

PITTSBURGH BRIDGE ASSOCIATION  
BOARD MEETING  
February 6, 2009

ATTENDANCE:

Present: W. Holt, A. Ulke, B. Bergman, K. Bergman, M. P. Carns, L. Joseph, M. McNeirney, M. Painter, I. Port, G. Retos

Guest: Steve Schwarzwaelder

Absent: R. Franck, D. Mannheimer, S. McQuillan, S. Rohr

The meeting was called to order at 6:10 PM by President Bill Holt.

PRESIDENT'S REMARKS

Bill welcomed the members and welcomed Steve Schwarzwaelder, who was observing the meeting.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes from the meeting of November 24 were previously e-mailed to the members. The minutes were approved.

CORRESPONDENCE

Mary reported that she received two letters from the ACBL. The first thanked our unit for our contribution (via the charity game) to the ACBL Charity fund. The second reported that the new director of Youth Bridge, Patty Tucker, is available to make presentations to units and districts.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Ivan distributed the Treasurer's report for the year 2008. As expected, the investments are down.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

**Friendship/Condolence**—Maryanne McNeirney has been busy with get-wells and condolences.

**Post Mortem**—Lou Joseph asked for members to report news. Marilyn Painter suggested a series of articles on bridge players who have interesting non-bridge backgrounds. The consensus was that the Post Mortem is not the right venue.

**Education**—Lou Joseph reported that the programs are going well. The next series will include an advanced beginners' course and a special series of

different speakers and different topics. There may be supervised play in August, in anticipation of the regional.

The Free Entries for Education Grads program will be extended to offer free entries to graduates of non-beginner classes. However these entries may only be used for the Friday night unit game, not any game in the unit as are the entries for beginners.

**Business Manager**—Mary discussed the Mentoring program. There are still many players who don't have mentors, and some of the mentor-mentee relationships have dissolved. The board decided to "refresh" the program in early July. Mary will send emails to mentors and mentees, and it will be advertised that the original program is expiring, and new pairings can be made.

**Operations Manager**—Asim reported that it is difficult to accomplish apparently small things in the building. Some lights and a door have been repaired.

**Novice**—Darlene Mannheimer was absent.

**Membership**—Marilyn Painter reported no news.

**Webmaster**—Bill Holt reported that all is going well with the website. He posted a total masterpoint list for units 142/229 and asked board members to review the list and report to him any people who are known to be deceased.

**District 5 and National News**—Mary reported on three events:

- The Regional will be held at the Hyatt at the Airport. The event will be advertised in the ACBL Bulletin and in the daily Bulletin at the summer NABC in Washington DC.

- The District 5 Olympiad will be held in August for players with under 750 Masterpoints.

- The District Finals of the GNT will be rotating among Pittsburgh, Cleveland, and Buffalo. The event will be held in Pittsburgh on May 2 - 3. Units are being asked to advertise the event to their players. It is hoped that there will be a good turnout among local players.

## OLD BUSINESS

**Fall Sectional**—Asim distributed the financial report. There were 190 tables and a profit of \$563. As an aside, the board discussed whether the Friday night unit game should be cancelled during the Rock and Roll Regional in Cleveland during January. There were only 3 tables. The directors would like to attend the tournament; plus the timing conflicts with the game in Mt. Lebanon.

**STaC Week, December 2008**—Mary reported that STaC week was a success. Attendance was up both locally and district-wide. Mary thanked the board members for their help in advertising this event.

**Spring Sectional**—Bergmans reported that plans are progressing well. They will be sending letters to active 0 – 300 players. Bob Zimmermann is arranging for caddies. There will be a brown bag lunch on Sunday.

**Update on Status of Unit 229**—Unit 229 has decided not to disband; they are considering co-sponsoring the Summer Sectional in 2010. A committee consisting of Ken, Mary, and Bill will interact with the committee from 229 to discuss the terms, including the finances.

**Job Descriptions and Backups**—Mary reminded committee chairs to create a detailed job description, and to obtain a backup for their position. The backup would do the job temporarily if the chair was unable to serve.

#### NEW BUSINESS

**Summer Sectional (June 26 – 28)**—Chair is Bill Holt. He has co-chairs to do hospitality. Fliers will be out soon. The schedule is the same as the spring, except there are 2 separate sessions on Saturday.

**Adopting Clubs for Publicity Purposes**—Bill pointed out that some clubs have essentially no interaction with the board. Also we haven't been as good as we might be at making sure that all clubs get fliers and Post Mortems, receive announcements, and participate in publicizing unit functions. Bill distributed a chart on which the members to sign up to adopt clubs.

**Awards Night (May 15)**—Lou Joseph is chair. Barb Bergman and Steve Schwarzwaelder will help. Mary has the medallions and will collate the unit results. Jean Picone is in charge of food.

**Sectionals 2010**—Ken Bergman negotiated contracts for all 3 sectionals to be held at the Masonic Center. Rates are staying the same. The dates are: April 23 – 25, July 9 – 11, and November 12 – 14. The board thanked Ken.

**Olympiad Contest**—The District 5 Olympiad will be held in Independence, OH on August 15 – 16. Players having <750 points are eligible. Mary and Bill will develop a contest similar to that held in 2007 to encourage players to attend the Olympiad and the Unit game.

**Youth Bridge**—The District had decided to ask units whether they are interested inviting Patty Tucker to meet with them at a regional. It was the consensus to support the District in plans to invite Ms. Tucker to the Pittsburgh or Buffalo Regional.

**Surcharge for GNTs**—Currently the unit charges a \$1 per session surcharge at for the Swiss Teams at the three Pittsburgh Sectionals. The proceeds support unit members who qualify for the national finals. Bernie Fudor received support in 2008. Asim Ulke thinks that this surcharge is excessive and suggested that the unit should take this support from other funds. After discussion, it was decided to continue the surcharge. Ivan was requested to separately track the amount of money in this fund.

**Day for Unit Board Meeting**—Maryanne McNeirney suggested that board meetings be moved to Thursday evenings, since it is difficult for some people to arrive at Blackridge by 6 PM. The board consensus was that it is better to have a meeting in advance of the unit game.

#### NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will on April 3, 2009 at 6:00 PM at Blackridge.

#### ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:20 PM.