

LBA Board of Directors Meeting  
August 10, 2020 via Zoom

The meeting began at approximately 4:10 p.m. Present were: Theresa Federico, Steve Romig, EllenLappa, Lowen, Mary LeBlanc, Hunter McFadden, Jackie Madden, Jim Thornton, Diana Powell, Carolyn Dubois, and Suzanne Cliffe, Board members, and Sherrie Goodman, Club Manager.

The Minutes from the July meeting were accepted with revisions which were mailed to all members.

Sherrie Goodman reported on the plans for the beginner lessons being planned by Kathy Plauche. She said that many of the people being contacted for beginner lessons had taken them previously and that they didn't think it was necessary to offer free lessons. The lessons will be offered through Shark Bridge and Zoom. Carolyn asked about the lessons being taught by someone that isn't a director. Sherrie said that when Kathy starts running games, if she hasn't taken the director's test, that she (Sherrie) would be able to help her with that aspect. Steve made a motion that the Board approve Kathy as the teacher for the beginners, which was approved. Kathy will need to create her own Zoom account and the club will reimburse her. There was also the question as to how much the club would pay her for teaching these lessons for the club. It was recommended that Sherrie talk to Kathy to see what she thinks is reasonable and that to begin, she would be paid \$70.

Discussion as to distributing 1099's to the game directors that are directing online. The directors for the LBA that are directing online did not want to sign a statement when asked that they were being paid as directors from the ACBL. The check that we receive each month, the gross proceeds, comes from the ACBL to the LBA. Before clubs receive their pro rata share based on the number of players each club has, the directors are paid, so that all clubs are sharing in the payment of the directors. The LBA then distributes the proceeds to each club, Baton Rouge, Lafayette, and Memphis, and New Orleans. Previously our club game directors deducted their pay from the proceeds they collected from the players when they signed into the games. Since that isn't possible now, their pay comes from the clubs. Based on the information and how the directors were paid in the past and how they are paid now, a tax attorney, John J. Weiler, contacted by Hunter McFadden, gave the opinion that our game directors are independent contractors and as such should receive 1099's reflecting their income from the games they direct. Based on his analysis, the Board of Directors agreed that the game directors would now receive 1099's. The next discussion was as to what period the 1099's would cover. Steve recommended that we start the 1099's as of September 1, 2020 since the decision was just made to issue them and have them cover September 1 through December 31, 2020. The other dates considered were from January 1, 2020 and June 1. It was after June 1 that the online directors started receiving pay for the online games which began in May. The Board voted to issue 1099's for directors' income from the first online games in May, our first check being received from the ACBL in June.

The next discussion concerned the amount we are paying our online game directors. According to Sherrie, our online game directors are receiving \$60 for a double session and \$50 for a single session. The average other clubs pay is \$90. Our directors are running two games at once, the limited masterpoint games and the open games. It is thought that they should be paid more in order to keep our good directors directing as well as compensate them for the taxes they will incur from receiving 1099's. We have been averaging approximately \$5000/month net income for June and July. Steve and Sherrie have agreed to "meet" on Thursday, August 13, to look at what the club can afford to pay our directors as well as what other clubs pay their directors. There was also some discussion as to the amount we charge for game entries, \$5 currently, and whether that would be changed. Sherrie said that is a decision that is made by the "virtual club" which consists of New Orleans, Memphis, Lafayette, and Baton Rouge. It was agreed that we wouldn't want to raise that amount at this time.

There was a discussion as to why we are still paying Refreshment Solutions monthly for coffee costs. Carolyn has agreed to speak to them to try and have this reduced or eliminated.

Discussion as to elections for the Board of Directors for 2021. Our current by-laws state that voting for the Board of Directors each year be done in conjunction with the first tournament of the year. Historically that has been in January. Since we will not have a tournament in January 2021, we will not have voting at that time if we are to follow our by-laws. It was recommended that we consider this closer to the end of the year when there may be more current information. In addition, our current by-laws do not allow for absentee voting. Some directors want to consider this when looking at possible by-law changes. There was discussion as to what is involved in changing the by-laws and when voting can occur according to our current by-laws. Carolyn has appointed a committee to look at current by-laws and make recommendations as to possible changes. The committee will consist of Lowen, Jim Thornton, Ellen Lappa, Jackie Madden, and Vicki Willis. They will make recommendations of any changes to the Board of Directors.

The next meeting is scheduled for September 14, 2020. This meeting was adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

Submitted by

Suzanne Cliffe, Recording Secretary