

PITTSBURGH BRIDGE ASSOCIATION  
PLANNING MEETING  
November 23, 2015

ATTENDANCE:

Present: R. Franck, L. Hanna, M. P. Carns, J. Baseman, B. Bergman, K. Bergman, J. Bernhard, G. Goetz, L. Joseph, R. Neafach, C. Wang, B. Weinstein

Absent: W. Holt, J. Marshall, C. Shanahan

The meeting was called to order at 6:15 PM by President Ron Franck.

PRESIDENT'S REMARKS

Ron thanked the members for their hard work during the first year of his presidency.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes from the meeting of October 9 were previously e-mailed to the members. The minutes were approved.

CORRESPONDENCE

None.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Jane was absent. A printed report was distributed. The checking and Money Market accounts total \$17,195. Some expenses for the Fall Sectional haven't yet been recorded. Honoraria will be paid Dec. 15.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

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

Vice President: Lorraine Hanna

Treasurer: Jane Marshall

Ron reappointed Mary Paulone Carns as secretary.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

**Post Mortem**—Lou reported that the Post Mortem is going well. Many club managers are still not sending in names of repeat winners.

**Education**—Lou reported that today was the last day of fall classes. There are 20 students in the intermediate class and 15 beginners. The next classes will be in the spring. There was a discussion about what happens to students when the classes end. The unit previously awarded free entries to club games but few

entries were used. These entries are no longer being distributed but outstanding entries will be honored.

**Business Manager**—NR

**Membership**—Carole Shanahan was absent.

**Webmaster**—Bill Holt was absent. Mary reported that it has been suggested to have email lists (opt-in) for participating clubs so that players can be notified about cancellations. Bill is willing to set up a web form but we would need volunteers to develop the lists and send the emails.

**Facebook Page**—Gary reported no problems.

**Bridge in Schools**—

- Bill was absent but emailed this report:
  - As of mid-December we will have added our 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Schools.
    - Fox Chapel (Dorseyville Middle) will have 6 in-class sessions between Dec 01 and Feb 01. Paul Caplan is the lead, assisted by Sharon Drake and Dan McKinley. Jeanne Baseman – who got us our audience here in the first place - is handling the volunteer coordination, and has plenty of people who stepped up to help. The background screening of the volunteers here is rigorous, with 2 State of PA and 1 FBI screen required. There are 24 students. There was an orientation session for volunteers on 11/19/
    - Sewickley Academy is allowing us only two class sessions, right before the Christmas break. Bill Holt is the lead here. No screening of the volunteers is required. Lorraine Hanna has assisted in compiling a roster of volunteers. The Headmaster has suggested that if it is well-received we can morph it into an after-school Bridge Club.
    - Moon Middle continues in its 2<sup>nd</sup> year, with John Bernhard working very hard. The class is divided into beginner and intermediate. Uneven attendance of students and volunteers creates a challenge. However, a Math teacher there has offered to set up an after school bridge club.
  - With John, and now Paul and Sharon and Dan achieving clearance and experience, we are better stocked at the 'Leader' position. But we could still use more volunteers.

- John reviewed the BiS program. There are 17 volunteers. A letter will be sent to parents inviting them to LB1D
- Mary asked Bill & John to provide a list of supplies, and all requests for supplies need to go through Bill Holt. This will help in planning supply purchases.

**District 5 and National News**—Mary reported that the RONI regional is moving to the Monroeville Convention Center/Doubletree Hotel, and the Cleveland Regionals are moving to the Embassy Suites in Independence, OH.

**Newcomer & Teacher**—NR.

**Club Liaison**—Jeanne Baseman reported that flyers have been distributed for STaC week and the Holiday party. Chris Wang will be taking over this position.

## OLD BUSINESS

**Pro-Am Game**—Jane was absent. She told Mary that she is going to have more helpers next year.

**Instant MP Game Oct 16**—Barb Bergman reported we lost money, because the unit subsidizes the increased entry fees charged by the ACBL. This event won't be held in Pittsburgh in 2016 because it conflicts with the Fall Sectional.

**Halloween Party**—Mary reported that there were only 2 non-board members who wore costumes, and one of these was only a mask. She suggested discontinuing this event. The board agreed.

**Fall Sectional**—Ron Franck reported that the table count was down about 10%, but attendance has been down for all unit sectionals this year. There was positive feedback about the event. There will be a full report at the next meeting when finances are complete.

**Holiday Party (Dec. 4)**—Ruthie and Jeanne are in charge. Ron will help move the tables after the afternoon game.

**December STaC Week (Dec. 7 –13)**—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. 10)**—Barb Weinstein reported that the event will be held at Glenshaw Presbyterian. Gus is directing.

**Spring Sectional (April 8 – 10)**—Barb Bergman reported that we may not have help in the kitchen. Also, the Gatlinburg tournament starts the day after.

## PLANNING BUSINESS

**LB1D**—Bill Holt was absent. He sent the following report:

We altered our license with Whirlwind Bridge, the provider, to a site license, which allows up to 5 different people to present the program. Brad Craig presented a program in Johnstown last month to 15-20 people.

Jeanne Baseman suggested that we offer LB1D to the parents of the children in the BiS programs – of which there are now 3. We are set for Jan 23 & 30 at the Masonic Center. We have opened the enrollment to all, not just the parents. Flyers have been ordered which will be roughly \$200, 75% co-op'd by the ACBL. Masonic rent is \$75 for up to 9 tables. We need to make sure that the flyers are distributed to clubs and the public.

We have decided NOT to offer printed manuals this time around, just the PDF distributed via email. I sent an email message out to previous attendees and also to folks who expressed an interest but could not make the Labor Day events. It was decided that we should charge \$10 pp for this, as if it was 'Free' there is the impression of low-value and an increased likelihood of no-shows.

**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 no new board members.

**Committees**—Committee chairs and members were appointed as indicated on the committee list. New Committees are BiS, LB1D, and Volunteer Recruitment.

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

- A “sectional attendance” document was emailed to members. Attendance is down for all sectionals this year.
- Dates in 2016:
  - 4/8 – 4/10
  - 7/15 – 7/17
  - 10/14 – 10/16
- Directors: Alex and Gus are doing well. Gary is working as a Tournament Assistant when needed.
- 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 have been raised to 500. This is working well.
- Dates for 2017: Spring is sanctioned for 3/24-3/26. Other dates are tentative: 7/14-7/16 & 10/27-10/29.
- Hospitality: Barb Bergman discussed personnel issues. There are questions of pay and hours. Several possibilities were discussed

including the possibility of hiring personnel only for Saturday, simplifying hospitality, hiring bridge players or caddies to help. Barb will work on this.

**Sectional Responsibilities**—Barb Bergman updated the Sectional Responsibilities document and it was emailed to the members. Changes include that Chairs must make sure that their sectional is registered in advance for Fast Results. The ACBL has changed the way that they disburse funds. The unit treasurer gets the receipts from the director and pays all of the bills—the director no longer pays some of the bills.

**Unit Game**—Mary reports no problems

**Unit Calendar**—Mary presented a proposed calendar for 2016. The calendar was adopted.

**Special Events**—

- Fossick-Goodman Swiss June 5, Edgewood Country Club
- Thursday STaC game in June
- Pro Am Game Sept. 22 at Rodef Shalom. No October dates were available. By ACBL rules, the International Fund must be a beneficiary of special games held in September.
- IMP game Friday Oct 14 conflicts with Fall Sectional so we won't hold it in 2016
- Thursday STaC game in December OR Sunday STaC Swiss in December pending Steeler schedule. There may not be a site available for Sunday since Gus moved to Glenshaw Presbyterian

**Honoraria**—A bonus for Gus was discussed. The board voted unanimously to give him a \$300 bonus. 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)

It was suggested that Lorraine Hanna receive ½ share for her Volunteer Recruitment efforts. She declined, so this wasn't voted on.

#### OTHER BUSINESS

**Clock**—Chris suggested and requested that the unit get clocks for Sectionals. Barb Bergman will look into this.

**Computer**—Gary said the computer has been purchased. It still needs to be set up to work with electronic scorers.

**Private Club**—Barb Weinstein reported that the Shufflers Club has changed from NLM to 0-1000, still invitational.

#### NEXT MEETING

The December meeting is canceled. The next meeting will be held Friday February 12, 2016 at 6:00 PM at Wilkins Township Community Center.

#### ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:20 PM.