

PITTSBURGH BRIDGE ASSOCIATION  
PLANNING MEETING  
November 24, 2008

ATTENDANCE:

Present: L. Joseph, B. Bergman, K. Bergman, M. P. Carns, R. Franck, W. Holt, M. McNeirney, S. McQuillan, M. Painter, I. Port, G. Retos, S. Rohr

Absent: D. Mannheimer, A. Ulke

The meeting was called to order at 6:40 PM by President Lou Joseph.

PRESIDENT'S REMARKS

Lou Joseph thanked the members for attending the most important meeting of the year. He welcomed incoming member George Retos. He thanked the Board Members for their service and for making his 2 years as president interesting.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes from the meeting of October 10, 2008 were previously e-mailed to the members. The minutes were approved.

CORRESPONDENCE

Sharon Rohr received a letter of thanks from Ronald McDonald House for the donation resulting from the Pro-Am Game.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Ivan distributed the Treasurer's report and the financial report from the Fall Sectional. Ivan clarified that results are presented on a year-to-date comparison basis thus the comparison results from 2007 are for year-to-date, not the whole year. Investments are sharply down as expected from the economy.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

In each instance, the elected person was the only nominee and was elected unanimously:

President: William Holt

Vice President: Asim Ulke

Treasurer: Ivan Port

New president Bill Holt then took over the meeting and appointed Mary Paulone Carns as Secretary, and George Retos as a new member of the Board.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

**Friendship/Condolence**—Maryanne McNeirney reported that she sent many get-well and sympathy cards and requested another \$100 for expenses.

**Post Mortem**—Lou reported that the editors are open to suggestions as to topics and articles. There was a brief discussion about minimizing the number of typographical errors.

**Education**—Lou reported that the current classes are going well. Arlene has over 20 students and Lou has 16 actual newcomers; his class at the Fox Chapel Racquet Club is ongoing. Some students from Judi Sonon's beginner classes used some free entries at the JCC Wednesday game. Bill Holt reviewed the Educational Free Entries program

**Business Manager**—Mary discussed the following:

1. Board Member List: She distributed a list of Board Members with addresses, phone and email addresses and asked members to verify their information.
2. Mentoring Program: There are 16 matched pairs and 7 mentees who don't have mentors. Mary plans to email the current participants to get a progress report. She also asked members to promote the program and hopes to get more Mentors. She discussed the possibility of having "term limits" and the board agreed that the program will refresh on or about July 1. Mentors and mentees will be asked to renew their membership in the program and the possibility of new matches will be offered. She also discussed a proposal by Carol Bolen to have a special mentor-mentee game. If this occurred, Carol would coordinate the food. The board thought this was a good idea but postponed implementing this until the program contains more people. Mary asked if anyone would like to take over the program and promote it—currently Mary only keeps the records but doesn't promote the program. The board didn't feel anything else was necessary but Barb Bergman will ask Carol Bolen if she is interested in taking over the program.

Bill asked about a "novice pro-am" program in which he had once participated. Lou reported that there will be a series of supervised play games toward the end of the summer and possibly this idea could be incorporated into the Educational Program

3. District 5 Olympiad: Is held every 2 years and will be in August in Cleveland. In 2007, the Unit held a contest to encourage participation in the Olympiad and at the Unit Game. This contest will be held again this year, developed by Mary and Bill.
4. New Member Orientation: Mary has collected a group of documents for new members and will send the information to George.
5. Recruiting Volunteers: It is helpful to have a group of volunteers to serve as members of committees. These volunteers do not need to be members of the board and might serve on as little as 1 committee per year. Bill and Mary will maintain a list of volunteers. Bill read a list of people he has recruited so far.

6. Marketing: The ACBL, in its monthly newsletter to Club Directors, reported that it is starting a program whereby it provides a bridge column suitable for publication in a local newspaper, with a bridge hand geared toward newer players. There would be a place at the bottom to put local contact information. Board members were encouraged to contact their local community newspapers to see if they are willing to publish such a column.
7. Election Procedures: They exist but Mary hasn't been able to find them in past secretarial documents. Lou will look through materials that he received when he became President

**Operations Manager**—Asim was absent.

**Novice**—Darlene was absent.

**Membership**—Marilyn Painter is up to date.

**Webmaster**—Bill reported that he has posted a survey asking for feedback from local players about the Labor Day Regional

#### OLD BUSINESS

**Fall Sectional**—Asim gave his financial report to Ivan who presented it with the Treasurer's report.

**STaC Week Dec. 8 - 14**—Mary reminded the members that STaC week is approaching. The three games sponsored by the unit were reviewed. Thursday evening special game at Glenshaw Moose: Lou Joseph in charge and the theme is Snack 'n'STaC; regular unit game Friday night STaC pairs which is also the Christmas Party; special 2-session Swiss Sunday: Asim Ulke is in charge. All games are being promoted at local clubs and by a flyer. Bill will put the information on the webpage.

**Spring Sectional March 6 - 8**—Bergmans reported that preparations are going well. Bill Holt will help with a database of novices.

**Holiday Party Dec. 12**—Will be run by Sue McQuillan in the absence of Marilyn Painter.

**Vote on New Bylaws**—A draft copy of new bylaws had been previously emailed to the members and, as required by current bylaws, Mary previously obtained a petition containing signatures of 10 board members. George proposed an addition which was incorporated. The bylaws were passed unanimously.

#### PLANNING BUSINESS

**Committees**—Committee chairs were appointed as indicated on the attached list. The bylaws and summer STaC team game committees were eliminated. Although the formal site search team was previously eliminated, Bill asked all members to look out for possible sites for bridge games or tournaments. The new committees are Mentoring and Olympiad, both explained above under “Business Manager”.

**Sectional Plans 2009 - 2101**—Ken Bergman presented a list of possible Sectional Dates to the Masonic. They will act after the first of the year.

**Unit 229 Issues**—Ken had several discussions with George Cross and Alex Bealles from Unit 229 (Butler-Beaver-Lawrence counties) about merging summer sectionals; and possibly Unit 229 merging into Unit 142. The Board was open to both of these possibilities. Bill Holt appointed a committee consisting of himself, Mary Paulone Carns, Lou Joseph, and Ken Bergman to work with Unit 229.

**Unit Calendar**—Mary presented a proposed unit calendar. Lou suggested that New Partner Night be moved to a time not conflicting with the Summer NABC which is in Washington D.C. and is expected to attract more than the usual number of unit members because of its proximity. With that exception, the calendar was accepted by the board.

**Job Descriptions and Backups**—Mary suggested that all holders of important positions develop a written description of duties that would be sufficient if someone had to take over the position; and to suggest a member of the PBA (not necessarily a board member) who would be willing and able to take over the position. Mary will keep a database of these descriptions.

Bill appointed Assistant Secretary: Barb Bergman and Assistant Treasurer: Ken Bergman. Ron Franck volunteered to serve as backup for Asim Ulke as Equipment manager, and Bill Holt will ask Bob Zimmermann to serve as backup for his Webmaster duties

**Honoraria**—The following honoraria, each \$500 annually, were voted separately and approved:

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

Bill declined the honorarium for President

**Thanks to Lou Joseph**—Bill thanked Lou Joseph for his service as president and presented him with a gift card.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be February 6, 2009 at 6:00 PM at Blackridge.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 PM.