

PITTSBURGH BRIDGE ASSOCIATION
PLANNING MEETING
November 24, 2014

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, C. Wang

Absent: G. Goetz, B. Weinstein

The meeting was called to order at 6:10 PM by President Barbara Bergman.

PRESIDENT'S REMARKS

Barb welcomed the members. She reappointed members whose terms are expiring and didn't submit a petition: Ken Bergman, Ron Franck, Bill Holt, Carole Shanahan. The recent Fall Sectional was a success. She thanked the chairs, Ron Franck and Barb Weinstein and all of the workers. She also thanked the board for their help during her presidency and for the gift card she received. There was a round of applause for Barb.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes from the meeting of September 26 were previously e-mailed to the members. The minutes were approved.

CORRESPONDENCE

None.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Jane distributed and reviewed the treasurer's report, which included the first 11 months of 2014. The cash balance is up approximately \$6000. There were separate reports for the Pro Am game, IMP game, and 3 sectionals. The Pro AM game made approximately \$4,500 which benefitted the Colker Fund/Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy. The IMP game essentially broke even; Sectional data:

| Sectional | Spring | Summer | Fall |
|-------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Net Income | \$1273.40 | \$1893.71 | \$2090.54 |
| Tables 2014 | 258.5 | 288 | 254.5 |
| Tables 2013 | 282.5 | 301.5 | 251 |

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Barbara Bergman presided over the election for President. Ron Franck was the only nominee, and was elected unanimously. Ron then took over the meeting. The following officers were the only nominees for their position and were elected unanimously:

Vice President: Lorraine Hanna
Treasurer: Jane Marshall
Ron appointed Mary Paulone Carns as secretary.

Ron thanked Barb Bergman for her work during her presidency, and thanked the board for their confidence in him and their help. He appointed new members Gary Goetz and Chris Wang, and re-appointed Barbara Bergman to the board

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Post Mortem—Lou reported that the Post Mortem is going well. He reminded members to submit news. He mentioned several recent deaths.

Education—Lou reported that there are 2 classes currently. The intermediate class has 20 students and the beginning class has 6 students. The next series will be in the spring.

Business Manager—NR

Membership—Carole Shanahan continues to receive member reports from the ACBL. She sends a letter of introduction, containing a free entry to a Unit Game. She also sends condolences and Get Well cards.

Webmaster—Bill Holt said that Gary Goetz will be the backup webmaster. Bill and Gary will meet to make arrangements. Gary is also planning to develop the Facebook Page for the unit.

Bridge in Schools—Bill Holt reported

- The after-school program in Moon, run by John Bernhard, is working but 5th graders are a little young. There is a tournament on 12/15. Parents are being asked if they would like to continue the program next semester. John is doing a good job
- What is next? There are some volunteers from the East. Possible locations include Winchester-Thurston, Imani, and Fox Chapel.
- Bill will speak with volunteers and seek another site

District 5 and National News—NR

Newcomer & Teacher—Lorraine reported that she is discontinuing the mini-lessons at the Sewickley Y on Fridays, but John Bernhard is doing lessons. Mary said that the PBA has been contacted by a group requesting lessons. This group is unable to pay and won't travel—they want us to come to them. No solutions were offered.

Club Liaison—Jeanne Baseman reported that the next events are the Holiday Party and STaC week. Flyers are being distributed.

OLD BUSINESS

Instant MP Game Oct 16—Barb Bergman reported that there were 32 tables. The event went well and Gus did a great job directing. Moving the event to noon was highly successful.

Pro-Am Game Oct 23—Jane reported that the event went well; we gave over \$4000 to the charity and got a nice letter. Also the Colkers are matching the PBA's donation.

Fall Sectional—Ron Franck reported that Barbara Weinstein and Carol Henderson worked tirelessly. He thanked them. Table count was up, but there was no Steeler game. Lighting is still an issue and extra lights were used.

Holiday Party (Dec. 5)—Ruthie and Jeanne are in charge. They asked about using the kitchen. Jane will speak with Wilkins to confirm that they are allowed to use the kitchen. [Following the meeting, Mary reviewed the contract, which allows use of the kitchen. Jane confirmed this verbally with Wilkins].

December STaC Week (Dec. 8 –14)—Mary reported that plans are underway. PBA-sponsored events are Thursday Evening STaC 'n' Snack and Friday evening pairs. There is no Sunday game this time.

Thursday STaC Game (Dec. 11)—Barb Weinstein is in charge and was absent. Flyers are out.

Spring Sectional (March 20 – 22)—Barb Bergman reported that plans are underway.

PLANNING BUSINESS

Guidelines for Behavior in Unit 142—Mary reported that the Disciplinary committee suggested that guidelines be developed and published. Mary and Barb worked on guidelines, which are an adaptation of those published on the ACBL website. The proposed guidelines were emailed to the board members. A motion to adopt the guidelines was passed unanimously. (Guidelines are attached to minutes). The guidelines shall be published in full in the Post Mortem, as soon as practical; will be available on the PBA website, and the web address of the guidelines will be published in every Post Mortem.

Recorder Information—The Disciplinary Committee also suggested that information regarding the Recorder's function, and contact information be published. There is information on the ACBL website at http://www.acbl.org/tournaments_page/general-information/tournament-

[management/recorder-regulations-and-procedures/](#). This address, plus the name and contact information for the recorder will be published periodically in the Post Mortem. Barb Bergman will meet with the recorder and review the guidelines for the position. Recorder forms should be made available at all unit functions.

Learn Bridge in 1 Day—Bill asked if anyone knows how many LB1D students are playing, and how many are taking lessons. There is going to be a program in Cleveland. Mary mentioned that District 5 will subsidize up to \$400 for each program. Bill is willing to continue running the program.

Unit Facebook Page—Ron reported that he spoke with Gary Goetz, who is willing to be in charge of the page.

Awards for New Member Recruitment—Carole Shanahan reported that John Bernhard got information from the ACBL regarding rewards available for new member recruitment. The ACBL offers

- An upgraded Club Championship for every 10 new members recruited by a club
- \$100 gift card for Baron Barclay for every 25 new members in a year
- \$500 check for recruiting 100 new members over any time period

Darlene Mannheimer received the \$500 award. John suggested unit recognition for Darlene's accomplishment such as publishing it in the Post Mortem or announcing at a sectional. John suggested offering something to those individuals who recruit new members. Possibilities were discussed. The board instructed John to develop a structured proposal if he wishes to pursue this idea.

Corporate Sponsorship of Sectionals—Ron Franck talked to Robert Hartman who said approximately 10% of tournaments have sponsors. Ron will get more information.

Lack of Directors—Bill Holt discussed that our directors are aging and/or retiring. We currently have too few directors and the problem will worsen soon without action. Several situations were mentioned. There are many people who are directors, but who don't direct. Bill suggested using some of the funds in the treasury to attract people to be directors. We can't directly support private clubs, but we could develop a program to attract directors by offering a bonus for taking the director course, passing the test and directing some games. Various possibilities were discussed. Mary agreed to develop a proposal and present it at the next meeting.

Membership Roster of the PBA Board—Mary previously emailed rosters to the members. Members were asked to review their information for accuracy, and a few corrections were made. There are two new board members.

Committees—Committee chairs and members were appointed as indicated on the committee list.

Sectionals—Mary reviewed the following information:

- Bill distributed a document showing attendance over the last 5 years. He commented that the date really matters. Attendance has been stable in the Fall and the tournament has been in the same week. In the summer, the largest attendance was the third week of July. In the spring, later is better. Comparing our attendance with nationwide numbers, we outdraw all 3-day sectionals except for those in “bridge hotbeds”.
- Dates in 2015:
 - 3/20 – 3/22
 - 7/10 – 7/12
 - 11/13 – 11/15
- Director: Mike Roberts will have other commitments during at least some of the tournaments. Thus chairs will need to work carefully with the directors concerning operations. There is a document on the ACBL webpage reviewing items to be discussed between chairs and the head director.
- Schedule—current events are working well. We have received many requests to shorten the time between sessions on Saturday but the directors oppose this.
- Newcomer games: Top MPs will be raised to 500. Strats initially will be 100/300/500
- Dates for 2016: Spring is sanctioned for 4/8-4/10. Other dates will be arranged with the Masonic by Ken Bergman after the first of the year.

Unit Game—Mary reported that rates are going up from \$80/night to \$100/night at Wilkins, beginning Feb. 1. She suggested increasing table fees from \$6 to \$7 as of Jan. 1. The board unanimously agreed.

Unit Calendar—Mary presented a proposed calendar for 2015. Jan has already obtained the date of Oct. 8 for the Pro-Am Game; The ACBL-wide Instant Matchpoint game is on a Friday Morning—Bill Holt will work with Gus, who has a sanction for that session; 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.

Special Events—

Payment for director was last reviewed in Nov 2011. Some items weren't discussed, and prices have gone up. The following payment schedule was adopted.

1 session (will usually be pairs and will have bridgemates)

- 1 section up to 18 tables/section--\$80
- 2 sections -- \$115
- 3 sections --\$150

2 sessions

- up to 18 tables--\$150
- more than 18 tables--\$200

Events:

- Thursday STaC game in June
- Pro Am Game Oct. 8
- IMP game Friday AM Oct 16
- Thursday STaC game in December OR Sunday STaC Swiss in December

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

- President (declined by Ron Franck)
- Both Post Mortem Editors
- Webmaster
- Treasurer
- Secretary
- Business Manager
- Unit Operations Facilitators share one honorarium
 - Hospitality setup 25%
 - Hospitality cleanup 25% plus free entries
 - Unit Game Site Liaison 25%
 - Head of Directors 25%
- Both Education Chairs (Lou declined his)
- Newcomer/Novice Programs (shared by 2 people)

NEW BUSINESS

None

NEXT MEETING

The December meeting is canceled. The next meeting will be held Friday February 13, 2015 at 6:00 PM at Wilkins Township Community Center.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 PM.