

PITTSBURGH BRIDGE ASSOCIATION  
BOARD MEETING

June 27, 2014

**ATTENDANCE:**

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

Absent: J. Baseman, J. Bernhard, L. Hanna, R. Neafach

The meeting was called to order at 5:55 PM by President Barb Bergman. Tonight's meeting had been postponed from June 13 because the site was unavailable on that date.

**PRESIDENT'S REMARKS**

Barb said that Awards Night was a success and Lou was, as usual, a great emcee, and Ron and Shirley Franck were great hosts. The STaC 'n' Snack was also a success with 15.5 tables.

**MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

The minutes from the previous meeting of April 4 were previously e-mailed to the members. The minutes were approved.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

John Bernhard is starting a new game at the Edgeworth Country Club. The game is invitational on Wednesday afternoons at 1:00 PM. His games previously scheduled for Monday evenings and Thursday evenings have been cancelled.

**TREASURER'S REPORT**

Jane presented the Treasurer's report. The data are 2 weeks old because the report was prepared in anticipation of the original meeting date. Cash balance is down \$1800 compared with last year. However rent for the sectionals is prepaid and the cash balance should be increasing for the rest of the year.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Post Mortem—NR**

**Education**—Lou reported that there were 12 students in each class held in the spring--beginners and intermediate. The next session will be in the fall.

**Business Manager**—Mary reported that she will be out of the country on Oct. 10, the scheduled date of the board meeting. After reviewing possible options, the board decided to hold the meeting on September 26.

**Membership**—Carole Shanahan continues to send letters and free entries to new members, and cards to ill and bereaved members.

**Webmaster**—Bill Holt emailed his report to Mary:

There has been a modest amount of trouble with the results posting from the Rodef game. He's working thru the issues.

There have been no complaints about the online partnership desk. Neither has there been much usage, apparently.

The ACBL is suggesting that each Unit and District develop a Facebook page for their activities. Bill thinks that while getting the word out to people about our activities can't be a bad idea, Facebook reinforces the 'watch someone else do something' video game culture we suffer from today. If the Board finds this idea actionable they need to find someone else to handle it. [This issue is discussed under New Business].

Bill needs a backup webmaster who can post changes and cancellations to the site when he is off the grid. Alan Lefcort volunteered.

**Bridge in Schools**— Bill Holt emailed his report to Mary:

The program at the Sewickley Y has been manned almost exclusively by John Bernhard, who I would like to commend for his energy and commitment. Here is John's report on the Y program:

I had 16 total students in 5 Fri classes but only 2 repeated 2 classes.

These 2 students had a good interest and are likely to return in the fall. I gave each person a new deck of cards with the caveat that they would return for another lesson. They were all 6 to 9th graders. The class is suspended for the summer since it was part of the Y's after school program, and even though I told the students that it would continue there was no interest in attending while school is out. I'm looking forward to starting it up again in the fall, with more marketing and PR. It may also fit into another after school Y program for the older kids. Not a great start for the PBA's school lessons program, but at least it was a start.

If we don't get repeat students there is no way we are going to teach anyone how to play. This begs for structure.

We thought we would have a second site up and running at Winchester-Thurston, thanks to the efforts of Barb Weinstein. Meetings were postponed and are now planned for August 8. This is an after-school program - but with a school setting I feel we have a much better chance of a more stable population.

Once we get one, we need a 2nd 'real site' in my view but I have not gotten that effort together as yet.

**District 5 and National News**—Mary reported

- Bridge Finesse, who provides the online partnership desk and Fast Results, requests a donation of \$25, per sectional, to the ACBL Educational Foundation. She suggested that a donation of \$75, covering all 3 sectionals, be made once yearly
- Plans are underway for the upcoming RONI (Labor) day regional. Additions to the schedule are morning Gold Rush Swiss Teams Thursday-Friday and Friday afternoon & evening Gold Rush Swiss. Board members were requested to help distribute flyers and make announcements at games.
- Dick Early, who runs the District 5 Olympiad, is recruiting an administrative chair. Direct questions or offers to Mary.

**Bridge Teacher Liaison**—NR

**Pupil Games**—Lorraine Hanna emailed her report:

- Pupil Game. Lesson is ongoing...attendance remains fairly constant. Still lacking enough interest to hold a pupil game. Good news is that students then play in John's open game.
- Bridge Class at Treesdale Community Center: I have nine students. We are almost finished Bridge Basics.

**Club Liaison**—Jeanne Baseman was absent.

OLD BUSINESS

**Awards Night May 16**—Ron and Lou reported that the evening went well, and attendance was good. Giant Eagle was very good to us.

**Summer STaC June 9-15**—Mary and the board thanked Ruthie and Jeannie for their work at the STaC 'n' Snack

**Summer Sectional July 11-13**—Carole Shanahan reported that plans are progressing. Marcellina is working. Food will be Subway on Saturday and pizza on Sunday.

**Supervised Play Game**—Mary reported for Lorraine that the idea has been tabled. Interest couldn't be generated among the bridge teachers.

**Learn Bridge in One Day**—Plans are in place to hold the event Saturday Aug.30, during the regional. Flyers are out. It was suggested that players keep flyers in the car so they can post them if they come across appropriate places.

**Instant Matchpoint Game Oct. 16**—Mary reported that she got the sanction on behalf of the PBA. The game will be held on Thursday at noon, in lieu of Sandy

Schuchert's game. Sandy will be compensated for rent and for loss of income. Gus will direct. Barb and Ken Bergman are in charge. Bill will make flyers.

#### NEW BUSINESS

**Pro-Am Game**—Jane will start recruiting during the Regional. Ruthie and Jeannie will do hospitality. Jane has developed a plan for a smoother check-in.

**Unit Facebook Page**—Barb Bergman reported that the ACBL is encouraging units and districts to have a Facebook page, and they sent materials with suggestions and formats. It might be a good idea, if we could get an interested person. The page would need to be updated frequently. Members were asked to help to find such a person.

**Hyatt Sales Representatives at the Sectional**—Mary reported that as part of the Hyatt's commitment to help in marketing the Regional, they will have two representatives at the Sectional on Friday afternoon. They will be holding a raffle for a free one-night stay during the regional.

#### NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be August 8 at 6:00 PM at Wilkins.

#### ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 6:35 PM.