanked the Bergmans and their committee for doing such a fine job.

STaC Week Dec. 3 – 9—Mary reminded the members that STaC week is approaching. The three games sponsored by the unit were reviewed. Thursday evening special game at Rodef Shalom: Sue McQuillan in charge; regular unit game Friday night STaC pairs; special 2-session Swiss Sunday: Asim Ulke in charge. Bill Holt will make flyers for these events and Board Members will make announcements at the club games that they attend. Bill Holt has put information on the webpage.

Winter Sectional Feb. 29 – Mar. 2—Patty Katz had previously volunteered to chair. Committee members added were Arlene Port, Bill Holt, and Sue McQuillan. Tournament will be held at the Palisades.

NEW BUSINESS

Holiday Party—Will be held at Blackridge on Dec. 14. Roni Atkins is chair.

PLANNING BUSINESS

Committees—Committee chairs were appointed as indicated on the attached list. The computer consultant and unit improvement committees were eliminated, and the Unit Game Site Search Team was made inactive. New committees are Board Orientation, Bylaws, and Sectional Operations. Bylaws was explained in October minutes. Board Orientation will develop a Unit Board Manual; Sectional Operations supports sectional committees.

Sectional Sites—Attendance at sectionals has been declining; there is a perception that part of the decline is due to players' dislike of the Palisades. Marked increase in attendance at the recent fall sectional, held at the Masonic, supports this view. The following issues were discussed:

- the only currently available sites are Masonic and Palisades: The PFT only rents to educational organizations; the Glenshaw Moose is too small; the Monroeville ExpoMart has downsides discussed in previous minutes
- players seem to prefer Masonic to Palisades
- it is difficult to directly compare costs between the two sites because each includes different things but total costs are comparable
- it is much more work (for the committee) to hold a tournament at the Masonic because the Palisades provides food and beverages, and stores tables and other equipment
- the PBA has a contract with the Palisades through the end of 2008

- in the past the Masonic has been unwilling to negotiate far in advance but Ken Bergman has secured potential dates for Fall 2008 and 3 sectionals in 2009

The consensus was not to attempt to break any portion of the contract at the Palisades for 2008, and to move to the Masonic for 2009. This plan was passed by the board. Ron Franck volunteered to store tables in his basement. Ken was given permission to secure the sectional dates, sign a contract, and arrange a deposit.

Other Sectional Issues—Asim suggested having the same schedule at each Sectional. In the past the board voted to allow each chair to develop his own schedule; this plan is preferred by the board. Zero Tolerance will be discussed at the next regular meeting

Unit Calendar—A proposed calendar for 2008 was presented by Mary Paulone Carns and accepted by the board.

Honoraria—The following honoraria were voted separately and approved:

- President
- Both Post Mortem Editors
- Webmaster
- Treasurer
- Secretary
- Business Manager
- Unit Operations Manager

Lou declined the honorarium for President

Mentoring—Lou proposed that the Unit develop a mentoring program whereby established players play periodically with newer players. There was some discussion about whether there should be certain dates, whether the program would only include the unit game, and whether the purpose was teaching bridge or being social. Darlene volunteered to consider developing a list of potential mentors and those who want to be mentored. The concept will be discussed further at the next meeting.

Requirement for meeting attendance—John Gillette has missed 3 consecutive board meetings. In accordance with the bylaws, Lou requested that a letter be sent to him, requesting his resignation.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be February 8, 2008 at 6:00 PM at Blackridge.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 PM.