

Louisiana Bridge Association
Minutes of Board Meeting January 9, 2024

The meeting was called to order at 4:10 PM by the President. Present were Larry Federico, Newt Jackson, Sid Leblanc, Kathy Logue, Jennifer Holmes, Sherrie Goodman, Keenan Romig, Vicki Willis, Wayne Weisler and Mike Russell. Absent was Quin Bates.

Minutes

Minutes of the December meeting were accepted.

Election of Officers

The next order of business was the election of the new members of the Executive Board. There were two nominees for President, Keenan Romig and Newt Jackson. Each spoke briefly as to their reasons for running. A written ballot was taken and Keenan Romig was elected President. Nominated for Vice President were Newt Jackson and Vicki Willis. Newt deferred his nomination to Jennifer Holmes. By written ballot, Vicki Willis was elected Vice President. Sid LeBlanc was nominated unopposed for Treasurer and accepted. Nominated unopposed for Recording Secretary was Kathy Logue (accepted). Nominated unopposed for Membership Secretary was Sherrie Goodman (accepted). Jennifer Holmes will remain Publicity Chair and Wayne Weisler will continue in charge of Maintenance.

Financial Report

Sid gave the financial report noting that the club profit excluding non recurring items improved from -\$51,000 in 2022 to -\$13,000 in 2023. This was greatly due in to the efforts of Sherrie Goodman with the virtual club, Carol Jambon and Kathy Plauche with limited player and newcomer games. It is to be noted that Sherrie started the virtual club for the LBA and has managed it from day one. Without her efforts the club might not be here today. We had another excellent month on investment returns. The finance report was accepted.

Sid mentioned that an audit of our books is due and required by the bylaws. Keenan said that Steve Romig and John Hurley, both CPAs, have offered to assist with this task. Sid will follow up with them.

Maintenance

Wayne reported that we are still awaiting installation of our security cameras. There was some confusion on meeting for the installation; Jennifer will get with Wayne to follow up. Sherrie commented that only three fans are working properly and Wayne will look into replacements needed. Keenan mentioned that we may be experiencing some thermostat issues which should be addressed. Larry commented that he has found instances where both the air conditioning and the heating are running at the same time and the club is unoccupied. Keenan will speak to Suzanne Cliffe and Jenny Sauviac (in charge of directors) about reminding the directors about the proper temperature for thermostats/ closing procedures.

Deferred Maintenance

A committee has been formed to determine the most pressing repair/replacement needs of the club and to prioritize them. The endowment from John Onstott will be used to fund some repairs. The committee will be chaired by Jackie Madden (Newt requested that Jackie take charge and Keenan will speak to her). In addition to Newt Jackson, other members of the committee are Mike Russell, Larry Federico and Wayne Weisler.

Club Manager's Report

Sherrie reported that we are moving our Fall 499 tournament to September 19-20 to allow some space between that tournament and the Dottie Toledano tournament in November. We had hoped to co-chair a Novice/Intermediate Regional tournament with Nashville this year but they are no longer interested. Sherrie is now looking at the possibility of co-chairing a N/I Regional with Huntsville or Birmingham in March of 2025. We have approval to hold the Regional at our club if we can accommodate 60 tables, which we can do.

We have gotten a lot of recognition from the District as well as ACBL for our large turnout for the Eight is Enough Swiss team event held in October. We would like to schedule similar games two or three times a year. Jennifer noted that the next proposed Eight is Enough game will be a St. Patrick's day theme with a March date to be determined.

Sherrie also reported that we are still 5th in the country for our BBO tables even though our games have gotten considerably smaller recently.

Publicity

Jennifer reminded all that we are having a cleaning day at the club on Sunday January 28, a good time to have fun and assist with some much-needed maintenance of bridgemates, bidding boxes and cupholders. Pizza and football watching will be provided. She advised that Name tags have been ordered for the new board members. Lowen's classes start this Saturday morning. The Thursday morning Circle Bridge is thriving; Board members are encouraged to come out and meet our new players and offer assistance where needed.

Other Business

Larry reminded everyone that decisions on matters such as game times, card fees and the 45 minute time for reporting any errors in scoring--once voted on by the board--should not be repeatedly brought up by board members requesting changes to the board's decision.

It was determined that the club will be open on Mardi Gras Day and the game time is to be determined once the parade route is confirmed. We will be serving hot dogs with chili, potato salad and king cake after the game. Keenan will find someone to handle the food; Larry will be responsible for roping off the parking lot/monitoring parking for players.

Attendance has been minimal at our Saturday games. It was suggested that we offer a gimmick such as a free play drawing on Saturday to boost attendance. Nothing was decided. Also, throughout the week, Directors should remind the players of a scheduled Saturday game.

It was decided that regular tournaments should have two co-chairs to assure coverage throughout the tournament. It was recognized that Susan Beoubay has been doing an outstanding job as tournament chairman but should have someone with whom responsibility can be shared.

The suggestion box: There was a complaint that the no one was manning the partnership desk at the recent tournament to assist with finding partnerships. It is important that the partnership desk be manned prior to each event to assist with finding partners where needed. Keenan will follow up to ensure that the responsibilities of Partnership Chair for tournaments is properly understood as there may have been some miscommunication on that issue.

The Meeting was adjourned at 5:15 pm.

Kathy Logue
Recording Secretary