

Louisiana Bridge Association
Board of Directors Meeting, September 9, 2019

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

The minutes from the August meeting were accepted.

Steve gave a report on finances. He reported that we are \$30,000 over budget but that includes the \$40,000 spent to date on carpeting, painting, and blinds. Table fees are down 8% but that has been made up by the net tournament income. Mary reported that many directors have been making mistakes on the money being turned in from the daily games. The money turned in is not the money due based on the financial sheet which they fill out for each game which includes the number of tables in play. Keenan Romig, the member in charge of the directors, will speak to them to correct this situation.

Vicki had no report on District 10 activities.

Old Business:

Mary reported that the termite contract should be renewed. D & A has the termite contract and they are recommending that we switch to the Centricom system which is a baiting system. The old system is \$1020 every five years and \$130 annually. The new system would be cost \$1520 with a \$230 annual system but would only have to be renewed every 10 years. The Board voted to proceed with the new system. Mary also reported on the air conditioning inspection by Coastal Air Balance. They have been paid \$800 and made several recommendations regarding the air conditioning systems. Based on that, an air conditioning representative came and went over these recommendations. He pointed out that many of them were in place or could be done at minimal cost and he proceeded to work on them in order to better balance the air.

Discussion of Reduction of the number of people on the Board of Directors: Tabled.

New Business:

Discussion of the removal of the bridge column by Frank Stewart when the Advocate and Times Picayune merged. He has called Jennie Sauviac and she is passing a petition for signatures around the club to be mailed to the Advocate. The phone number for phone calls to the Advocate will also be put on the web site so our members can call directly.

Youth Bridge: Carolyn Dubois and Elizabeth Sewell will start a youth bridge program for third and fourth graders after school at Trinity Episcopal School in New Orleans.

Carolyn would like there to be a budget for committees such as plants, beautification, publicity, newcomers, youth bridge. The Board thought rather than have specific

amounts, it is better to have a committee request an amount needed when there are expenditures.

Handicapped access: Steve Romig said that he would talk with Edward Spooner regarding what can be done and how much it will cost and have more information at the next meeting.

Regarding converting the club to a 501C3 non-profit corporation, Steve said we would have to form a 1023, which is very expensive. He is going to talk with several firms that deal with non-profit groups and find out what is involved to file the 1023. He thinks it will cost \$2000-3000 and require a lot of background work.

Discussion of changing our lights to LED's. Carolyn said that there might be a grant from Jefferson Parish which would subsidize the cost. She will look into it.

Mary made a motion that we raise the amount of the bank checks that can be signed with only one signature to \$2000. This was passed.

Sherrie Goodman, the club manager, presented a letter she had from the Baton Rouge club thanking us for the Bridgemates they borrowed when they had a Regional. She said that we need to work on our sanctions for our tournaments in 2021. She has also looked into the possibility of moving our July, 2020 tournament so that it doesn't conflict with the NABC but because of other conflicts in the district, it will have to remain at the same time. In 2021, there are conflicts with a Nashville Regional and a Texas Regional. The Board recommended that we move our tournament back closer to the Fourth of July. She will look into it for future tournaments.

Sherrie said that we also need dates for sectionals in 2021 and 2022. It was also asked if we could have another Non Life Master Regional in 2021. Lowen said that he will look at the tournaments already scheduled in our district for those dates and see what is available.

Discussion of Beginner Bridge: The education committee has talked about rewriting the curriculum and making it a 10 week class of basic bridge for free to participants and then starting a Bridge Plus class. There was an offer to "rewrite" the curriculum by a Sharon Henry at a cost of \$2200. Rather than write our own curriculum, the Board recommended that the committee needs to look at other lessons that the ACBL offers if we aren't going to continue with Easybridge! In the meantime, the new lessons starting in October will use Easybridge! unless there is something else decided on before then.

Directors: All games currently covered with the Saturday games using a rotating director.

Mentoring; It has been recommended that we look into an "8 is enough" format for a Swiss team game on Saturday mornings. Suggested that this be given to Diana Powell who has been working on mentoring.

Computers: Three new computers have been purchased to replace the existing computers and are being networked. No one is allowed to upload any software on the computers, nor are they to be used for anything other than running our games and uploading to our website. There has also been problem with some of the monitors and electrical outlets. The Board has authorized new monitors where necessary and electrical work that will prevent future problems as well as large surge protectors.

Suggestion box: Several letters were read and will be directed to the appropriate people. Theresa has a recommendation for a possible cup holder that would attach to the legs of the tables which might prevent spills. She will order one set for us to try.

The next meeting will be October 14 at 2:30 p.m.
The meeting was adjourned at 4:15 p.m.

Submitted by

Suzanne Cliffe, Recording Secretary