

Louisiana Bridge Association
Board of Directors Meeting
February 10, 2020

The meeting was called to order at 2:30. All directors were present as was Sherrie Goodman, the Club Manager.

The first order of business was a presentation by Eleanor Onstott and Dee Moses regarding the decision made by the Directors at the January meeting regarding scoring changes after game time. At the previous meeting, the Directors had made it a requirement that any scoring changes had to be made prior to the players leaving the game so that the game director would be able to make the change and upload the game to ACBL Live. It is their opinion that this is not always practical or possible. Some players leave the building immediately and if it is a correction that requires players from both sides to concur, that can be impossible. Some players don't keep accurate scores which also makes it difficult. Other times players have to leave right after game time and don't have time to check for accuracy. Dee spoke with the ACBL and was told that they allow corrections to be made for 30 days after a game, that the ACBL is most interested in correct game results. Eleanor spoke with players from several other clubs in our district and they allow corrections after game time. While game results are uploaded to ACBL Live immediately after a game, they can still be corrected. Based upon this information, the Board voted to allow corrections to be made for up to 24 hours while Sherrie checks the requirements with the ACBL. She will report to the Board in March.

Vicki Willis, our District 10 representative and outgoing District 10 president, made a report to the Board regarding upcoming tournaments. We are scheduled to hold the Nationals in New Orleans in 2023 but are not in the line up for any regionals. We want to request a NLM Regional for 2022. Brian Russell is the new area manager for Districts 7,9, and 10. As of April, 2020, fees for ACBL directors for tournaments are going up 11%. Sanction fees will also increase for all tournaments. Lowen thinks we should have a sanctions chair for all tournaments that would request dates for all of our sectional, regional, and national tournaments. Sherrie has been doing that job with input from the Board. He would like to help with that. There was no decision made or vote on the subject.

Sid LeBlanc made a presentation regarding management fees and business decisions. He passed out the information that is in the safety deposit box. Carolyn Dubois, as president, has a copy of all of our documents. Steve Romig, as treasurer, had questions about other clubs in the unit, as he files the taxes for the Unit but does not have any of their information. Sid said that the individual clubs are legal entities and file their own returns. The question of 1099's for directors came up and Sid said that the players hire the directors and they are paid by the players. In 2011 there was a strategic planning exercise that resulted in the club working towards increasing the table count. Carolyn suggested that we have a planning committee to plan for the future of the club. She has a membership survey to give to our members. As to a committee, Ellen suggested that it not be just Board members but players from the general membership. Steve and Carolyn will head up the committee.

Sherrie Goodman, club manager, is recommending that we don't charge the extra money for our special games, specifically the NAOP games. We would like to see more people participate in these games and be able to field teams to compete for the district and national titles. As we have adequate money she would like us to consider offering our special games without charging the extra fees associated with them.

Sherrie would also like for us to offer another CPR training course for the directors. In addition, the emergency contact cards need to be updated. Medals and pins for Mini McKinney awards and Life master pins will be given out at the Derby Day Tournament.

Sherrie also reported that there will be a group of retired airline pilots visiting New Orleans in October, 2020. They hold their own games but would like to borrow 18 tables. While we have extra tables, we do not have extra Bridgemates to lend them. Their games are held at a downtown hotel and they can borrow the tables at no cost other than they are responsible for picking them up and returning them.

Steve reported that the finances are fine and passed out the P & L statement and Assets. He said that we need to remove past officers from signing for the safety deposit box at the bank and add the new officers. In addition, who can sign for the CD must be changed. It was recommended that the new officers for 2020 be the signees for the checking account as well as the safety deposit box and the CD. The officers that will be signing on these items are: Carolyn Debois, President, Jim Thornton, Vice-President, Steve Romig, Treasurer, Mary LeBlanc, Treasurer, and Suzanne Cliffe, Recording Secretary. Steve also said that we need an audit committee which we have, consisting of Hunter McFadden and Jim Thornton.

New Business:

Mardi Gras: For the game, Larry Federico will buy the food and Steve said that he will take care of organizing it and will man the parking lot. Theresa will do baked beans.

There was a discussion of the two party bridge games that currently play at the club. One is on Monday afternoons after the 499'er game and the other is on Tuesday nights. They currently pay \$5.00 each to play and the Board voted to keep it at \$5.00.

Maintenance: Mary will take over club maintenance. She has contracted with Blair Plumbing and they will come out every other month to service drains and specifically issues in the men's room, as well as anything else that is required. We will pay them \$150 every other month. She is also pursuing diverters for the air conditioning vents, as well as some other options for electricians and a handy man. We have a contract with DA exterminating. Jackie is looking into the leaks.

Mary asked for clarification of the club policy for an experienced player to play with a newer player. The policy has been that the experienced player can play only twice for free. The directors need to be informed.

Jim Thornton brought up that John Onstott is approaching the 30,000 masterpoint level. We have given parties in the past when he reached 20,000 and 25,000. The Board voted to host a party for him when he reaches the 30,000 level. In the future, when we have other of our club players reach the 20,000 and the 25,000 levels, the club will host a party for them as well.

Goodwill Awards: Our club hasn't nominated anyone in the past few years and we need to do this. Jim said that he spoke with the District President while at the Orange Beach, AL regional about it and he said that he would take care of it. Jim recommended that we have a committee to make recommendations in the future. Suzanne will organize a committee of previous Goodwill Committee members to make recommendations.

Hunter passed out a summary of our insurance.

Diana Powell reported on the “Eight is Enough” Swiss team mentoring game planned for Wednesday, February 12. There are currently 99 people signed up for it. There will be four rounds of 5 boards. Wayne will give a short lesson at the end of the game. It will be held in the open end of the room. It will start at 10:00 a.m. There is a light lunch planned after it for the participants.

There was further discussion of making the building handicapped accessible and compliant. There is no inexpensive quick solution. Steve will speak with appropriate people and get prices for the various improvements required.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:45. The next meeting will be on Monday, March 9, 2020.

Submitted by,

Suzanne Cliffe
Recording Secretary