

Northern Virginia Bridge Association  
Minutes of the Board of Directors  
February 13, 2006

The meeting was held at Pistone's Restaurant. Officers and directors attending were: Leo Cardillo, Margot Hennings, Dale Dallaire, Marjorie Gazzola, Kathryn Kiley, John Mason, Unit Game Director Marshall Kushner and Education Chair Joanne Pretti. Ron Kral, Paul Krueger, Eugene Schuyler and Jennifer Lin were absent. President Cardillo called the meeting to order at 6:50 p.m.

**Minutes.** Margot made a motion to accept the minutes for January 2006 as amended, Dale 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 Sheet as of January 31, 2006  
Profit & Loss May 2005 through January 2006  
Profit & Loss for January 2006  
NVBA Unit Game May 2005 through January 2006  
NVBA Unit Game January 2006

The Board discussed reasons why the Unit Game has been operating at a loss over the past year. Attendance has been down and there have been several large one-time expenses in January, which should be offset by income from the NVBA February Sectional. It was agreed that our income and expenses have been relatively stable over the long term, however, and that next month's P&L report should reflect this more accurately.

**President's Report**

*Conduct and Ethics(C&E):* President Leo Cardillo reported that there have been several C&E incidents recently and that he has discussed these incidents and other related C&E issues with our Recorder Jeff Roman. Leo would like NVBA players to become more aware of what they should do in response to incidents at the table. Toward this goal, the NVBA has placed Zero Tolerance cards in all bidding boxes, and will prominently display ACBL Zero Tolerance policies on posterboard at games. Directors should make announcements about Zero Tolerance at club games and, when appropriate, issue fractional board penalties instead of just giving warnings. Board members discussed how formal "Complaints" and "Player Memos" are processed behind the scenes, from the

informer through the charging party to the Recorder. It was agreed that players need to know more about this process, and a third article in the Newsletter on this subject will be forthcoming. Leo has named Paul Black, Janet Gookin, Ken Davis, Stan Schenker and Sumner Steinfeldt as five of six regular NVBA C&E committee members, and will name one more. The three Board C&E Committee members will be Paul Krueger, Kathryn Kiley and John Mason.

*Inventory:* Leo reported that we have about 45 tables at Beth El, and about 93 at KOCH, of which 23 belong to Bernie Oetjen. Ron Kral is currently using 30 tables at his Smithsonian classes, and 24 of these are new. John Mason and Dale Dallaire have 6 tables at their game, and 12 outworn tables have been given to our Unit Game Business Manager, Eugene Schuyler, for disposal. Louise Sellers would like to have any small tables that we are not using for her JCC game, where space is limited. Eugene recently sent out an NVBA inventory spreadsheet, and Margot pointed out that a large silver bowl(the former “Woman of the Year” award), which we use at the July Regional, is missing from the inventory.

*Online Partnership Desk:* Our online partnership desk information is out of date, and we need a “maintainer”. John Mason said that online partnership desk maintenance will be part of the future NVBA website project that he and Webmaster Sumner Steinfeldt are planning.

*Thomas Jefferson High School for Science(TJ)Bridge Program:* Leo expects 14 tables for the April 21 “National Matchpoint” game at TJ.

*Partnership Chair:* Leo has acted as NVBA Partnership Chair for three years, and would like to find someone else who will take over this position.

*District Six School Funds:* Of the \$20,000 charity funds available to District 6 in 2005, \$15,000 was placed into the BridgeAtSchools program and \$5,000 to the Smithsonian Bridge classes. Leo would like to see as much of the \$15,000 as possible directed back to schools within District 6, and he will speak with school bridge teachers about their needs.

*WBL/NVBA Trifold:* 2,500 copies of an updated informational trifold, “Enjoy Playing Bridge in the Washington Area”, were printed. The NVBA’s share of the cost will be about \$170, less if ACBL subsidizes the printing. The trifolds will be distributed at bridge and non-bridge sites in the Northern Virginia area.

*Unit Game Managers:* The Board discussed the cost of food at the Unit Game, and whether the food provider plays for free. Margot made a motion that the Unit Game food provider should play for free, as should the Unit Game Business Manager. Dale seconded the motion, and the motion passed. **New Policy: The Unit Game Manager and the Unit Game food provider shall play for free.**

## **Vice President's Report**

*Scheduling issues:* Vice President Margot Hennings reported that we still have no coverage for the September 21 Unit Game, but she recommends that we get the Knights of Columbus Hall(KOCH) if they can do it.

*Alexandria Regional:* Margot and Tournament CoChair Kathryn Kiley met with Ron and Mary Ann Kral to discuss I/N plans for the Regional. Other Tournament volunteers have been named: Bob and Martha Zier will be Hospitality Chairs, Barry Sparks and Mary Mudd will handle prizes and Leo will be the Partnership Chair. Margot also reported that she has been in touch with Rick Beye, Head of all Tournament Directing Staff at ACBL Headquarters, who mentioned that ACBL has been working with the AARP in getting them to recognize the benefits of bridge to our aging population, and that AARP is interested in offering free trips to their annual convention in September for winners of gaming contests. The AARP has designated June and July as the months for these contests, and they have specifically asked for our help in setting up some bridge lessons/games on the Saturday of the Regional, July 1. AARP and ACBL are willing to shoulder any costs that the event may incur. We would provide space at the Regional and possibly an additional director. Margot, Kathryn and Ron will meet with Marty, the local AARP contact, to discuss further details.

## **Other Chair Reports**

*Club Liaison/GNT/NAP Co-ordinator :* John Mason reported on the NVBA website overhaul that he and Webmaster Sumner Steinfeldt have undertaken. John suggested that Board members think about design changes. After discussion, it was agreed that we need a committee to focus on high-level design issues, to provide a blueprint for the new website. John will chair this committee. Dale, Ron and Eugene will work with him, and it was suggested that a typical website user might be a good addition to the committee. One question the committee should address is whether there should be a message/suggestion box on the website, and who should be the recipient of the messages.

*Education Chair :* NVBA Education Chair Joanne Pretti mentioned she had heard that Bill Gates was donating one million dollars to BridgeAtSchools. Joanne has recently started teaching bridge at St. John's school in McLean and at the teen center in McLean.

## **New Business**

*Name Tags :* The Board discussed whether we should have identifying name tags for Board members to wear at games and tournaments. Dale moved that we purchase the name tags, Margot seconded the motion, and the motion passed.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Marjorie Gazzola, Secretary