

Northern Virginia Bridge Association
Minutes of the Board of Directors
March 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, Ron Kral, Unit Game Director Marshall Kuschner and Youth Advisor Jennifer Lin. Paul Krueger and Eugene Schuyler were absent. President Cardillo called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m.

Minutes. John made a motion to accept the minutes for February 2006, Kathryn 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 February 28, 2006
- Profit & Loss Previous Year Comparison
- Profit & Loss for February 2006
- NVBA Profit & Loss May 2005 through February 2006
- NVBA Sectional January through February 2006
- NVBA Unit Game February 2006
- NVBA Unit Game May 2006 through February 2006
- Free Play Analysis from NVBA Sectional February 2006
- Table Counts - 2005 Unit Games

The Board discussed reasons why the Unit Game continues to lose money while our Sectionals are profitable. The February NVBA Sectional had 408.5 tables for an approximate \$1,900 profit. A preliminary review shows about a \$200 loss for the current NVBA fiscal year, which, it was agreed, is acceptable for a not-for-profit organization. Another financial issue discussed was how much of the NVBA's available funds should be kept in checking and savings accounts, and whether we should spend more now or keep savings in reserve for future needs.

President's Report

Online Partnership Desk: President Leo Cardillo reported that the NVBA online partnership desk is out of date, and that NVBA member Kevin O'Brien has offered technical assistance. John Mason, who is working with Webmaster Sumner Steinfeldt on NVBA website changes, will contact Kevin.

BridgeAtSchools: Leo reported that Suzanne Abrams is teaching bridge to students at Garfield Elementary School in Springfield, and the Springfield Connection newspaper published a story about her class which we could report in the next NVBA newsletter. Leo emphasized that we need to present a comprehensive plan for the use of \$15,000 in BridgeAtSchools funds that are available. Leo expects 14-16 tables of students from his bridge club to participate in a matchpoint event at Thomas Jefferson High School for Science(TJ) on April 21.

Conduct and Ethics(C&E): Leo is looking for a ninth appointee to the C&E committee. There are two serious C&E cases currently active. One is scheduled to be heard on March 16 at Beth El and the second case hasn't been scheduled yet. These will be Recorder Jeff Roman's first cases and he has asked for a record-keeping assistant. Paul Black, currently the C&E Co-chair, has offered to be the assistant Recorder. The Board discussed whether this would be a conflict of interest. Leo has many boxes of historic C&E records that were turned over by Bette Dudka, the NVBA's previous Recorder.

Unit Game and Sectional Venues: Leo plans a visit to St Katharine's church in Arlington and to a Knights of Columbus hall in Alexandria to see if they might provide alternate sites for our games. We still don't know if KOCH in Arlington can cover the September 21 Unit Game. The decision will be made by a new Grand Knight at KOCH to be elected this summer.

Partnership Chair: We need a volunteer for this position which Leo has held for three years.

Inventory: Leo presented Unit Game Business Manager Eugene Schuyler's inventory report. Some inventory issues that were discussed included problems with replenishing supplies during the Unit Game, caddy responsibilities, disposing(donating or selling) extra sets of boxes and boards, and ordering paper supplies. We currently have plenty of tables at Beth El and at KOCH.

Vice-President's Report: No report.

Nominations Committee: Secretary Marge Gazzola, a member of the NVBA Board Nominations Committee, reported that current Board members Margot Hennings, Dale Dallaire and Kathryn Kiley have agreed to run again, and that Carole Grob, Unit Game Hospitality Chair, will run for the fourth Board position. The Board discussed a suggestion from absent Board member Paul Krueger, that we appoint an active novice player as a non-voting member of the Board to represent the concerns of novice players. There was agreement that this is a good idea, and the Board also discussed the possibility of an "ombudsman" Board position as is done in the WBL.

Dave Murray Award(DMA): Unit Game Director Marshall Kushner presented names of several nominees that had been sent to him by Unit club managers. The Board voted

on these candidates and chose an individual to receive the DMA at the Annual Meeting in May. The Board discussed whether NVBA Board members should be eligible for the DMA and agreed that current Board members will not be eligible but past Board members are eligible. It was also agreed that candidates must be NVBA members in good standing. The Board discussed whether a committee should be appointed to choose the DMA candidate in the future, and it was suggested that former DMA winners could be committee members. Marshall will draft a statement of formal NVBA policies and procedures for the DMA which will address the award criteria, nomination procedures and the selection process.

Other Chair Reports

Club Liaison/GNT/NAP Co-ordinator : John Mason would like to get the website committee moving. Sam Gumbert was suggested as a possibility for the committee's extra member, a typical website user. Margot will ask Sam if he's interested. It's possible that Kevin O'Brien may be able to provide some technical assistance.

Intermediate/Novice Program Publicity: Ron Kral brought copies of the coupon books he had printed but unfortunately they were not ready in time for Steve Forsythe's class. The coupon books contain free plays to games in both the NVBA and the WBL. Ron expects to hand them out to players with 0-5 MPs. He will evaluate the coupon book experiment at the end of the year and, if successful, perhaps do it annually. Ron recommended that we start a 0-5 game at the Unit Game that will be free and the Board agreed. The issue of the "wall" between games at Beth El was discussed, if it can be moved, whether we'll have to move it to accommodate different size games and whether we need the wall at all. Leo will check on this with Beth El. Ron has 300-400 email addresses for novice players that he could contact. He has also sent letters to all who attended his Smithsonian class with a printout of the MPs they won, thanking them for attending, and announcing the new free 0-5 game on Thursday evenings. The first 0-5 game will be held this week on March 16. Both Ron's and Steve Forsythe's classes have just ended and there is a need to get these new players active in local games as soon as possible.

President Cardillo adjourned the meeting at 9:15 p. m. The NVBA Board will meet next on April 10, 2006 at Pistone's Restaurant.

Respectfully submitted,

Marjorie Gazzola, Secretary