

Forty-fourth Annual Meeting of the Northern Virginia Bridge Association
May 11, 2006

President Leo Cardillo welcomed everyone to the 44th annual meeting of the Northern Virginia Bridge Association and the ninth Annual Pat Eyman Memorial Strawberry Pairs, and called the meeting to order at 6:50 p.m.

President's Comments:

1. On behalf of all the NVBA Board members, I am pleased to welcome our members and guests to the forty-fourth Annual Meeting and Elections of the NVBA! In addition, tonight we commemorate the memory of Pat Eyman, a long-term member of the NVBA Board, VP and President, by conducting the ninth annual "Pat Eyman Strawberry Pairs"! I know you are all anxious to begin play, so let me move quickly through our Agenda for tonight's meeting. The Annual meeting is now called to order.

2. The first order of business is to ask for a motion to accept last year's minutes (Copies are available for review). Morris Umansky so moved. Lucy McCoy seconded. The motion carried.

3. The NVBA Policies and Procedures require that the Treasurer provide a "State of the NVBA treasury" at the annual meeting. I now ask Dale Dallaire, NVBA Treasurer, to provide the annual financial statement. Dale? Treasurer Dale Dallaire reported that the fiscal year ending April 30, 2006 showed a small surplus in income for the year of about \$2,000, but there were outstanding expenses from the April Sectional that had not yet been paid when the books closed at the end of April. She also reported that with NVBA reserves holding steady at about \$45,000, the NVBA has sufficient funds to meet any contingency, and that the Unit is holding about \$28,000 of NABC money that was not spent at the 2002 NABC in Washington, D.C. These funds, being held by the NVBA for District 6—the host of any NABC held within its geographical boundaries—will be used in support of the 2009 Summer NABC.

4. At the end of my third year as the NVBA President, I am pleased to report that the NVBA is doing very well. Thanks to the untiring efforts of our many volunteers and our professional bridge staff, much has been accomplished during the last twelve months.

From the beginning, I have maintained four over-arching goals as President, and those goals are still intact:

- A. Increase the quality and quantity of bridge play at the Unit game and sectionals
- B. Balance the Unit Budget
- C. Cooperate closely with the WBL
- D. Support the District, the MABC and the ACBL.

I am always pleased to receive comments and feedback from our members about these goals to help shape the course of our actions. That said, here are some highlights of activities during the last twelve months in support of these goals:

(1). Recently, the NVBA Board approved a free, 0-5 game that is just getting started. Jenny Lin, our NVBA Youth Advisor (replaced David Banh) provides expert instruction/supervision to this game.

(2). The 199er game attendance is holding strong, and so is that of the Unit Game! Last week's total attendance was 17.5/Open, 9/199er and 2/0-5, for a total of 28.5 tables. These are very good numbers for a typical Thursday night. I hope to raise that total to 40 tables, on average, in the coming year.

(3). As I conclude my fifth academic year as the Bridge Advisor at Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology (TJ), I am pleased to note a record attendance of 16.5 tables last Friday! The secret to that success may well be the excellent cookies that the NVBA supplies to that game! These young players are a vital part of the NVBA strategy that will ensure the future of this great game.

(4). Attendance at the Unit Game, and especially the Sectionals, which generate most of the NVBA profit, is steadily increasing. The last two Sectionals each had more than 400 tables in play. Those are numbers that the NVBA has not seen for many years.

(5). Dale has indicated the status of the NVBA finances. I am confident that the new accounting system and the excellent work of the NVBA volunteers and professional staff will continue to sustain and improve the NVBA financial soundness.

(6). The NVBA Board works closely with the WBL in many activities. In addition to the annual scheduling coordination of the Unit Games and Sectionals, both Units have shared the marketing costs of producing a tri-fold flyer for wide distribution in the area, and also for producing free play coupon books to encourage attendance at the area club games.

(7). Support to the District, MABC and ACBL occurs through many activities, not the least of which is the number of NVBA members that are serving on the Boards and Committees of these organizations.

(8). Finally, this year the NVBA ran a special charity game and contributed those profits (\$209) and a matching amount (\$209) to help the victims of the Katrina disaster, with a total donation of \$418.

5. Now I would like to briefly thank some of the folks that are directly responsible for the success of the NVBA. Let me start by asking that the NVBA Board members stand and that you give them a big hand when they are all standing:

- NVBA VP and TC Co-Chair extraordinaire, Margot Hennings
 - Treasurer, Dale Dallaire
 - Secretary, Marge Gazzola
 - Intermediate-Novice Program & Publicity, Ron Kral
 - Unit Game Business Manager, Gene Schuyler
 - Website Liaison, Paul Krueger
 - Tournament Co-Chair, Kathryn Kiley
 - Club Liaison, GNT/NAP Coordinator & Website Liaison, John Mason
- Please join me in giving them all a well-deserved round of applause!

There are many other volunteers and workers who support the NVBA throughout the year, literally too many to mention in one sitting. But I do want to acknowledge a few and I ask the following folks to stand as I call their name:

- Chief Unit game Director, Marshall Kushner (attends Board).
- Youth Advisor, Jennifer Lin (attends Board, replaced David Banh who is at UVA)
- Unit Game Hospitality Co-Chair, Carole Grob and Bob Zier
- Cheer & Sympathy/Goodwill Chair, Virginia Fletcher, replacing June Hoye who has moved.
- Recorder & Seeding, Jeff Roman
- Caddy Chair, Stan Schenker
- Conducts & Ethics Chair, Mel Welles
- C&E Co-Chair, Paul Black
- Membership Chair, Norma & Matt Pierzchala
- Newsletter Editor, Lucy McCoy
- Newsletter Production, Julianne Smith, who has replaced David Milton.
- Education, Joanne Pretti
- Webmaster, Sumner Steinfeldt
- Prize Chairs, Mary Mudd and Barry Sparks
- Holiday Party, Ron and Mary Ann Kral
- Tournament Directors, Candy Kushner, Doug Grove, Millard Nachtwey, Michael Carroad and Terry Lavender.

I know that I may have missed a few of these great support folks – please forgive me, if I did. Let's have a big round of applause for these folks and all the other volunteers that contribute to the NVBA program and are vital to its success!

6. At this time, I ask Mary Mudd and Barry Sparks to join me and assist in the presentation of our awards.

A. The Mini-McKenney award is given to the player in each category who has won the most masterpoints in the past calendar year as recorded by the ACBL. As I call your name, please come forward to receive your award.

Rookie – Eric Poskanzer
Junior Master – Larry Gebbie
Club Master – Martha Bley
Sectional Master – Elizabeth Parker
Regional Master – David Banh
NABC Master – Prah Rajkumar
Life Master – Sam Bowlin
Bronze Life Master – Herb Fallin, Jr.
Silver Life Master – La Quitta Talbot
Gold Life Master – Don Geerhart
Diamond Life Master – Ken Davis
Emerald Life Master – Jeff Roman

Platinum Life Master – Robert Gookin

Let's have a big round of applause for all of these winners!

B. The Ace of Clubs award is given to the player in each category who has won the most masterpoints in the previous year at clubs within the Unit. Again, as I call your name, please come forward to receive your award.

Rookie – Eric Poskanzer
Junior Master – Larry Gebbie
Club Master – Nancy Detweiler
Sectional Master – Elizabeth parker
Regional Master – Margaret Brown
NABC Master – Gerry Higgins
Life Master – Salam Saidi
Bronze Life Master – Herb Fallin, Jr.
Silver Life Master – Robert Hartmann
Gold Life Master - Don Geerhart
Diamond Life Master – Ken Davis
Emerald Life Master – Jeff Roman
Platinum Life Master – Ed Lewis

Again, a big round of applause!

C. A key measure of the vitality of any Unit is the number of new Life Masters that are developed each year. The following new Life Masters are being honored with their names embossed on the cakes that you see in the back of the room. I ask them to stand as I call out their names and that you hold your applause until they are all standing:

Cathy Baker
Richard Cassell
Doreen Colket
William Colket
Rod Dallaire
Lorraine DeBlasio
Pitamber Devgon
Linda Dick
Mark Durocher
Suellen Garrison
Irish Grandfield
Gloria Hallstead
Gerry Higgins
Kathrine Loh
Nancy Loomis
Yvonne Markell
John Mason, Jr.

William Mendez
Hazel Murphy
Hikmat Nasr
Dennis Schwanz
Clara Siewick
Paul Stygar
Morris Umansky

Please enjoy the cake, but first join me in giving these new LM's a well-earned round of applause. And, yes, I will be looking for ALL OF THEM at next week's Annual LM/NLM Game, to do their part!!

D. This is the third year that the NVBA is awarding the "Dave Murray Favorite Partner Award", in memory of a very fine player who was also 'everybody's favorite partner'. Personally, I hold this particular award in the highest regard, because the winners are exceptionally talented bridge players who also demonstrate and promote the best possible behavior at the table. One cannot win this award with only great skill or exceptional behavior – one has to have both of these qualities. This year's winner is not able to attend tonight, because of a family wedding that takes precedence. Nonetheless, the winner of this year's coveted DMA is Jack Armstrong. Jack will join us next week at the Unit Game on 18 May for the presentation ceremony. I ask all of you to be there to congratulate Jack as he accepts the Dave Murray Trophy.

E. The FINAL AWARD! Each year, the NVBA recognizes the top players of the year in four categories. These players have won more masterpoints in the preceding twelve months than all of their peers. And the winners are:

1. Rookie of the Year (less than 20 MPs at the start of the year) – Eric Poskanzer
2. The Rush Buckley NLM – David Banh
3. The Man of the Year – Ken Davis
4. The Woman of the Year – Janet Gookin

7. This year's NVBA election did not require a vote. All four candidates ran unopposed and were elected by acclamation. The Board members are:

Vice President, Margot Hennings
Treasurer, Dale Dallaire
Board Member, Kathryn Kiley
Board member, Carole Grob – Carole replaced Gene Schuyler who was kind enough to fill in for Scott Merritt who moved PCS to Africa.

I remind you in advance that next year's election will require candidates for the other five Board positions. I would always like to see more candidates than needed, so that we can

have a real vote and so that we can better assure a rich field of candidates to meet the future needs of the NVBA. I encourage each of you to consider serving on the Board!!

8. The business of the Annual Meeting has been accomplished! Thank you!

The meeting was adjourned at 7:25 p. m.