

PITTSBURGH BRIDGE ASSOCIATION
BOARD MEETING
October 30, 2009

ATTENDANCE:

Present: W. Holt, A. Ulke, I. Port, B. Bergman, K. Bergman, M. P. Carns, L. Joseph, J. Marshall, M. McNeirney, S. McQuillan, S. Rohr, S. Schwarzwaelder

Absent: R. Franck, D. Mannheimer, M. Painter, G. Retos

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM by President Bill Holt.

PRESIDENT'S REMARKS

Bill named some members of the unit who are recently deceased and stated that games are shrinking by attrition. He said that it is important to improve club games so that clubs survive despite a smaller population.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes from the meeting of August 14 were previously e-mailed to the members. The minutes were approved.

CORRESPONDENCE

None.

TREASURER'S REPORT

The treasurer's report was distributed and reviewed by Ivan.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Friendship/Condolence—Maryanne McNeirney reported no news.

Post Mortem—Lou Joseph said that he is still trying to get clubs to report on special games, high scores, and winners of consecutive games.

Education—Lou Joseph reported that the fall lessons went well. There were 2 classes with 10 beginners in the Monday daytime class and 16 advancing students in Lou's class. Lou also has 16 students in his private class at the Fox Chapel Racquet Club. The next series of classes will be in the spring (historically classes in the winter have been unsuccessful).

Business Manager—Mary has ordered new cards and will put them in the boards at the upcoming sectional.

Operations Manager—Asim reported no problems.

Novice—Darlene Mannheimer was absent. Mary reported that Darlene is continuing to pair newcomers for the upcoming Sectional.

Membership—Marilyn Painter was absent.

Webmaster—Bill Holt reported no problems.

District 5 and National News—Bill announced that Mary has been elected as president of District 5. Mary reported that the regional went well and asked members to spread the word in advance of next year. There is a World Championship to be held in Philadelphia during the first 2 weeks of October in 2010. A concurrent regional will be held. The ACBL has asked District 5 not to hold the GNP finals during that interval, so the District Board is planning to hold the finals in association with the Buffalo Regional (2010 only).

Patty Tucker, who is working to develop Youth Bridge, will be at the Rock and Roll Regional in Cleveland on Friday and Saturday Jan 15 and 16. She will do 2 different presentations; one will be about actual teaching techniques and the other will be about setting up a program. Food will be provided. Board members are encouraged to attend. Reservations may be made through Mary.

OLD BUSINESS

Fossick-Goodman Swiss Teams—Lou reported that the event went well. There were 22 tables. There was a discussion about the use of the funds. Profit in 2008 was \$1558; financial report is incomplete from 2009. The funds are earmarked for education but are otherwise not specified. Examples are advertising, recruiting students, classes. There is also money available from the district earmarked for education.

Greensburg Sectional—Bill reported that the new preliminary committee fell apart. The unit has a verbal commitment to St. Joseph; no contract will be due until January. Bill asked board members for help in identifying a possible chair and committee members. Further discussion was deferred to the planning meeting.

Pro-Am Game (September 25)—Sue reported income of \$1672 of which \$1182 was donated to Hearth. The board thanked Sue and Sharon for a job well done.

Instant Matchpoint Game—Barb reported that there were 18 tables and all went well.

Fall Sectional (Nov. 6 – 8)—Sue reported that plans are in place. Hospitality will be catered by Giant Eagle; she thanked Barb and Ken for their advice. It was mentioned that it is important to advertise the sectional at club games.

Election (Nov. 7)—Barb reported that there won't be an election because there are fewer contestants than open slots. All current members whose terms are expiring, except for Ivan, submitted a petition. The election of officers will take place at the Planning Meeting.

STaC—Mary reported that STaC week is Dec. 7 – 13. There will be no unit-sponsored Thursday game. The Friday game will include a holiday party. Sunday is a Swiss Team hosted by Asim. Bill will make a flyer for both games and the party.

Mentoring Program—Mary made an ad recruiting a chair, which will run on the web page and in the Post Mortem.

NEW BUSINESS

Holiday Party (Dec. 11)—Mary reported that Bill Seran & Carole Shanahan are hosts.

Increasing Attendance at Unit Game—Asim reported that attendance has been poor. He pointed out that once attendance falls, there is a self-perpetuating situation since people don't like to play in a small game. He offered several suggestions for improving attendance:

- Board Members stay to play on meeting nights and make an effort to play on other nights
- Move starting time to 7 PM
- Give section top prizes at the sectionals: free entry to unit game
- Move the game to Friday afternoon, shortly after Gus' game ends
- Schedule a team game monthly, preferably in the same week each month

A discussion followed including the possible futility of having a successful evening game due to the aging population; a weeknight might be more successful; Saturday daytime; the tradition of a game on Friday night; providing a game for those who work; moving the game to the South Hills which has some successful evening games. An informal poll of board members had 7 in favor of moving the game to a daytime and 4 interested in pursuing the current night.

The board passed the motion that the following 2 changes be made immediately:

- Run a Swiss team monthly starting in January 2010
- Give free entries to the Unit game as section tops at Sectionals

New Site Visit—Steve Schwarzwaelder reported that his committee visited the Wilkins Community Center as a possible new site for the game. The site would be suitable. The site alternative would best be discussed in the context of a broader discussion of the Unit Game; this discussion will continue at the Planning Meeting.

Player leaving Unit game early—Lou reported that a player left the game last week in the middle of the session after she had a disagreement with her partner. The situation will be referred to the Disciplinary Chair (Richard Finberg).

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is the Planning meeting. It will be Monday November 16 at 6:00 PM at The Design Center, 5001 Baum Blvd.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:25 PM.