

Louisiana Bridge Association
Board of Directors Meeting
July 12, 2021

The meeting was called to order at 4:15 by Carolyn Dubois, President. Present were: Carolyn, Jim Thornton, Mary LeBlanc, Diana Powell, Theresa Federico, Ellen Lappa, Vicki Willis, Lowen, Suzanne Cliffe, and Sherrie Goodman, Club Manager.

Carolyn began by thanking all of the directors and Sherrie for their work during the pandemic for what it takes keep the club operating, keeping the building in good shape, communicating with the players, and running the virtual games for our players.

Carolyn also stated that bullying by anyone on the Board would not be tolerated and that she would accept the resignation of anyone that participated in said bullying. She wanted this noted in the minutes.

Minutes: The minutes from the June meeting were accepted by the Board.

Financial: Mary LeBlanc reported that Steve Romig will continue to do the books. She said that we have approximately \$85,000 in the checking account and \$104,000 in the investment account.

She said that the money donated in memory of Sharon Henry had been used for the garden outside as well as for the plants inside.

There was also a donation by Daisy Vandenburg in memory of Bill Geary that will be acknowledged.

Sherrie said that the donations made to the Alzheimer's Association in conjunction with The Longest Day Game had not been acknowledged. Suzanne said that she would do that.

A motion was made to accept the financial report but Jim wanted to see the written reports before accepting. Mary had just received them prior to the meeting from Steve and she will forward to all.

Sherrie reported on the Virtual Club, The NAOBC games were to start on Thursday, July 14, and run through Sunday, July 25. When that ends, Stardust Week starts and goes through the end of July, awarding extra points to players. Sherrie also reported that we have lots of options for rewarding extra points in our face to face games. Since most of the games go for a week at a time, she is waiting until we have more games in a week so that more players can get the extra points.

There followed a discussion of the online games and the face to face games and how to coordinate them as well as best take advantage of our face to face directors. There was also discussion as to the number of players coming for our face to face games. Under the current schedule for Face to Face games of Wednesday morning Open and 499'er games, starting at 9:30, very few "open" players are coming. Friday afternoon, 1:00 p.m., Open and 499'er games are the best attended, with 8-9 tables in each game, and Saturday 1:00 p.m. Open game has only about 4 tables. There was also a

discussion of the starting times as well as the games that will be held online that conflict with the F2F games. The general consensus regarding the conflicting times is that the virtual games provide a real service to many of our players that are not able to come to the club. In addition, many players prefer playing online now while Covid is still prevalent, and it is the virtual club that has been bringing in money over the past 16 months. There was also discussion as to the need to begin providing lessons for the novice intermediate players.

Since these first F2F games were supposed to be for a "soft" opening, a motion was made and seconded to eliminate the Saturday game as well as the Wednesday morning Open game. This was passed by the Board. To replace those, if directors could be provided, the Board voted to have a Monday afternoon Open and 499'er game at 1:00 p.m., a Wednesday 499'er game WITH lesson at 9:30, a Thursday Open and 499'er game at 1:00 p.m., and a Friday Open and 499'er game at 1:00 p.m. In addition, in order to accommodate our newer players, it was voted to start a 299'er game on Monday mornings at 9:30. This is all contingent upon having directors to run these games. It was voted to allow Suzanne and Jennie Sauviac, as the "Director Directors" to work out the details of these games. When health concerns have abated and the club is open more, the additional morning and afternoon times can be used for club sponsored beginning bridge lessons as well as lecture series. This was approved by the directors with Saturday, July 17, being the last Saturday game. Starting on Wednesday, July 21, there will be no 9:30 OPEN game. The first Thursday games will be July 22. The Friday game remains the same and the first Monday game will be on July 26, starting with a 299'er game in the morning and a 499'er game and Open game at 1:00 p.m. Again, this is game director contingent.

The next discussion was about the pay for the game directors. Lowen pointed out that the raise that had been approved for the directors from \$70 to \$85 was an increase to offset the additional taxes they will incur since they are now receiving 1099 forms reporting their income to the IRS. Since the F2F directors have to spend approximately 4 ½ hours at the club setting up the game, running the game, closing it out as well as doing the online reporting, a motion was made to raise their base pay for a single section game to \$100. This was approved by the Board. In addition, the directors that run a two section game, two separate games at the same time, will receive an additional \$30 for the second section. This was also approved by the Board. This pay scale will take effect on August 1, 2021.

Carolyn inquired as to the possibility of increasing the fees for the online games from \$5 to \$7, the same as our F2F games. The discussion was that the games are shorter, the players don't get to play as many boards, and they don't have to support a real building with all of the associated expenses. This was not pursued.

It was brought up that most of the upgraded games awarding extra points cost the club an additional \$4.00 per table. The club has absorbed these expenses for some of them. The question is when will the players start paying the additional \$1.00 and if that is what we want. The Board voted that as of August 1, all additional expenses for games will be passed on to the players.

Old Business:

Vicki brought up the question of when teachers could begin giving private lessons at the club. We are currently cleaning the club after each day that the club is used as well as fogging it for an additional \$1800/month. In addition, who would monitor whether the people attending the lessons had proof of vaccination? It was thought that it is still too early to open the club up for this use but we will look at it again in August.

There was discussion as to whether we would have our tournament in November following the new guidelines of the ACBL. It was brought up that there is a 499'er tournament on the books for October as well. Since our by laws state that our election for Board of Directors would be held at the first tournament of the year, if we held the 499'er tournament in October, we would be required by our by laws to hold our election for the Board of Directors at that time, even though it wouldn't be open to all players. It is thought generally that we won't hold a tournament this year, that January, 2022 will be our first tournament. This will be discussed in the August meeting.

New Directors: Discussion was held about appointing two people to fulfill the remaining terms of Steve Romig and Jackie Madden, both of whom resigned since the June meeting. The Board voted to ask Larry Federico and Jennie Sauviac about fulfilling their terms which end at the next election, in January 2022. With their history with the club and prior experience on the Board, if they will accept, they will made important additions to the Board.

There was a discussion of serving coffee at the club. Carolyn reported that we have obtained cups with lids, thus providing closed containers. She will have someone make the coffee and we are asking all Board members to please tell anyone drinking from an open container to please put a lid on it. The water machine has been cleaned as well and is operational.

The meeting adjourned at 6:25 and the next meeting is scheduled for August 9, 2021.

Submitted by,

Suzanne Cliffe, Recording Secretary