

Northern Virginia Bridge Association
Minutes of the Board of Directors
January 9, 2006

The meeting was held at Pistone's Restaurant. Officers and directors attending were: Leo Cardillo, Dale Dallaire, Marjorie Gazzola, Margot Hennings, Ron Kral, Paul Krueger, Eugene Schuyler, John Mason, Unit Game Director Marshall Kuschner, Youth Advisor Jennifer Lin and former Youth Advisor David Banh. Kathryn Kiley was absent. President Cardillo called the meeting to order at 7 p.m.

Minutes. Dale made a motion to accept the minutes for November 2005 as amended, John seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

Treasurer's Report.

Financial Reports: Treasurer Dale Dallaire distributed copies of the following reports to the Board:

Balance Sheets as of December 31, 2005 and as of January 9, 2006
Profit & Loss May through December 2005
Profit & Loss November through December 2005
Profit & Loss Detail October 1, 2005 through January 9, 2006(Sectional)
Profit & Loss Detail November, 2005 through December, 2005(Unit Game)
NVBA Unit Game November 1, 2005 through December 31, 2005

It was suggested that table counts be added to the Unit Game detail report.

Treasurer's Payments: The Board discussed the problems the NVBA has had with payment by check to our website hosting company, FrontServe.com They have taken our website down two times recently without informing us, even after they received our check. The Board discussed the possibility of acquiring a Unit credit card, which would facilitate payments for large purchases, and decided to wait on this issue. Dale asked if the Board would agree that she could pay normal, recurring monthly and quarterly expenses by check without a second signature. It was agreed that this would be acceptable. Margot Hennings volunteered to be the Unit's monthly financial reviewer, and Dale will send her the account numbers.

Unit Charity: Dale will write to the IRS to get a ruling about the Unit's charitable donation status. She has received several conflicting answers from the IRS by telephone.

President's Report

Unit Game: President Leo Cardillo reported that our caddy, Nick Crank, is leaving, and that this week will be his last. We will take up a collection for Nick as a farewell thank you gift at the Thursday game. Our Beth El assistant Irv would like to take some of the tables down early if they're not being used, and the Board agreed that this was acceptable. Unit Game Director Marshall Kuschner said that we haven't held a Junior Fund game this past year but that we could hold one during February and during other designated times. We can't hold an upgraded club championship game until the Unit Game has signed up ten new ACBL members, and we need two more, which Ron Kral can probably sign up at his Smithsonian classes.

TJ Bridge: Leo reported that the Friday afternoon bridge club for students at Thomas Jefferson High School for Science("TJ") is doing well, with over 60 students signing up for each session, and is now held in a double-sized classroom.

Beth El Lease: The lease with Beth El has been signed. A few dates in 2006 are unavailable, and we expect that the Knights of Columbus Hall(KOCH) can cover those dates. Leo and John Mason will look at a possible alternate site, Saint Katherine's Greek Orthodox Church in Arlington.

Volunteer Positions: There has been some confusion about exactly what a Guaranteed Partner(G/P) is. Leo would like to find someone to take over the Unit Partnership Chair position.

Conduct & Ethics: Marshall reported that there was a C&E incident early in December, which has been reported to Jeff Roman, so we probably need to have some C&E committee members appointed and ready. Leo will talk with Jeff, and will assign names for Conduct & Ethics committees.

WBL: Leo provided updated NVBA club data to WBL for the new bridge information "Trifold" that the WBL published recently. Our cost share is about \$200 for our portion of the 5,000 copies. WBL has been experimenting with G/P's, where the G/P plays for free and receives another free play.

Other Unit Business: Leo asked the Board if they would like to change the Board meeting time or move it to another location. We will look for a possible alternate location in Reston for some meetings so that Board members who live to the West won't always have to travel so far. We also agreed that the Board Secretary would send congratulatory letters to NVBA members who attain Gold Life Master status.

Youth Advisor: Leo introduced the NVBA's new Youth Advisor, Jennifer Lin, who proposed that we hold a Junior Regional tournament for players under age 26 in conjunction with one of our Regionals. She had seen an article about a high school tournament run by WBL in 1990. Hunt Valley would be the preferred venue because most Juniors are away in July. An event like this would attract juniors beyond the local area, and Jennifer offered to provide transportation. The games could be run immediately

before or after the Regional. Margot proposed that the suggestion go to District 6. It was mentioned that Donna Bowser might be interested. David Banh, former NVBA Youth Advisor, reported that he had signed up many Junior members, but they don't participate in ACBL events. Marshall suggested a high school knockout event as part of a Regional. Jennifer will find out how the Junior Tournament was run in 1990.

Vice President's Report

Scheduling issues: Vice President Margot Hennings reported that she has been in contact with the representative for the Knights of Columbus Hall(KOCH). In addition to four NVBA Sectionals, KOCH will also provide coverage for two Thursday evening Unit Games in April and June when Beth El is unavailable, but they cannot cover September 21. KOCH is proposing an increase in our rent for 2006 by 10 percent, to \$275 for Thursday nights and \$3,025 for Friday, Saturday and Sunday Sectionals. Margot will sign a contract with KOCH, possibly for two years instead of one, and will attach a list of dates. She will ask for assurance on the additional dates.

Alexandria Regional: Margot and Tournament CoChair Kathryn Kiley will be meeting this week for Alexandria Regional planning. So far these positions have been filled: Ron and Mary Ann Kral - I/N, Leo - Partnerships, Mary Mudd and Barry Sparks - Prizes. Split session times last year didn't work well, so we have gone back to 10, 3:30 and 8 session start times for all games. The Board discussed Regional registration gifts and hospitality issues.

District 6: Margot has taken over as interim District 6 President since Andre L'Heureux resigned, and is in the process of organizing committees. She asked Leo if he would chair an Education and Youth Committee. Margot stressed that it is necessary to revitalize District 6, and proposed a website redesign.

Other Chair Reports

Unit Game Business Manager: Eugene Schuyler reported that he has prepared a complete inventory EXCEL spreadsheet, which Leo will review. Eugene will send the spreadsheet to all Board members(Note: Board members received the inventory spreadsheet on January 23). He has recently bought some much-needed new items for Unit Game hospitality.

Intermediate/Novice Program, Publicity : Ron Kral reported that there will be a "birthday" party at the Unit 199er game on February 9. He would like to do a postcard mailing to all NVBA members with fewer than 300 masterpoints(about 900 members), which would cost approximately \$400. The Board discussed whether this would be cost-effective and whether there are other ways to encourage I/N attendance. One idea that was presented was for Board members to personally call individuals who haven't been out recently, let them know about the anniversary party and invite them to attend. Eugene

offered to check prices for the postcards. Board member Paul Krueger suggested that an award be given to the 199er for most points won in the Unit 199er game. It was agreed to start the award this year, that the points would be accumulated from February to February. (Note: on January 10, Jennifer emailed Board members an EXCEL file with a compilation of Novice game results from April 2004 through the January 5, 2006 game. Ron suggested that, since we now have this information, we present a "Top 199er" award at the February 9 birthday party.) The Board discussed whether the free plays that have been awarded at the 199er game have increased attendance. Other incentives suggested were playing with a Life Master, educational bridge pamphlets, or door prizes that can be redeemed at the bridge book seller's booth at the Alexandria Regional. Ron, Eugene, Dale, Jenny and John will form a committee to discuss ideas for the 199er game. Ron also told the Board that his series of bridge lessons at the Smithsonian will start on Monday evening, January 23, and that Steve Robinson is providing computer assistance.

Club Liaison/GNT/NAP Co-ordinator : John Mason reported that he and NVBA Webmaster Sumner Steinfeldt are formalizing a standard operating procedure whereby if Sumner is out of town, John can post information to the NVBA website. All data for posting should now be sent to both Sumner and John. Margot pointed out that there are currently inconsistencies in links on the website, which John will look into.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 p. m. The NVBA Board will meet next on February 13, 2006 at Pistone's Restaurant.

Respectfully submitted,

Marjorie Gazzola, Secretary