

PITTSBURGH BRIDGE ASSOCIATION
BOARD MEETING

February 10, 2017

ATTENDANCE:

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

Absent: B. Bergman, B. Weinstein

The meeting was called to order at 6:03 PM by President Lorraine Hanna.

PRESIDENT'S REMARKS

Lorraine welcomed the members and thanked them for their hard work.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes from the November meeting had been emailed to the members and were approved.

CORRESPONDENCE

None.

TREASURER'S REPORT

John Alioto distributed the treasurer's report.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Post Mortem—Ron was late and this report was done out of sequence. Arlene Port plans to continue editing and printing the Post Mortem. There was a discussion of what to do when Arlene retires. Some possibilities include publishing a similar PM but online only, or having a news sheet posted on the web page.

Education—Bill reported

- **BiS**
 - Fox Chapel is having no problems. Students are grades 6-8. Jeanne reported that they are ready for next semester. There were 29-34 students for each of the 6 sessions.
 - Woodland Hills is going well; Ruthie reported that there are 4 consistent tables. The students (middle school) are happy.
 - Moon is having some difficulties. It is an after-school program. The students are younger (5-6 grade), some students are not focused and the volunteer teachers get frustrated. The program will continue through this school year but thereafter will need to be re-evaluated.

- **LB1D**
 - Had 28 students in the first session on January 28. Of these, 23 attended session 2. Some signed up for Lorraine's 0-5 game.
 - There will be a class at the Regional with the follow-up 2 weeks later.
 - It is time for license renewal. A site license is an extra \$50 but allows up to 5 teachers. We will get this license.
- **Education Classes:** NR.

Business Manager—NR.

Membership—Lorraine reported. Carol Bolen is the new Membership Chair. Send information to Carole regarding news and illnesses. Mary proposed that Membership activities be converted to electronic-only. The currently printed letters will be sent via email. As a substitute for a printed free entry, the new member may print the email and use it at the Unit Game. This procedure will be adopted.

Webmaster—NR.

District 5 and National News—Regional flyers will be out by the time of the Spring Sectional. Strat B ceiling will be raised to 2500.

Newcomer /Bridge Teacher Liaison/Volunteer Recruitment

- Lorraine will send a request for volunteers for Moon.
- The 0-5 game is doing well; the 0-99 game isn't making.

Club Liaison—Chris Wang is distributing sectional flyers. Ken said that we need to get sectional flyers to other units. Chris will get a list from Ken.

Publicity—Lorraine reported that Sharon Drake is the new reporter for the Fifth Column.

OLD BUSINESS

Spring Sectional Mar. 24-26—Bill Holt is chair; he recruited Mary Lou Flach and John Bernhard as co-chairs. Plans are progressing. There is a glitch with kitchen help for Saturday.

Fossick-Goodman Teams June 11—The originally planned date of June 4 wasn't available at Edgewood, so the event was scheduled a week later. The Butler Sectional is currently scheduled the same weekend. Butler is evaluating other options.

Pro Am October 19—Jane reported Chris and Jeanne got information from her and she is mentoring them.

IMP Game Oct. 25 (Wednesday Afternoon)—Bill reported that all directors with competing games have agreed. Gus will direct; Mary got a sanction; Gus is working to make sure that Glenshaw is available.

TAP Program—Bill reported that Paul Caplan suggested that the unit run a TAP. The easiest time/location would be during the regional. The ACBL charges \$1700 up front which may be partly or entirely offset by tuition fees. There are also charges for presenters' rooms. The ACBL provides advertising. The regional would donate space. The course is 10 hours over 3 days. An open-book test at the end leads to accreditation. Charging \$95 would lead to break-even with 20 students. We could offer discounts to unit or district members.

Discussion included the possibility of the District acting as co-sponsor, and of the unit and/or District offsetting some of the losses if the break-even point isn't reached. It was decided that Mary will contact the District regarding co-sponsorship, and Bill will send an email blast to gauge interest. There is a timing issue because the regional flyers are coming out within the next month, and the ACBL has a long lead time for advertising.

Hospitality at Unit Games—Jean Picone volunteered to do setup. Ron Franck volunteered to clean up once monthly. However, Jean isn't here every week; and part of the purpose of hospitality is to attract players. It was felt that hit-and-miss hospitality wasn't an option. Therefore, a motion passed that unless someone volunteers to set up and clean up weekly, there will be no hospitality, effective immediately.

Mentoring Program—Chris asked for help in determining what we are trying to accomplish. We need to determine goals, start a program, and keep the program running. Lorraine and Bill will help.

Sectional Dates 2018—Ken reported that there has been a change in management at the Masonic, and he has been unable to meet with them to date. He will try to arrange a meeting.

Job Descriptions—Lorraine Hanna has asked people to prepare job descriptions for their positions. She suggested keeping notes as jobs are being done. There are also some descriptions on the ACBL website.

NEW BUSINESS

Awards Night May 12—Ron reported that winners haven't been showing up. He proposed giving a free entry for that night to the winners (first place in each category for Ace of Clubs and Mini-McKinney). The motion passed. Ron will call each winner personally.

Thursday STaC 'n' Snack game June 15)—Ruthie and Jeannie are in charge. A site and a director need to be obtained.

Location change for Friday Unit Game?—John Bernhard proposed moving the game to the Hampton Inn on McKnight Road. He had previously sent an email stating the advantages to be: newer facility, less rent (\$90), easier drive, they will set up and tear down the tables, central location, they will provide coffee and tea (\$20 per time), no lease required. Necessary information that was missing includes: availability of secure storage for tables and unit equipment and supplies and measurements of room. A brief discussion included traffic issues, possibly losing current faithful players with no assurance of replacing them, the fact that without a lease we have no assurance that games wouldn't be cancelled if the space was rented to others, and the fact that Gus would probably be unable to direct there (and he directs approximately ½ of the games). There wasn't enough time for a thorough discussion. John will get the missing information before the next meeting. NOTE: after the meeting ended, John notified the president that he had withdrawn his proposal.

“Rain Out”—Bill presented a program whereby last-minute (within 24 hours of game time) cancellations can be texted to players who have opted in. This is a free service and would be administered by the unit. Players can opt out at any time. Information would still be presented on the website. This would take the place of the current phone message. The board approved this plan. Bill will make flyers for distribution at all club games.

Bonding for Treasurer—Postponed until next meeting due to lack of time.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be the April 7, 2017 at 6:00 PM at Wilkins.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 6:55 PM.