

Louisiana Bridge Association
Board of Directors Meeting
May, 2022

The meeting was called to order at approximately 4:00 p.m. by Larry Federico, President. Present were Larry, Newt Jackson, Mary LeBlanc, Wayne Weisler, Sherrie Goodman, Jim Thornton, Jackie Madden, Lowen, Suzanne Cliffe, and Jennie Sauviac. Absent: Diana Powell
A welcome was extended to Jennie Sauviac, new member of the Board.

The first thing that Larry brought up was clarification of pay for the teachers. There is currently a lesson being taught at the club for new players with a short game following. The players have paid \$50 each for the series. The current teacher, Kathy Plauche, receives the amount paid by the students as well as the pay for running the game. The money the students pay is reimbursement for her expenses and materials that she provides. She also donated and connected a tv in the Board room to be used for lessons. The Monday 0-20 game will be changed to a 0-99'er game, hoping to increase attendance.

The Minutes for the April meeting were approved.

Finances: Mary LeBlanc, Treasurer

Mary reported that we have lost approximately \$24,000 this year. Some of it was the \$7-8000 fees owed to the ACBL for last year which they didn't collect until April.

There was a discussion about the approximately \$3,000 we paid to Mike's Maintenance in the past month. That was for air conditioning filters and changing them, toilet repairs, some cracks in the concrete outside, some sign painting, and additional maintenance work. He was also reimbursed for an air conditioning unit he purchased for the Board room as well as fire extinguishers. Jackie said that Mike was paid as the company, A-Z Maintenance but that is not a licensed company in the state of Louisiana. The question arose as to whether he is insured. Wayne said that these charges shouldn't continue, that much of it was catch up work. Wayne will obtain his licenses as a contractor as well his certificate of insurance. Mike has also given Larry a proposal for work that he says needs to be done at the club for \$15,000. Larry has not authorized that work at this time. It was also reiterated that any work that should be done by a specifically licensed contractor should be done by that specialty, i.e., plumber, electrical, and air conditioning.

The contract for work to repair the building after Ida was \$347,000 of which we still have \$73,000 in reserve. Work that the LBA has paid for was not caused by Ida.

Jackie met with a structural engineer to ascertain the structural condition of the building. He said it is fine. He did find some rot in the back room but he thinks that is termite related. The termite company said it is water.

We have paid Access Electric \$8600 to fix wiring on the roof, some of the damage being caused by the roofers. Larry pursued this and we will get a reimbursement for half of that amount from the roofers.

Mary reported that we lost \$1500 on the May tournament, much of that on the food expense of providing box lunches which were \$9 each and the cost per session was \$12.00. Also, the attendance was down. The May tournament always coincides with Jazz Fest which may take some people, and it also raises the cost of hotel rooms if people are coming in town. Lowen made the suggestion that we move to only 3 tournaments a year, dropping the May tournament. Sherrie suggested that we charge more if reservations aren't made in advance. Larry thinks that we should continue to serve food but not box lunches. We will look at attendance and results from the July tournament before making changes.

The finance report was accepted.

Maintenance: Jackie brought up the sanitation fogging that we have been doing. It was voted to cancel that as of the end of May.

Larry reported that the hurricane repairs are 98% complete.

Club Manager's Report:

Sherrie brought up the discussion of the "Learn Bridge in a Day" with Patty Tucker that we had discussed previously and whether we wanted to commit to this. Patty developed this program and presents it nationally at clubs as well as in conjunction with the NABC's. The cost to the club is \$750 plus Patty's expenses which include travel expenses, hotel, and per diem. The Board voted to have this event and subsidize the cost. It will be held on Saturday, September 10th. We will charge attendants \$20 for the class which will include their lunch and supplies. It will need to be publicized. It was suggested that we ask Philip Luchsinger to handle the publicity. On Thursday, September 15, Kathy Plauche will begin a class for beginners. We hope that some of the players from the Learn Bridge in a Day will follow up with these classes.

Sherrie reported that numbers in the online club are down. Some people are playing in the ACBL games and not the Virtual Club games. When they do that, our club does not receive any of the money for the games. Larry will mention this in the President's Message in the Kibitzer and also thanking our membership for their loyalty.

NABC report: Larry reported that we have a conference call with the ACBL scheduled to resolve outstanding issues. He reported that the ACBL will not provide late night food as they have in the past as they are cutting back on the night games. They will provide some breakfast items. On June 14 there will be a site visit when they will come down and meet at the Marriott.

Larry reported that Jennie Sauviac had volunteered as the fund raising chairperson. On her committee are Suzanne Cliffe, Sid LeBlanc, Sue Himel, Sherrie Goodman, and Henry Bodenheimer. She would like others to volunteer to help with this task.

There have been 3 district wide fundraising games approved. They will give us the dates and there will extra points given for these games.

Larry also has a commitment from District 10 of \$20,000.

Lowen said that the Board had approved naming a day in honor of Joan Van Geffen and her attainment of the 20,000 masterpoint goal as well as a day recognizing John Onstott, our resident Grand Life Master and his achievement of 30,000 masterpoints.

Discussion of food at the club. We will continue to not allow food in the playing area or eating at the table. All of the directors need to enforce this.

Linda Freese has volunteered to chair the Longest Day games to be held on Friday, June 24. There will be two games, one in the morning and one in the afternoon. There will be no raffle this year as it is thought that we wouldn't be able to sell enough tickets. Mary Ann Joyner will donate the food.

There was a discussion of whether we would allow party bridge at the club. Lowen said that there are people that want to have the party games again. One of the issues is the use and cleanliness of the club and supplies and who would open and close. Wayne said that he could be there possibly on a Tuesday night. If someone wants to hold one then, it will have to be coordinated with Wayne. They will pay \$5.00 per person, bringing their own snacks and bridge supplies, including cards. There will be no games held during the club's regular duplicate games.

Lowen raised the question of how much to charge a teacher for the use of the club when he is giving lessons. It was approved by the Board that teachers can use the club for lessons at a price of \$3/person. In addition there will be no lessons/classes scheduled during the same time as our duplicate games.

Sherrie reported that the other face to face clubs that she communicates with do not currently hold a game that is only for limited masterpoint players. She said that the clubs want anyone that wants to play to be able to play. She suggests that we change the Wednesday game that we currently have for 0-750 players to an open game. The director/teacher can offer a lesson prior to the game for those that want it but that the game will become an open game for all players. This was approved by the Board, effective June 1.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:10. The next meeting will be held on Monday, June 13.

Suzanne Cliffe
Recording Secretary