

PITTSBURGH BRIDGE ASSOCIATION
PLANNING MEETING
November 16, 2009

ATTENDANCE:

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

Absent: M. McNeirney, I. Port, G. Retos

The meeting was called to order at 6:40 PM by President Bill Holt

PRESIDENTS REMARKS

Bill thanked the members for their attendance and thanked Lou Joseph for arranging the meeting space and the food.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes were approved after a typographical error was corrected.

CORRESPONDENCE

None since the last meeting.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Was not given in the absence of Ivan Port.

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: Jane Marshall

Mary Paulone Carns will continue as secretary.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Reports were abbreviated. A suggestion was made that on nights with a Board Meeting, members attempt to play with a partner who is not on the board. This will bring additional players to the game. Bill Holt is hoping to have a Novice Swiss sometime in the winter. Newcomers will be asked to register and will receive a small gift. Jimmy Klein has printed new directories.

OLD BUSINESS

Tables—Possible problems with table storage and transportation were discussed. Issues: lack of suitable volunteers; possibility of injury; expense incurred if we pay for storage or transport; whether there is liability insurance coverage. Ron and Steve will investigate alternatives. Meanwhile Ron may hire help to transport tables if necessary. Mary will research insurance.

Fall Sectional—Steve reported that there was approximately \$1000 net income with an attendance of 240 tables.

STaC Week (Dec. 7 – 13)—No new developments.

Holiday Party Dec. 11—Sue spoke with Bill Seran and Carole Shanahan; plans are in place.

Spring Sectional (April 23 – 25)—Barb reported that the schedule has been approved by the ACBL; she will work with Bill on a flyer.

Greensburg Sectional—A committee is forming to run the sectional as an independent event, as in the past. The unit will offer paid services as requested.

Butler Sectional—Is merging with the Pittsburgh Summer Sectional. Bill will contact Alex who will be added to the committee.

Mentoring Program—Mary announced that Bill Seran is the new chair.

Job Descriptions and Backups—Mary reminded committee chairs to provide her with a written job description and to make sure that there is a backup for each position.

PLANNING BUSINESS

Committees—Committee chairs were appointed as indicated on the committee list. Jane Marshall will contact Phil Miller about doing an audit. A new committee was formed: Bridge Teacher Liaison. The chair is Darlene Mannheimer. Sectional chairs were added *ex officio* to the Publicity Committee. Chairs are responsible for making sure flyers are distributed to club games and outlying areas, and that announcements are made at club games.

Sectional Plans 2010 - 2011—

- Site: Ken Bergman will negotiate with the Masonic after the beginning of the year.
- Operations: There was a discussion about schedules & timing. For the Spring sectional, Saturday times will be 11 AM and 3:30. These times may be extended to future sectionals if successful.

When changing times, recognize that the chairs need time to set up and that small meal breaks will require that we provide food.

- Tables: Some of the older tables for the sectional will be swapped with the newer tables used at the Unit Game.
- Pricing: Costs are increasing and possibly more so if we pay for storage/transportation of tables and food between sessions on Saturday. Objective is to break even. Charging over \$10 per session will be poorly received. Prices will stay the same for now with the possibility of charging for between-session food.

Unit Calendar—Mary presented a proposed calendar for 2010. The calendar was adopted. There will be a Swiss Teams monthly.

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

Unit Game Issues—The game continues to have poor attendance. The objective is to have a game large enough for players to enjoy. Making money is not the objective.

- Current attempts to improve attendance: Free entries as Section Top prizes; Over/Under 500 Contest; Monthly Swiss Teams
- Steve investigated alternative sites
- Changing time of day or day of the week has been discussed
- Not having a game would be bad for bridge
- The board voted to move the game time to 7:00 PM beginning in 2010 and to publish Asim's cell phone number for players to use if they plan to arrive just before game time (board meetings will still start at 6:00 and will have to be more efficient)
- The situation will be reevaluated in about 6 months

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be February 12, 2010 at 6:00 PM at Blackridge.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 PM.