

Louisiana Bridge Association
Board of Directors Meeting
January 13, 2020

The meeting was called to order at 2:30. New Members Diana Powell and Jim Thornton were welcomed as well as reelected members Carolyn Dubois, Mary LeBlanc and Ellen Lappa. In addition Hunter McFadden, Lowen, Theresa Federico, Jackie Madden, Steve Romig, and Suzanne Cliffe were in attendance, as well as Sherrie Goodman, our Club Manager. New officers for 2020 were elected and are as follows: Carolyn Dubois, President, Jim Thornton, Vice-President, Steve Romig and Mary LeBlanc will continue as co-treasurers, Suzanne Cliffe as Recording Secretary, and Lowen as Membership Secretary.

Vicki Willis, president of District 10, said that the next board meeting of the District will be held at the Regional Tournament in Orange Beach, AL on Jan. 31. She will remain on the District Board but that is her last year as president. She will find out possible dates for our next Regional tournament and report at the next meeting.

Report from Sherrie, Club Manager: We have applied for a Non Life Master Tournament in 2021 and 2022 but in order to get one, we have to get into the rotation. We could possibly combine it with our Derby Day Tournament in May. If combined with one of our sectional tournaments, more points could be awarded in the Open games. Vicki will see what dates are available at the District meeting.

Dates for the holiday parties in 2020 were selected with December 12 for the Saturday night party/game and December 18 for the Friday pot luck. The July tournament was moved up to July 9-12, 2020 so that it does not conflict with the Nationals held later in the month.

Sherrie reported that the computers are working well at this time and they are networked. The director of the Wednesday 99'er game wants to change it to a 299'er game which will start at noon. This was approved.

There has been a change in the reporting system of games and masterpoints from a monthly report to a daily report at the end of the games. The director of the game will upload the game to ACBL Live after all scores are in and the game is over. Once this is done it is very difficult to make score corrections. Therefore, beginning February 1, all scores must be checked and corrected by players before leaving the club at the end of the game. Once it is reported to ACBL Live, the score will stand. The announcements will be made at all games so that the players are aware of this change.

Finances: Steve reported that the club is in good shape financially. He distributed the balance sheets and profit and loss statements. The operating income is down a small amount but there is reserve to cover that. Mary inquired about the "special maintenance" category and the amount of money that has been going to that. That may change if there is a change in the Club Maintenance supervisor. Jim has asked if we can get a break out of the tournament expenses which Steve said that he will be able to do. The finances were accepted.

December minutes were approved.

Carolyn passed out a list of the activities of the club in 2019. She also included her list of Committees:

Plants – Rene Spratt and Maline Levy

Newcomers – Deborah Skorlich

Publicity – Diane Scott, Virginia Dabbs, and Kathy Plauche

Mentoring – Diana Powell, Wayne Weisler, Carolyn Dubois, Janice Zazulak, and Sherrie Goodman

Education: Carolyn, Elizabeth Sewell, Keenan Romig, Sue Himel Wayne Weisler, Iype Koshy, Sherrie Goodman

Health – Erin Fleming

Director Scheduling – Keenan Romig

Recorder – Lowen

Discipline – Eleanor Onstott

Club Manager – Sherrie Goodman

There was a discussion of pending projects including the fans in the room, some of which don't work. That is being worked on. There was also a discussion of the parking at the Asian market and which of the parking places we could use. Steve, Hunter, and Sherrie will talk with them to find out exactly which ones we are able to use.

There was a discussion of the flyers that Greg Blum sends out to the surrounding clubs for our coming tournaments. He has been sending just two and people at other clubs have said that they don't get them. We will ask him to send out 12-15 flyers for future tournaments. Kathy Plauche will make the flyers and Greg will make the copies to send. Sherrie said that Marketing Solutions has been sending out email notices of tournaments in the district to players in surrounding clubs for free. They will start charging for this in the future, she will find out how much the charge will be.

Sid LeBlanc will be asked to speak at the next Board meeting regarding the clubs in Unit 134.

It was brought up regarding the club policy as to memorials to be held at the club. There have been memorials held in memory of past members, but that they have never conflicted with the published game times. It was agreed by the Board that that can be done in the future as well, but not to conflict with a game time and with no expense to the club. Approval must be obtained prior to any event.

Handicapped accessibility: Jackie and Steve are working on that.

There was a discussion of the ongoing maintenance for the building including plumbing, HVAC systems, electrical. Mary would like to recommend that we have specific licensed individuals/companies to call when there is a problem with any of these systems. The Board would like for Mary to be in charge of that. She is considering it. Steve will be able to do more of the treasurer's duties if she is willing to tackle maintenance. She will consider it and they will report next month.

There was a request from a player for consideration in bringing a "therapy" dog into the building. The Board has recommended that the Club have a policy of no dogs of any kind. The

directors need to be informed and that a player is not allowed to bring any animal into the building.

Hunter requested that we increase the insurance to \$650,000. This was approved.

Steve discussed the possibility of the club changing from a 501C6 corporation to a 501C3. He has spoken to a CPA that will look into it and file it for us for a charge of approximately \$500 if she thinks that we can get it. There have been some requests for the change as then individuals could make tax deductible contributions to the club.

Lowen brought up security for the building. There has been a person that came in recently asking for food. All directors need to be informed that if that should occur, we need to tell them no and ask them to leave. The night directors need to be sure and lock the doors when the game starts. The directors need to be reminded of the panic button under the desk that can be pushed in an emergency.

Lowen also gave us an update regarding the local recorder. The ACBL still allows a local recorder. If our unit were to suspend someone, then it would go to the district recorder, Larry Sealy, and if it were to go further, it would be taken up by them. They would become involved if there were allegations of cheating in a tournament. Lowen is the current recorder.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:45. The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, February 10, at 2:30 p.m.

Suzanne Cliffe
Recording Secretary