

Minutes-Louisiana Bridge Association/Board of directors meeting December 8, 2014

The meeting was called to order by President Keenan Romig at 2:30 P.M. In attendance were: Keenan Romig, Mike Lappa, Jackie Madden, Sid LeBlanc, Ben McKown, Jim Thornton, Sherrie Goodman, Wayne Weisler, and Vicki Willis. Absent: Pat Burke and Fred Lay.

The minutes will be corrected and sent out very soon. Parking at the Asian Market was clarified (no parking as you enter the market- parking permitted along the back and half of the right side as viewed from the club).

In Pat's absence, the financial report was given by Sid LeBlanc. Table counts were low in November; this was attributed to the tournament and also the Thanksgiving holiday.

December business: Jackie Madden has a number of items available for the silent auction at the Holiday party on December 13. The Life Master awards (pins) will be presented at the party. Keenan has volunteered to chair the Friday daytime Holiday party. Appreciation gifts will be presented to the regularly scheduled directors and Theresa Federico.

Complaints were heard about the head director of our last tournament. All agreed that he is a highly competent director. Jennie Sauviac has been asked to sell entries for the 0-20 and 299er games and to be the lead director in running the 0-20 game. Also, many players are confused about the Swiss team movement. Use of Bridgemates would alleviate that; Wayne was asked to work on Swiss team use of Bridgemates at our Sunday Swiss prior to the tournament.

Proposed tournament dates for 2016 were reviewed. Keenan raised the idea of having fewer tournaments since we have such a difficult time recruiting tournament chairs. It was agreed that a committee should be formed to review the hospitality function of our tournaments for improvement suggestions. Philosophically, we may need to cater more events and hire support staff so that future tournaments may not be as profitable (or closer to break even).

There will not be an election to fill the openings on the board as there were only 4 people who signed the willingness to serve form. Ben McKown, Marlene Ruckert, Lynn Giordano, and Larry Federico will each serve a 3 year term. Since board members are known, the January meeting will be held at its regularly scheduled time on the second Monday of the month. Keenan thanked retiring board members for their service.

There was a request to rent out the club for a bridge fundraiser. Sid will look at liability issues but this may be feasible. Cost to be determined. A club director will need to be onsite during the event. More information is needed.

Average masterpoint seating for pair games will begin January 1, 2015. Hopefully, this will encourage players with higher points to play with lower point players. Mike will inform the directors.

The change in table directions (NS-EW) is working better due to the change in table configuration. Consistency remains important and Mike will communicate this to the directors with a seating diagram. North should be seated in the North direction (NOT facing North).

Wayne Weisler reported that maintenance is pretty much caught up. The tile grout-repainting process in the hall is still in process. The paving stones by the outside benches need to be re-paved. There was a suggestion to get an ice machine which was viewed negatively due to location and maintenance headaches.

Mike Lappa is drafting the director schedules for 2015 to assist Sherrie in taking over as Director Liaison. Wayne Merkel would like to be a substitute director and this will be communicated to the regular directors.

Jackie Madden reported that there was a wonderful write up in the Bridge Bulletin about the Nationals in New Orleans. There will be people from the National committee in Horn Lake, MS that will meet with the local committees sometime in January at the Marriott. Jim said that there are plans to raise money for the Nationals by naming game events.

Jackie reported that the situation that needed attention on behalf of conduct/ethics has been addressed.

Suggestion box items were as follows:

- Raise C strata to 750 mp. Strata is based on the game participants and is determined by the game director. It is not uniform.
- Add a heater in the rear of the open side; Wayne will investigate options.
- Request that perfume not be worn at tournaments; the BOD was not sure how that could be accomplished.

The meeting adjourned at 3:42 P.M.

Respectfully submitted by:

Vicki Willis  
Recording secretary