

PITTSBURGH BRIDGE ASSOCIATION
PLANNING MEETING
November 19, 2012

ATTENDANCE:

Present: B. Bergman, R. Franck, M. P. Carns, J. Marshall, J. Baseman, J. Bernhard, K. Bergman, L. Hanna, W. Holt, L. Joseph, R. Neafach, P. Silver, A. Ulke, B. Weinstein

Absent: M. McNeirney, C. Shanahan

The meeting was called to order at 6:10 PM by President Asim Ulke.

PRESIDENT'S REMARKS

Asim welcomed the members. He thanked the board members for their help during his presidency. He thanked outgoing members Bill Seran and Marilyn Painter, and welcomed new members Jean Baseman, John Bernard, Lorraine Hanna, Ruthie Neafach (who joined during 2012), and Barbara Weinstein.

Asim stated that his main goal during his presidency was fiscal responsibility. Barb Bergman presented a gift to Asim and he received a round of applause.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

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

CORRESPONDENCE

None.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Jane distributed and reviewed the treasurer's report. The report consisted of the ledger sheet, Special Events (Fossick-Goodman Swiss Teams, June STaC 'n' Snack, Instant Matchpoint Game, and Pro Am); LB1D; Sectional finances and table counts. The balance in the investment account as of the end of September was approximately \$83,000.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Asim Ulke presided over the election of the new President, who is Barbara Bergman, the only nominee, and elected unanimously. Barbara then took over the meeting. The following officers were the only nominees for their position and were elected unanimously:

Vice President: Ron Franck

Treasurer: Jane Marshall

Barbara then appointed Mary Paulone Carns as secretary.

APPOINTMENT OF BOARD MEMBERS

The following new board members were appointed: John Bernhard, Lorraine Hanna, and Barbara Weinstein. Jeanne Baseman, the other new board member, had submitted a petition and thus was elected by default. Additionally, the following members whose terms had expired were reappointed: Ken Bergman, Bill Holt, and Carole Shanahan. Lou Joseph had submitted a petition. Maryanne McNeirney, who is unable to attend meetings, was appointed as an honorary member.

NEW PRESIDENT'S REMARKS

Barbara said that she is excited about the upcoming year, and it is nice to have fresh faces on board.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Friendship/Condolence—Mary reported Maryanne McNeirney plans to continue sending cards. There is feature on the website whereby players may report news that may be recognized.

Post Mortem—Lou reported that the Post Mortem is going well. His co-editor will resign if the publication becomes online only. He reminded members to submit news.

Education—Lou reported that classes went well. There are 12 people in the Beginners' class, and many people in Arlene's intermediate class.

Pupil Games—Lorraine reported that the program has moved to the Sewickley YMCA and attendance increased. It will be scheduled the 2nd and 4th Fridays. The 2 sessions in October had 27 and 12 students respectively, of which several stayed and played. There were no sessions in November due to scheduling conflicts.

The next steps are building on LB1D and providing a non-threatening way for new players to play duplicate. The game at the Y will provide a 29'er game, before which Lorraine will still give a free lesson.

Business Manager—Mary reported that new cards have been installed in all of the boards. A set of new boards has been put into play for the Unit Game. These are the new-style opening boards. Old-style boards are no longer available. Mary investigated ways to refurbish boards and is going to try with a few sets to determine feasibility.

Operations Manager—NR

Novice—Mary hasn't had a specific report from Darlene, but Darlene continues to function as novice partnership chair for the sectionals, and has been successful at teambuilding.

Membership—This position is open. Mary reviewed the duties of the position: the unit sends a letter of welcome to new members, with a free entry to the Unit Game; and deaths need to be reported to the ACBL. The letter needs to be updated. Phyllis Silver volunteered to take over the position.

Webmaster—Bill reported that board minutes and membership roster are posted on the website

District 5 and National News—NR

Club Liaison—Bill has a club liaison for every club. These people are supposed to make announcements, and make sure flyers get to the clubs.

Bridge Teacher Liaison—Names of teachers and information about lessons are posted on the website. Lorraine sends the bridge teachers emails concerning unit functions. Bill asked her to let him know if she learns about classes so he can post them on the website.

OLD BUSINESS

Fall Sectional—Carole Shanahan was absent. Jane had previously presented the financial report. The board thanked Carole and Bill for their hard work.

December STaC Week (Dec. 3 - 9)—Mary reported PBA-sponsored games will be STaC 'n' Snack on Thursday and the regular game on Friday. There is no Swiss Teams on Sunday due to the Steelers game.

Spring Sectional (April 12 – 14)—Ken reported that plans are underway.

Holiday Party (Dec. 14)—Ruthie and Jeanne are in charge. Jane will give them a budget.

Learn Bridge in 1 Day—Bill reported that we have a license to offer this program for 1 calendar year. The next program will be held at the Masonic Center on January 26, with a follow-up supervised play session on Feb 2. Fliers have been printed. Bill encouraged board members and other players to post them and to recruit students. He sent email to all those who attended or inquired about the previous event in September.

Cellphone Policy—Mary reported that the cellphone policy, originally adopted in 2010, has been inconsistently enforced. One director has been refusing to enforce it at all. After discussion, the following policy was adopted (vote 13-1 in favor): The PBA Cellphone policy must be enforced by the director at PBA-sponsored club games. Enforcement is not at the discretion of the director.

Failure to enforce the policy will result in a \$10 deduction from the director's fee, for each incident.

PLANNING BUSINESS

Membership Roster of the PBA Board—Mary previously emailed rosters to the members. Members were asked to review their information for accuracy.

Committees—Committee chairs were appointed as indicated on the committee list. [Some changes were made following the meeting]. The following committees were eliminated: Audit, Equipment Manager. Barb emphasized that although there is a Publicity Committee, any board member who is at a game should make announcements if no one else has done it; and let Bill Holt know if there aren't flyers at that game.

Sectionals 2013—Mary reviewed the following information:

- Site: Sectionals will continue to be at the Masonic Center.
- Dates:
 - 4/12 – 4/14
 - 7/19 – 7/21
 - 11/8 – 11/10
- Operations: Schedules and timing will remain the same as in 2012. Saturday times are 11 AM and 4 PM.
- Schedule: Friday-Saturday KO has been eliminated; single-session Swiss Team is added to Friday evening schedule.
- Bob Zimmermann is stepping down as caddymaster and Mary proposed Fred Schenker as the new caddymaster. The board concurred.
- Pay should be standardized: Kitchen help (Marcellina) \$300 + \$30 to \$50 tip; Custodians \$80 tip.
- Mary has an old document on how to run a sectional. Barb, Bill, and Ron will review and update this document.
- Free Entries (1 session per entry, non-transferrable) are given to:
 - Both chairs, for all events
 - Equipment movers: 1 per person per move
 - Anyone performing above and beyond, as determined by chairs
 - Flyer creator
 - Sectional Operations team (Carns, Holt, Franck, both Bergmans)—1 each
 - Partnership chairs—1 each (open and novice)
 - Caddymaster—1
 - Lecturers
 - Any special situations (example: LB1D helpers)
- Dates for 2014 will be arranged with the Masonic by Ken Bergman after the first of the year

Unit Game—NR

Unit Calendar—Mary presented a proposed calendar for 2013. The calendar was adopted. December special STaC games on Thursday and Sunday are pending the Steeler schedule. Only one of these 2 games will be held. If both are possible, Sunday game will be held.

Phone System Change—Bill Holt reported that he obtained a phone number for LB1D through Google Phone. The number is free. He suggested doing the same for the hotline. Changing the phone service from Verizon to Vonage saved over \$20 per month, but we are still paying \$18 per month. Google Phone requires a computer; Maryanne McNeirney, the current hotline manager, doesn't have one. She also records a new message daily, requiring an inordinate amount of work for little demand. Most calls are on days with bad weather. Also, many get their information via the webpage. We could change the procedure so a new message is recorded weekly, and callers are referred to the webpage. Special PBA events and tournaments would be mentioned on the message. Daily changes would only be made for cancellations. Lorraine Hanna has volunteered to manage the hotline, with Bill Holt as backup. The board agreed with this plan. Bill Holt will contact club directors, and Mary will contact Maryanne McNeirney. The board thanked Maryanne for her many years of service. [New hotline number: 412-219-CLUB].

Duplicating Machine—Bill Holt proposed that the PBA purchase a duplicating machine. His suggestion is that Gus manage the machine, and duplicate boards for PBA-sponsored club events (pairs only), and the first day of sectionals. The sectional director (Mike Roberts) would duplicate the boards for Saturday. In return, Gus could use the machine for his own game and sell his services to other local directors. The cost is approximately \$4500. The board unanimously approved the purchase. Mary will arrange to purchase the machine.

Honoraria—The following Honoraria were voted separately and approved, at \$500 annually:

- President (declined by Barbara Bergman)
- Both Post Mortem Editors
- Webmaster
- Treasurer
- Secretary
- Business Manager
- Unit Operations Manager
- Both Education Chairs (Lou declined his)
- Novice (to be shared by Lorraine Hanna and Darlene Mannheimer)

NEW BUSINESS

Educational pamphlets—Lorraine Hanna reported that Marty Bergen has produced 28 booklets that are available at a reduced rate of \$9.95, half of the usual price. The board decided not to subsidize this purchase.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held Friday February 8 at 6:00 PM at Wilkins Township Community Center.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 PM.