

LOUISIANA BRIDGE ASSOCIATION  
BORED OF DIRECTORS MEETING, AUGUST 12, 2019

The meeting was called to order at 2:20. Present were Carolyn Dubois, Steve Romig, Suzanne Cliffe, Theresa Federico, Hunter McFadden, Vicki Willis, Wayne Weisler, and Jackie Madden. Sherrie Goodman, as Club Manager was present. Absent were Lowen, Mary LeBlanc, and Ellen Lappa.

Carolyn announced that Erin Fleming, whom she appointed as the club health coordinator, would not be coming.

Sherrie Goodman, as Club Manager, made a report on the various things she has been doing to keep our club moving forward and up to date on many issues. One of the things she is working on is a program with BBO (BridgeBaseOnline) that would allow our players to play boards that they miss during sitouts. This is done by using two tablets (which she and Sue Himmel are donating) and the players playing against robots. This would be no expense for the club, and one director has requested it for his game. This would be used primarily when players are facing a three or four board sitout, as sometimes occurs during smaller games.

There is a new tv behind the directors desks which will be used for announcements. It will not be used for game results. It is requested that all directors make the announcements this way so as not to disturb players during the playing time.

Sherrie discussed the movie, Double Dummy, that the ACBL has available to play nationwide if there is any way to get it into commercial settings or schools. Vicki also said that the club needs to vote for the National Board of Directors for the ACBL. The information that we received said that we had to apply to vote as a unit by August 1<sup>st</sup>, which we did not do. Vicki said that she would speak to the person in charge and see if there is any flexibility in the date.

There was a discussion as to whether Ben McKown could move the current Tuesday night game to Wednesday night. He said that he had polled the players and that they are in favor of the move. Carolyn said that that would affect her three table party bridge game that meets on Tuesday nights. Wayne said that he would look into the possibility of moving Carolyn's game to Thursday nights when he has a group that comes to the club. He will talk to Ben and Carolyn will talk to her group.

Steve Romig brought up a problem of a Malware program on the computers that a director purchased from game proceeds and installed on the computers without permission. This caused the game directors problems running the games which followed this installation and had to be removed for an additional cost. This has been addressed with this director previously. Wayne said that he would discuss it with the director and that if anything like this happens in the future, the director would no longer be allowed to direct at the LBA or use the computers. This was a unanimous vote of the Board.

There was a discussion of the Sunday Swiss game during tournaments. During the July tournament, we played only a single afternoon session, rather than a two session all day event. Wayne pointed out that there was only one A team that participated, although there were 16 teams in total. He said that it adversely affects the number of out of town teams that will come in for a single session event. It was suggested that we have two options, an all day play through event as well as a single session in the afternoon. To do that we could have to have two directors as well as a meal which would significantly increase our expenses. Jackie made a motion that for the November tournament, we continue the single session event as the Sunday game is always adversely affected by the football games as well as the proximity to Thanksgiving. The motion was seconded and passed. Jackie said that she would call the people who had written letters requesting reinstatement of the two session Swiss teams. It was also recommended that the game be bracketed so that the C teams do not have to play the A teams.

Sherrie reported on the night games which had been approved as "charity" games which pay extra masterpoints but without the extra fees. After looking at the numbers of people participating over the past three months, it was determined that the numbers in attendance at the games did not increase. Based upon the lack of increase and the additional money it costs the club it was decided that we would discontinue the games as "charity" games beginning on Monday, August 19<sup>th</sup>. If the participating players want to continue the games as "charity" games, they can vote to pay the extra \$1.00 for each game. Sherrie also reported that the 99'er want an additional game. Besides there not being a readily available time slot for another game, there is a problem with getting another director. Steve recommended that this be tabled until Lowen returns, since he had said that he would be interested in starting one for them. Sherrie also said that when the new beginner bridge lessons begin, Elizabeth's game on Wednesday would become a 99'er game.

It was announced that the Education Committee would meet on Thursday, August 15, to discuss the when the lessons for new and beginning bridge lessons would be held.

Vicki recommended that we consider a by-law change reducing the number of Board members from 11 members to 9. It was recommended that we look into why we have 11 historically and what the arguments are for decreasing the number and the arguments for leaving it the same. This will be brought up in the future.

The July minutes were accepted.

Steve submitted the Treasurer's report. Our building expenses are up with some extraordinary expenses this year due to renovation project. The insurance for the building is up and will continue to increase. There was a discussion as to whether we should change our unit from a 501C3 to a ???? which would require much more time and money to be spent on education. Steve will look into the viability of this. Mary had turned in a report from a director that had an incorrect amount reported, that there was a shortfall of funds. In the past, when a director turns in the cash from the game directed, the amount turned in had to match the amount on

the financial sheet. The director was responsible for the money and responsible for turning in the correct amount.

Suzanne made an objection to the amount of money spent (\$1500) on removing blinds and hardware, caulking of windows, and washing of windows. Her point was that other than the washing of the windows, the other work would either have been done by the people installing the new blinds, or should have been done previously by the painters. Several people said that they felt pressured to make the decision and that it was made too hastily. In the future, other than something requiring immediate maintenance, such as plumbing or HVAC work, there will be more time allowed for decisions.

The subject of the ramp at the entrance of the building was brought up again as well as the cost of installation for an automatic door. Steve said that he would speak to Ed Spooner, a member who is an architect, to see if he knows what we would have to do and Jackie will talk with Jefferson Parish about requirements.

Carolyn brought up that there should be a competitive bidding process for any work that will cost over \$5000. The Board had approved that in the July meeting.

It was reported that the age for the Senior Games will be changed to 62. Vicki also reported that the positions of unit recorder and disciplinary chair are eliminated. All disciplinary matters previously managed by units will be managed by districts. The district president shall be the charging party beginning on January 1, 2020.

Carolyn said that some lights in the playing area are to be replaced by LED lights to see if the players like them.

Hunter had the letters from the suggestion box. The subject of the ramp was brought up again which we are investigating. There was a letter from Paul Freese inquiring as to the disposition of a letter he had previously sent to all Board members. Vicki said that she would discuss it with Paul. The Board members would also like to see the ACBL job description for Conduct and Ethics.

The next meeting will September 9<sup>th</sup>. The meeting was adjourned at 4:15 p.m.

Submitted by

Suzanne Cliffe, Recording Secretary