

Louisiana Bridge Association Board of Directors Meeting January 14, 2019

The meeting was called to order at approximately 2:30 p.m. Present were: Linda Freese, Wayne Weisler, Carolyn Dubois, Hunter McFadden, Steve Plotkin, Nelson Daigle, Mary LeBlanc, Lowen, and Suzanne Cliffe. Absent were Ellen Lappa and Sharon Henry.

The meeting started with a discussion of the Sunday afternoon 299'er game and its small attendance. Wayne would like to talk to keep it going until after the holidays/football season to see if it can be built up. There was a discussion about possibly moving it to 1:00 p.m. so that if there were not enough tables for a game, the players could move into the Swiss team game if they wanted. Wayne will talk to the group about that possibility as well as the possibility of canceling the game if the attendance doesn't improve.

Carolyn brought up a discussion that she was presenting for Sharon Henry regarding the money from our charity games being directed to a homeless ministry, "Lantern Light", that feeds the homeless on Tulane Avenue near the Claiborne overpass. It was recommended that this be presented to our charity committee, consisting of Sherrie Goodman, Jackie Madden, and ? . They will make a recommendation to the board as to which charities the club would like to support each year for the additional money from our charity games.

The minutes which had been distributed from the December 2018 meeting were accepted as presented.

Treasurer's Report: Mary LeBlanc presented the treasurer's report. It shows that the club made \$49,000 last year and that the table count was up over 700 tables. The treasurer's report was accepted as presented.

Steve Plotkin reported on the fund raising for the Non Life Master Tournament that will be held here in May. The committee would like an additional \$3000 committed by the club to provide hospitality for the players. Steve had volunteered to try and raise the money through donations when it was thought that the LBA would possibly be able to change its tax status so that donations would be tax deductible. When this was no longer possible and the club has the money, most potential donors thought that it wasn't necessary to subsidize the club. The LBA will fund the hospitality as needed.

The annual meeting of the LBA will be held on Sunday, January 27th, between the Swiss team sessions.

Building Maintenance and Repair

It has been suggested that the club obtain a second loud speaker for the Edenborn side of the building. Mary LeBlanc volunteered to follow up on that.

The Beautification Committee will meet on Tuesday, January 15th at 2:15 p.m.

Painting has been approved previously for everything except the bricks. Linda has a quote of \$5,000 for that. We may proceed with that depending on what the committee recommends. There was an ongoing discussion of the tile/grout and what to do about the floor. The structural condition of the building is stable and any work to correct any minor issues would probably cause more serious problems.

By-Laws discussion: Lowen and Ellen were pursuing a possible change of the bylaws to allow members to vote absentee if they were to be out of town or sick in the week when voting is allowed for new members of the Board of Directors, the week of the first tournament of the year. Their recommendation is that the President would select two people to be in charge of absentee votes. He was not concerned with people taking ballots to other clubs to ask for votes. Steve initiated a discussion of the current by-laws, highlighting Article C, as to who or how votes can be cast. He pointed out that it was very explicit, indicating that this had been discussed and analyzed carefully by previous LBA Boards/members and that based on that, he didn't think that it should be changed. He proposed that a "straw" vote to be taken to see what the current Board stand was. Of the 8 people present who could vote (not the president) 6 did not want to change the laws. It could be discussed at future meetings should the need arise.

There was also a discussion of our January tournament conflicting with the Sandestin Regional and perhaps we should be more careful in picking our dates in the future. It was pointed out that we have to pick our dates around other tournaments being held in our district but that Sandestin is not in our District, so it wasn't on the calendar as a conflict.

New Business

Mentoring: Hunter reported that Larry Federico will be available to answer questions after the 299'er game on Tuesday, January 15th.

Insurance: Hunter reported that the property insurance payment is coming due. Sid LeBlanc and Hunter will give the board recommendations when they have the figures.

Carolyn requested that we have an analysis of all of the duties performed by various Board members and volunteers at the club and that this be shared between Board Members.

Suggestion Box had complaints about the food and drink machines.

There was a thank you from the Board members on behalf of the club to our outgoing Board members, Sharon Henry, Nelson Daigle, and Steve Plotkin.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:30.

Suzanne Cliffe, Acting Recording Secretary