

Louisiana Bridge Association
Minutes of Board Meeting June 10, 2024

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 pm by Keenan Romig. Present were Keenan Romig, Larry Federico, Kathy Logue, Newt Jackson, Mike Russell, Jennifer Holmes, Sherrie Goodman, Vicki Willis, Quin Bates, Wayne Weisler and Sid Leblanc.

The May minutes were approved.

Sid LeBlanc reviewed the financial report. It was discovered that our banking account was compromised by a fraudulent check. The discrepancy was caught by Gulf Coast Bank and we did not lose any money. It was suggested by the board that future payments from the LBA be made via Zelle as opposed to checks and this avenue will be considered for appropriate transactions. Gulf South is suggesting that we open a new account or use a system whereby we upload checks as we write them. More information is forthcoming. Newt and Sid will decide the best course of action.

Newt Jackson reported that last week the installation of 3 new A/C units was completed at a cost of \$47,000. One unit was determined to be not functioning properly and HELP!! A/C addressed the problem quickly. There is an additional unit that is not working and HELP!! is working on a quote for repairing/replacing the unit. The board voted unanimously to allow Newt to authorize the repairs if the cost is several thousand dollars or less. The issue will have to be addressed again if the unit has to be replaced, after we determine whether it is a critical unit for the club's operation.

It was determined that completion of electrical work needed may necessitate that Entergy shut off power at the pole which will affect neighboring businesses. If this is the case, we may have to do the repair on a Sunday which will be considerably more expensive than if done during the week. If Entergy can cut the power to just our building, Newt and Sherrie will schedule the repair on a Wednesday (smallest game day) and the club will have to be closed. Still under discussion pending additional information from Entergy.

Sherrie Goodman provided a schedule of special games for the remainder of the year with an additional \$1.00 per player charge to see if the board wants to

eliminate any optional special games. It was suggested that the 2 International Fund games be cancelled and run as regular club games. All other games which provide red and silver points will be kept on the schedule as well as anything that offers gold points.

Sherrie also provided tournament dates for 2025. They are as follows:

Jan 9-11 Rosenblum Sectional

April 14-18 Regional (following French Quarter Fest weekend/ before Easter weekend)

July 3-5 Wes Busby Firecracker Sectional (dates to be reviewed again after attendance review of the 2024 Sectional and may be pushed back one week)

Onstott I/N tournament date TBD (also pending after review of attendance in September 2024)

November 13-15 Dottie Toledano Sectional

It was decided that the Derby Day Tournament scheduled for May 1-3 would not be held since it will be two weeks after the Regional. The club will offer special games and Derby Day activities on the actual Derby Day but it will not be a tournament nor require an ACBL director.

Published point limits for chat games was discussed and it was decided not to make any changes at this time.

There was an issue with the A/C on Friday and many 499 players objected to the way the issue was handled. Wayne took full responsibility for the decision made and agreed to explain his reasoning to the players at the upcoming Friday game. An email apology was sent from the board to all players regarding the discomfort experienced during the installation of the new A/C units. A lengthy discussion followed on how best to resolve the “them” and “us” perception, unify the club, ensure that limited point players realize they are valued and how board members can best contribute to that.

Our next 8 is enough game will be held Nov. 2, the week prior to the tournament. We are hoping to attract more players to the Swiss Team tournament day. Suggestions for increased attendance, particularly by newer players, were made and will be discussed again prior to publication of the tournament information.

The next Club Appreciation game will be held in October. Keenan and Sherrie will determine the date.

April 14-18 2025 is our Regional. Discounted rooms are available at Copeland Towers Comfort Suites. Holding the Regional at our club or at Copeland Towers has not yet been decided.

In order to provide a timely start for our games, a new policy will be instituted effective August 1st. Players must be at the club **5 min prior to game time**. The first violation will result in a warning; the second time you will be invited to kibbitz should you desire to stay. The policy will be in the next Kibitzer, the President's message, and there will be reminders from directors in the weeks ahead.

The Longest Day is fast approaching; only cash or checks (made out to Alzheimer's Association) will be accepted except for auction items. Larry Federico's son will make a sign acknowledging all of the food vendors who have generously contributed to this event.

Jennifer Holmes provided handouts to board members highlighting the many ways the game of Bridge can be especially helpful as a mind sport as well as social interaction in preventing Alzheimer's.

Suggestion Box: Change Thurs 299 game to a 399. The 299 game is not making. It was agreed to try a 499 game. All approved.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Logue
Recording Secretary