

PITTSBURGH BRIDGE ASSOCIATION
PLANNING MEETING
November 21, 2016

ATTENDANCE:

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

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 his presidency. He said that he didn't previously realize how much work it takes to run a unit. Bill Holt presented a gift to Ron on behalf of the unit.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes from the meeting of October 7 were previously e-mailed to the members. The minutes were approved.

CORRESPONDENCE

John Bernhard is the new manager of the Longue Vue club.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Jane distributed a printed report. The operations account is down by \$2043 and the Vanguard account is up by \$2142, giving a net plus of \$99. The Friday night Unit game needs to have 9 tables to break even. Current average is 8.95. The team game is usually 11-12 tables, so it is keeping the game alive.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

The following officers were the only nominees for their position and were elected unanimously:

President: Lorraine Hanna

Vice President: Chris Wang

Treasurer: John Alioto

Lorraine reappointed Mary Paulone Carns as secretary.

Lorraine then took over and ran the rest of the meeting. She thanked the members for continuing to serve on the board.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Post Mortem—Ron reported that Arlene will continue as editor, but in the long term we need to plan for someone to take over.

Education, including BiS and LB1D—Bill reported that Paul Caplan is the new coordinator of bridge education in existing venues.

- There are not enough teachers. Paul suggested a TAP sponsored by the unit. Mary said that the regional would donate space, but it might not be soon enough. Volunteers are also a problem. An article in the Post Mortem resulted in zero volunteers.
- **BiS**
 - Fox Chapel is going well.
 - Moon is an after-school program with 25 students, some interested and some not. John Bernhard said that there is a tournament scheduled Dec. 15 & volunteers are needed.
 - Getting volunteers at the last minute can be problematic since clearance is needed, but it can be done relatively easily online.
- **LB1D**
 - Next class is Jan. 28 at Wilkins.
 - Members are asked to post flyers and make announcements.

Business Manager—NR

Membership—Lorraine reported that Carol Bolen is taking over this position, but Carol declined an invitation to join the board.

Webmaster—NR.

Facebook Page—NR.

District & National News—Mary said that the rooms at the Embassy Suites in Independence OH will sell out for the Rock 'n' Roll Regional in January and encouraged members to make reservations early.

Newcomer, Teacher, Volunteers—Lorraine has 10 students in Bridge Basics 3 and 19 in the intermediate class.

Club Liaison—Chris reported that STaC/Holiday Party flyers are going out. Bill emphasized that members should make sure that announcements are being made at clubs.

OLD BUSINESS

Fall Sectional—Ron reported that all went well. There is too much time between sessions on Saturday. It was decided to change the Saturday times to 11 and 3:30 for 2017.

Holiday Party Dec. 2—Ruthie will be away but will help with cooking in advance. Jeanne will get a helper and needs people to help move tables.

December STaC Week (Dec. 5–11)—Mary reported that plans are underway. PBA-sponsored events are Thursday Evening STaC ‘n’ Snack and Friday evening pairs. There is no Sunday game.

Thursday STaC Game (Dec. 8)—The game is at Wilkins; Gus is directing. Ron and Ken are helping. Leftover supplies from the Holiday party can be used.

Hospitality Friday Unit Game—Lorraine said that no volunteers have come forward. Various scenarios were discussed. It was decided that there will be no hospitality starting January 1, unless volunteers come forward, or someone volunteers to organize a group of volunteers. Announcements will be made and flyers will be printed.

NEW PLANNING BUSINESS

Teacher Accreditation Program—Discussed above under Education

Mentoring Program—Lorraine said she wants to revitalize the Mentoring Program. The Saturday 0-5 game has 3.5 to 5 tables and these players are anxious to advance. Starting in January, there will be a weekly Intermediate Game as well. Chris Wang volunteered to coordinate a program. It would be limited to players with <200 points. Lorraine has information from the ACBL website. Bill can arrange signups via the web page.

Costs and Prices—Barb Bergman said that we aren’t making money on Sectionals; attendance is down and costs are up. Rent at the Masonic is \$3750; rent is going up to \$4000 in 2017. Players prefer the Masonic and there are no other affordable, suitable sites that players like. Discussion included controlling costs and increasing fees. A minor price increase to \$25 per pair (from \$12 per person) was decided for open events. Swiss Teams: \$100; 499er Swiss: \$88.

PLANNING BUSINESS

Membership Roster of the PBA Board—Mary previously emailed rosters to the members. Members were asked to review their information for accuracy. Two outgoing members are Gary Goetz and Carole Shanahan.

Committees—Committee chairs and members were appointed as indicated on the committee list. The information reported here was finalized after the meeting. Specific Discussions:

- IMP Game (Wed. Afternoon) —Clubs with regular sanctions in this time period don’t object to the unit running the IMP Game. We have a sanction. Gus will direct. We may need a site. Bergmans will chair.
- Pro-Am Game—Date is Oct. 19 at Rodef. Gus is aware. Jane is stepping down but will help with the transition. The process was discussed.

Sectionals—Mary reviewed the following information:

- A “sectional attendance” document was emailed to members.
- Dates in 2017:
 - 3/24 – 3/26
 - 7/14 – 7/16
 - 10/27 – 10/29
- Dates for 2018: There are some changes at the Masonic and Ken hasn’t been able to discuss yet.
- Prices and Times were discussed above.

Unit Game—Mary reports no problems except for the hospitality issue.

Unit Calendar—Mary presented a proposed calendar for 2017. The calendar was adopted.

Special Events—

- Fossick-Goodman Swiss June 11, Edgewood Country Club
- Thursday STaC game in June
- Pro Am Game October 19 at Rodef Shalom
- IMP game Wednesday Afternoon Oct 25
- 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 Lorraine Hanna)
- Post Mortem Editor
- Webmaster
- Treasurer
- Secretary
- Business Manager
- Unit Game Hospitality
 - Hospitality setup 50% plus free entries
 - Hospitality cleanup 50% plus free entries
- Unit Operations Facilitators share 1/2 honorarium
 - Unit Game Site Liaison 25%
 - Head of Directors 25%
- Education Chair (Bill declined his and assigned his to the Teaching Facilitator and BiS Facilitator)
- Teaching Facilitator and BiS Facilitator share one honorarium
- Newcomer/Novice Programs (shared by 2 people)

NEXT MEETING

The December meeting is canceled. The next meeting will be held Friday February 10, 2017 at 6:00 PM at Wilkins Township Community Center.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 PM.