

Louisiana Bridge Association
Board of Directors Meeting
December 9, 2019

The meeting was called to order by the president at 2:30 p.m. Present were Carolyn Dubois, Ellen Lappa, Lowen, Hunter McFadden, Jackie Madden, Wayne Weisler, Mary LeBlanc, Steve Romig, Suzanne Cliffe. Absent: Vicki Willis and Theresa Federico.

There was a presentation by two players, Lynn Peterson and Carol Abadie, that work with the Senior Olympics held annually. They include a bridge component and they are proposing that it be held at the LBA on March 5th, a Thursday. They said that the games are usually only 4 to 5 tables. The Board agreed that if it were on a different day, such as Wednesday or Saturday when the club is not as busy, it might be possible. The dates have already been published for 2020 but Lynn and Carol will see if another day is possible in 2021. The Board voted that they would be able to use the facility for free if there were a possible date in the future.

Diana Powell representing the mentoring committee, consisting of Carolyn Dubois, Sherrie Goodman, Wayne Weisler, and Janice Zazulak, then made a presentation for the club to sponsor a mentoring game in the Eight is Enough format. It would be scheduled for the morning of February 12, 2020 at 10:00 a.m. The players would be matched by the committee rather than providing their own team. The club will provide a light lunch/finger sandwiches. There will be the regular open game held at noon for the players that don't want to participate in the mentoring game. A motion was made to accept this format and it was voted on and approved by the Board.

Keenan Romig, acting as the Director Coordinator, then spoke about the scheduling issues she faces with not having enough directors to cover the games. Currently we have rotating directors on Saturday. She said that she was having a holiday dinner at her house for the directors and she requested the checks for their bonus money to give them at that time. She said that the directors pay schedules have been the same for approximately 5 years and that she is proposing an increase in the pay based on the number of tables in a game. The base pay is \$70/game for a game with up to 7 tables. For any tables over 7, the director would receive an additional \$3.00. Previously this additional \$3 per table was initiated when a game had more than 10 tables. Based upon the number of games that we have that have more than 7 tables, Keenan estimates that it would cost the club approximately \$600 more per year in directors' fees than we are currently paying. The Board approved this, effective January 1, 2020.

Sherrie Goodman presented the list of Special Games for 2021. The only one that was eliminated was the one scheduled for March 31. It would have had to start in the afternoon and that is a Tuesday when our games start at 10:30 a.m. The Longest Day game will be held on June 24 and Steve Romig volunteered to chair. The club will donate a year's free play again to the raffle winner. This does not cover special games or tournaments. On December 17th, 2020, the game that day will need to start at 11:45 rather than noon.

Tournaments: The Board voted to hold a two session Swiss team for the January and May 2020 tournaments to compare the attendance to the single session. The Board can revisit this at any time to see if the attendance warrants the two session event. It was also voted to discontinue the 0-20 games held on Thursdays of the tournaments as there has not been enough participation for the last few tournaments. On Friday morning, there will be a 0-99 section at the same time as the other sections and 0-5 mps will play for free. Kathy Plauche has agreed to make signs for tournaments and sign up sheets. Susan Beobay has volunteered to chair the upcoming tournaments.

It was voted to dispense with the reading of the minutes of the November meeting.

Steve Romig presented the financial statements. He said that we are even or ahead of last year on income other than the money we spent on improvements. We have approximately \$98,000 in Vanguard and \$20,000 in cash.

Memorial Games: The Board voted that the club should pay for the engraving of the names of the deceased members for the plaque.

Carolyn said that she makes announcements to the 499'er games and would like someone to make them for the open games. Ellen said that she will do it on Mondays and Wayne will make them on Tuesdays.

Lowen wanted to clarify the District recorder. In the July Board meeting the Board was told that the District 10 President would now handle our unit's discipline starting January 1, 2020. Lowen clarified in an email that the District 10 President will be the Charging Party for all matters handled at the District Level. Due to the size of our unit, Robb Gordon, the ACBL National Recorder, advised that if we have the need for a local recorder we may make the request to Larry Sealy, the District Recorder. Lowen would like this request to be made for January.

Wayne Weisler and Elizabeth Sewell, the directors that have been handling the Sunday 299'er game, have recommended that game be canceled due to lack of attendance. That was approved by the Board.

Maintenance: There has been a suggestion that we have "diverters" added to the air conditioning vents in order to disperse the air more evenly. Wayne hasn't been able to find any that are "pre-made". He said that he may have to have them made. Mary LeBlanc said that Woods Air Conditioning that came out and looked at the balancing doesn't do that kind of work. Wayne will continue to look for options.

Nominating Committee: Recommended that we introduce the Board candidates prior to games.

Hunter McFadden reported that he has been working on consolidating our information on contracts and rental agreements. We currently pay \$500/2 months for 15 parking places per day at the Asian Food Market. He is also looking at the insurance renewal which is coming up and ordering the hams and turkeys for the Holiday Pot Luck lunch to be held on Friday, December 20.

Suggestion Box: Clean the bidding cards. It was suggested that we order new 1 club bidding cards. The 499'er side has new ones that are supposed to be "grime resitant". We will see how they actually do and then consider ordering additional ones.

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, January 13, 2019 at which time the new Board members will attend.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:21.

Submitted by,

Suzanne Cliffe, Recording secretary