

PITTSBURGH BRIDGE ASSOCIATION  
PLANNING MEETING  
December 2, 2013

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, C. Shanahan, B. Weinstein

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM by President Barbara Bergman.

PRESIDENT'S REMARKS

Barb welcomed the members. She said that 2013 was a good year in Pittsburgh Bridge. The treasury is healthy, and events were successful. The recent Fall Sectional was a success. She thanked the chairs, Ron Franck and Barb Weinstein.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes from the meeting of October 11 were previously e-mailed to the members. The minutes were approved.

CORRESPONDENCE

Jane received a letter from the Alzheimer's Foundation thanking the PBA for the donation of \$2800, from the proceeds of the Pro-Am game and additional member donations.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Jane distributed and reviewed the treasurer's report, which included the first 11 months of 2013. The cash balance is up approximately \$1200 over last year despite the fact that the dealing machine was purchased this year. The sectionals and the Friday Night Unit game are all making money.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Bill Holt presided over the election for President. Barbara Bergman was the only nominee, and was re-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 appointed Mary Paulone Carns as secretary.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

**Post Mortem**—Lou reported that the Post Mortem is going well. He reminded members to submit news. Bill will put up a link on the web page, asking for information. The submissions will go to Lou Joseph and Carole Shanahan.

**Education**—Lou reported that he has 18 people in his class at the Fox Chapel Racquet Club. The next PBA lesson series will be in the spring.

**Pupil Games**—Lorraine reported that there were no lessons in November due to scheduling conflicts. She creates a syllabus and lessons and emails the 48 people on her list several times per month. There is not enough attendance to run a 0-5 game after the lessons. Carol will adjust her welcome letter to supply information to new members concerning programs that might benefit them, and give them an opportunity to sign up to receive Lorraine's emails.

**Business Manager**—Mary reported that boards and bid boxes need to be refurbished. She will try to work on that this winter. We need to find a new hospitality person for the unit game. Possibilities were discussed.

**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**—Carole Shanahan will be taking over this position from Phyllis Silver. The Friendship/Condolence responsibilities will be rolled into this position. Duties were reviewed: The ACBL sends a list of new members. The Membership chair sends the member a welcome letter, including a coupon for an entry to the Unit game. Deaths of members need to be reported to the ACBL (along with a link to the obituary). Sympathy cards are sent for deaths of members and close relatives of players (spouse, sibling, child), and get-well cards are sent to players with serious illnesses. Bill Holt will create free entries to be included with the welcome letter. Jane will reimburse for cards and postage.

**Webmaster**—NR

**District 5 and National News**—NR

**Club Liaison**—Jeanne Baseman will be taking over this position. Bill has an email list of club representatives. They make sure that events are announced and that flyers are at the games. Jeanne should review the list and make sure that the job is being done. Bill will get flyers to Jeanne who will get them to the representatives.

**Bridge Teacher Liaison**—NR

## OLD BUSINESS

**Fall Sectional**—Ron Franck reported that things went well. He and Barbara Weinstein thanked the Bergmans for their advice and assistance.

**December STaC Week (Dec. 9 –15)**—Mary reported that plans are underway. PBA-sponsored events are Friday evening and Sunday 2-session Swiss Teams at the Glenshaw Moose, hosted by the Bergmans. There is no Thursday evening game this time.

**Spring Sectional (March 28 – 30)**—Ken reported that plans are underway.

**Holiday Party (Dec. 6)**—Ruthie and Jeanne are in charge. Plans are underway.

## PLANNING BUSINESS

**Learn Bridge in 1 Day**—Bill reported that we have held 3 sessions so far, and attendance is decreasing. The “low hanging fruit” has been plucked. He suggested, and the board agreed, not to schedule a session this winter, but to hold another session on Saturday August 30, during the Regional.

**Supervised Play Game**—Bill suggested holding a bridge game for current students and recent graduates of beginner classes. This would encourage students to move to duplicate bridge in a non-threatening environment. Bridge teachers could bring 1 or 2 tables of students and serve as the supervisors. If a teacher brings more than 2 tables of students, they should bring someone additional to supervise. It was determined to hold the event at the Spring Sectional (March 29), during the second session on Saturday. Lorraine will contact bridge teachers and try to recruit them and their students.

**Membership Roster of the PBA Board**—Mary previously emailed rosters to the members. Members were asked to review their information for accuracy. There are no new board members.

**Committees**—Committee chairs were appointed as indicated on the committee list. [Some changes were made following the meeting]. Election and Recruitment were separated into 2 separate functions.

**Sectionals 2014**—Mary reviewed the following information:

- Site: Sectionals will continue to be at the Masonic Center.
- Dates:
  - 3/38 – 3/30
  - 7/11 – 7/13
  - 11/14 – 11/16
- Operations: Schedules and timing will remain the same as in 2013. Saturday times are 11 AM and 4 PM.
- Fred Schenker will continue as caddymaster.
- Barb updated the document on how to run a sectional
- 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 2015 will be arranged with the Masonic by Ken Bergman after the first of the year

**Unit Game**—Jane reported that things are functioning well.

**Unit Calendar**—Mary presented a proposed calendar for 2014. Issues that were discussed included dates for the Pro-Am Game; The fact that the ACBL wide Instant Matchpoint game is on a Thursday afternoon; and which games to sponsor during STaC week. With respect to the IMP game, Bill Holt will work with Gus and Sandy Schuchert to make sure that there is a heat of this game in Pittsburgh. 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. The calendar was adopted.

**Duplicating Machine & Electronic Scoring**—These have been in use since early in the year and are being used at all unit functions and at Gus Costanzo's games. Except for some minor glitches due to the learning curve, things are going well. It is disappointing that other local clubs have not availed themselves of the opportunity to have preduplicated boards.

**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 Facilitators share one honorarium
  - Hospitality 50%
  - Unit Game Site Liaison 25%
  - Head of Directors 25%
- Both Education Chairs (Lou declined his)
- Newcomer/Novice Programs (shared by 2 people)

#### NEW BUSINESS

**Teaching Bridge to Children**—Jane said that Bruce Stephan is interested in starting a teaching program similar to The First Tee. She asked if anyone was interested in helping. Bill Holt and Lorraine Hanna volunteered. They will meet with Bruce.

#### NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held Friday February 14 at 6:00 PM at Wilkins Township Community Center.

#### ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:35 PM.