

PITTSBURGH BRIDGE ASSOCIATION
BOARD MEETING
August 9, 2013

ATTENDANCE:

Present: B. Bergman, J. Baseman, K. Bergman, M. P. Carns, R. Franck, L. Hanna, W. Holt, J. Marshall, R. Neafach, C. Shanahan, P. Silver, B. Weinstein

Absent: J. Bernhard, L. Joseph, M. McNeirney,

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM by President Barbara Bergman.

PRESIDENT'S REMARKS

Barbara Bergman welcomed the members.

- The Summer Sectional was great and had a good turnout
- New Partner night was a success, with 13.5 tables, thanks to Jane Marshall
- The Saturday morning game, previously held at the Masonic Center and on hiatus since winter, is resuming at the Glenshaw Moose at 11:00. The first game will be September 17.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes from the meeting of June 21 were previously e-mailed to the members. The minutes were approved with 1 correction.

CORRESPONDENCE

None

TREASURER'S REPORT

Jane presented the Treasurer's report for July and August, including Sectional Expenses to date. Sectionals so far have netted approximately \$2500 each. Cash balance for the year is up \$1600, and sectional deposits have been made for 2014 sectionals.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Post Mortem—Mary reported for Lou who was absent. The Ask Ernie column remains popular.

Education— Mary reported for Lou who was absent. Current classes have 7 beginners and 14 advancing players.

Business Manager—NR

Membership—Phyllis Silver sent out welcome letters and free entries to new members, who numbered 8, 5, and 2 in March, April, and June respectively.

Webmaster—NR

District 5 and National News—Mary reported that plans for the Regional are complete. Bill created and distributed a new flyer to help players find the parking areas. Darlene Mannheimer is running her club game at the regional site on Tuesday afternoon. Mary thanked her for her help. Mary asked board members to make announcements at club games and make sure there are flyers at the games. Jeanne Baseman and Carole Shanahan offered to help with the regional.

Bridge Teacher Liaison—NR

Pupil Games—Lorraine Hanna reported that she has had a total of 28 students over the last 3 games, and has 40 people on her email list. There will be a new game at the 20th Century Club, Tuesdays at 11:00, starting Sept. 10.

Club Liaison—Bill continues to work with representatives to assure that there are announcements and flyers at club games. Board members were asked to help in this endeavor.

OLD BUSINESS

Summer Sectional (July 19-21)—Bill reported that the sectional went very well. We outdrew every 3-day July sectional in the US. He attributed our success to good dates and good food. He thanked his co-chairs Cecelia Powell and Barb Belardi who were organized, cost-conscious, and hard-working. A short discussion followed about how to deal with noise.

Learn Bridge in 1 Day—Bill reported that the program is scheduled for Saturday August 31, at the Hyatt Regency Pittsburgh Airport, during the Regional. So far 22 people have registered, and there are 6 volunteers.

Pro-Am Game (Oct. 10)—Jane said that 31 pairs have registered so far. She is hoping to have 100 pairs (50 tables). She asked board members to help in recruiting players. Information about available pros will be on the website.

Olympiad Contest—Mary reported that Ruthie Neafach won; and Ildiko Baxter and Tammy Tjader are tied for 2/3. Both plan to attend the Olympiad. There is no official host hotel this year. The best rate at the Holiday Inn in Independence is \$114 + tax. The board agreed to pay each pair \$60 (half the rate of a room).

Bylaws—The members had received copies of the bylaws, with proposed changes, via email. Barb Bergman reviewed the changes:

- Vacancies may be filled, and officers elected, with no need for secret ballot
- Maximum number of board positions is 15 (down from the current 20)
- Possible election dates are expanded to include November
- The Unit Manager, if a board member, is on the Executive Board
- The phone number has changed, and future changes of phone number will not require a change in bylaws

The board adopted the new bylaws unanimously.

Investment of Unit Funds—John Bernhard presented his views. He said that there are 3 major events that will impact investment returns: Industrialized nations are meeting without US representation and may replace the dollar as the global reserve currency; the debt crisis in Europe; and the Federal Reserve is printing money faster, thus the value of the dollar is falling. He suggested that members do their own research.

NEW BUSINESS

Election November 9—Mary reviewed the guidelines with John Bernhard, the elections chair. She will email him the necessary information.

Instant MP game October 2—Barb Bergman reported that flyers are out, Gus is the director, and the venue is the Glenshaw Moose. We may not need a caddy if Bridge Mates are used. Potluck dinner starts at 6:15.

Unit Representatives to District 5 meeting—Barb Bergman, Ron Franck, Jane Marshall, Bill Holt. Mary and Lou will attend *ex officio*.

Fall Sectional Nov. 8 - 11—Ron Franck reported that there will be no big changes and plans are going well. Barbara Weinstein is co-chair.

Bridge Tables—Barb Bergman reported that there are 18 tables at the Masonic Center and 53 tables in storage. That is a sufficient number but damaged tables need to be replaced periodically. The board agreed that Barb and Ken may purchase some replacement tables if they find good prices or sales.

Help for new players—Jane mentioned that new players have trouble with the mechanics of the game and asked members to help if they notice problems.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be Friday October 11 at 6:00 PM at Wilkins.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 6:50 PM.