

Louisiana Bridge Association
Board of Directors Meeting
November 9, 2020

The meeting was called to order at 4:15 by Jim Thornton, VP. Present were: Jim Thornton, Steve Romig, Mary LeBlanc, Suzanne Cliffe, Lowen, Theresa Federico, Hunter McFadden, and Diana Powell, Board members. Also present were Vicki Willis, District 10 representative, and Sherrie Goodman, Club Manager. Absent were Carolyn Dubois, Ellen Lappa, and Jackie Madden.

The Board voted to accept the minutes of the September meeting as amended and previously distributed.

Steve Romig and Mary LeBlanc presented the Treasurers' report. Based on income to date, Steve estimates that the club will have a net income of approximately \$40-45,000 for the year.

There was a brief discussion of the Entergy cost of running an empty club. It was recommended that the heat and air conditioning be adjusted for both summer and winter temperature to reflect that they do not need to be kept at a "comfort level" for people, adjusting temperatures up in the summer and lower in the winter. It is also suggested that both the coffee machine and the vending machines could be unplugged. It was suggested that the next person to go in could do these things. If Carolyn goes in next, perhaps she could do this.

Mary said that there had been no maintenance issues. She had met the termite company there for the annual inspection in October and all was well.

Sherrie reported that it was time to pick dates for our live Sectional tournament in January 2022. The date available is January 6-9. This conflicts with Austin's dates but the club approved that date for our first tournament in 2022.

Sherrie reported that the next Gold event online would be November 23-29. 25% of the points awarded will be gold points. The sessions will be \$6.00.

Sherrie also reported that the issues that BBP was having last week seem to be fixed. The NABC online tournament dates are November 29-December 5. There will be Knock Out events as well as Pairs games.

There seems to be a demand for a Swiss team event as part of our virtual club's regular games. The virtual club is working on this and it will be implemented when the software seems to be ready which Sherrie estimates will occur soon. It will be on Sunday afternoons in place of the regular Sunday afternoon game. She also said that the software for zoom games may be ready soon.

Sherrie reported that Kathy Plauche's lessons are going well and they will start playing games soon. She says that several have already joined the ACBL.

Sherrie reiterated that there are backup people on board for all of her jobs. She will speak to both Linda Freese and Keenan who are the computer back up for her to verify that this is the case with them.

There was also discussion of how we will arrange our games when we reopen, Sherrie said that many clubs are planning on advance reservations in order to limit the size of the games. There was also a discussion as to how we would pay, whether that would also be done in advance. This was referred to our reopening committee, Jackie Madden and Susan Beobay, for consideration when the time comes. Jim said that he has spoken to Jackie about this and it is all on hold until there is a change in the virus situation.

Steve reported that we had a total of 680 tables that played in October, 2019 and 1520 tables in October, 2020. Obviously, things are going well. Jim offered thanks and congratulations to Sherrie for the work she has done on this.

Vicki, our District 10 representative, asked if there were questions regarding the report she sent out on the District 10 meeting. The only question was one Jim had regarding a \$400,000 payment that the ACBL received for Covid relief. That was not from the District, but was part of the Covid relief package. Vicki is also on the By-Laws Committee for the District which are being looked at for possible revision.

Lowen reported that he is organizing a report on possible By-Law revisions from the committee which he will distribute to Board members to consider prior to a meeting about them. He did suggest that we have a separate meeting to look at them when they are ready for consideration which the Board agreed was a good idea as it will should take time to consider the possible revisions with discussions.

Suzanne reported that the Election Committee has no recommendations at this time as in order to have a vote on new Board members it must be in person voting and with an in-person annual meeting. Our current By-Laws do not permit this, so until we are able to meet to make By-Law revisions, we have no way to have an election. It was recommended that Suzanne contact all Board members whose terms are expiring and see if they will continue as Board members for the next approximately 6 months which she/I agreed to. If at the end of six months, there is no resolution for in person meetings/play/tournaments, it will be revisited.

Hunter reported that he investigated the possible Loss of Income claim for the club due to Covid, but that due to exclusions and the income the club is making, that we wouldn't pursue it at this time. He also reported that the insurance is coming up for renewal and that because of personal reasons he will be unable to pursue this. He will be happy to work with someone else on it. Sid LeBlanc was recommended and Steve said that he would work on it with Hunter.

Sherrie informed us that our club game sanctions are due for renewal with the ACBL. Each game we had had a separate sanction and costs approximately \$13/year. Some days we had 3 different sanctions for the open games, the limited masterpoint games, and the evening games. She recommends that at this time we renew one sanction per day just to provide this small amount of money to the ACBL. We can add sanctions with a two week notification to the ACBL. Since we don't know what the demand will be for games when

clubs reopen and it is anticipated that for safety reasons, we will limit the number of people in the building at any one time, it is thought that one sanction per day is adequate now.

Vicki reported that the ACBL wants to reduce the number of Regional tournaments that each district can have every year from 3 to 2. Suzanne asked why they want to do that how it will benefit our club. The LBA has had trouble scheduling Regionals and Non-Life Master Regionals and if we vote to reduce the number can we get into a regular rotation for these tournaments. Vicki said that the Non-Life Master tournaments are separate entities and don't enter into this equation. The LBA should be in a 4 year rotation for Regionals and our only request is that it not fall in the same year as one of the Nationals that we hold. We will host the NABC that will be here in April 2023. We would like to look into the possibility of a Regional in March or November 2025. Vicki will pursue this. Sherrie will speak with Charlie McCracken about a Non-Life Master Regional to be held in conjunction with our sectional in November 2022.

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, December 14, at 4:15. The meeting was adjourned at 4:55.

Submitted by,

Suzanne Cliffe
Recording Secretary