

Forty-fifth Annual Meeting of the Northern Virginia Bridge Association
(Draft minutes)

May 17, 2007

The Forty-fifth Annual Meeting of the Northern Virginia Bridge Association was held at Beth El Hebrew Congregation on May 17, 2007. President Leo Cardillo welcomed everyone to the NVBA Annual Meeting and the tenth annual Pat Eyman Memorial Strawberry Pairs, and called the meeting to order at 6:35 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-fifth 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 tenth annual "Pat Eyman Strawberry Pairs"! 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). Do I hear a motion? Andre L'Heureux so moved. Second? Mary Mudd seconded. All those in favor? The motion carried.

3. The NVBA Policies and Procedures require that the Treasurer provide a "State of the NVBA treasury" at the annual meeting. Dale Dallaire, the NVBA Treasurer, could not attend tonight's meeting due to the imminent arrival of a grandchild in Detroit, so I will present her brief comments. Copies of the financial summary for the 2006-07 fiscal year are available. The NVBA currently has reserves of just over \$40,000. Over the last two years we have operated at just about a break-even status. Are there any questions about the Financial Report? Jeff Roman asked when the Unit would acquire a board duplicating machine. President Cardillo replied that the Unit is committed to pre-duplicated hands whenever possible, either by hand or by the rental use of a local duplicating machine. The NVBA Board has not made a determination to purchase a duplicating machine yet, but that possibility does exist.

4. At the end of my fourth 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). Attendance at the Sectionals and the Unit Game continues to increase. Sectional attendance has been over 400 tables on several occasions, and the Unit Game attendance is averaging about thirty tables. Just as important as this increase, the growth of the 199er game and the emerging 0-5 game, both speak well for the future health of the Unit.

(2). The financial condition of the Unit remains very strong, despite increased costs, especially those of the Sectional rent. Most of you realize that the Unit had to leave the KOCH venue after many successful years, because KOCH imposed rental increases of many, many thousands of dollars. The good news is that the Unit has established and funded a contract with the Elks Lodge #2188 to cover the Sectionals through 2008. More on that later.

(3). As I conclude my sixth academic year as the Bridge Advisor at Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology (TJ), I am pleased to note that attendance at TJ Bridge Club remains very strong. Two of those players are here tonight, and this group of young, talented and enthusiastic players ensures the vitality of the membership of the bridge world. The secret to that success may well be the excellent cookies that the NVBA supplies to that game, and the excellent support that I receive at TRJ from Nancy Cartwright! These young players are a vital part of the NVBA strategy that will ensure the future of this great game.

(4). Speaking of young players, Suzanne Abrams has done a simply marvelous job at creating and growing a Bridge Club at Garfield Elementary School. These fifth and sixth graders meet every Friday, after school, and play some very good bridge. An article on the Garfield BC is in the next NVBA Newsletter, and a wonderful video is also available on the web. In the aging world of bridge players, these young folks are a sure sign that the game is here to stay. A final note on the youth of today's bridge world – David Soukup and his father, Ray, have become regulars at the Unit Game, and we are all delighted with their presence!!

Now, I'd like to say a few words about the next twelve months.

(1). The Board has hired Gene Schuyler to be the Assistant Chief Director of the Unit. Gene will be the principal 199er Director and he will also be the primary Substitute Director when Marshall is not available to direct the Unit Game. Gene will also make sure that the emerging, new Directors have plenty of opportunities to direct the 199er and the developing 0-5 game.

(2). As the Assistant Chief Director, Gene will also be providing pre-duped hands for the Unit Game, whenever he can. At the moment, Gene is duping the boards by hand – a time-consuming and tedious task – but the Unit is likely to have the use of a duplicating machine in the next six months or so. In addition, the pre-duped hands will also feature the "Deep Finesse" analysis. Please join me in welcoming Gene to the NVBA Staff!!

(3). The loss of the KOCH was not our choice, but rather that of KOCH management, despite our best efforts. I am pleased to report that the day clubs (Saturday morning and afternoon, Monday evening and Tuesday morning) are all able to stay at KOCH, and I am also pleased to note that the Elks Lodge is a superb facility, better in every respect than that of KOCH, and at a very reasonable cost, to boot. You will be hearing more of the details of the Elks facility in the months ahead and before the September Sectional. The address of the Arlington-Fairfax Elks Lodge is 8421 Arlington Boulevard, Fairfax, VA, and I believe that we have a flyer available with a map of the Elks Lodge.

(4). As the Board assesses the impact of the cost of increased services at the Unit Game, including pre-duped hands and the nominal rental increases at Beth El that are to come, the Board may well have to establish a modest increase in the playing fees for the Unit Game. The Board will study this issue to include the new playing venue at the Elks, and determine any price increases that are necessary by the fall of 2007.

(5) I'll remind you again at the end of my remarks, but I want to encourage each and every one of you to consider how you can serve as a volunteer for the NVBA. Bridge is an international game and the best card game ever invented, and it is a great deal of fun, but it needs your support. My own strategy as President is to keep the Board to a minimum size and recruit more volunteers, so that nobody has to do too much. We have many wonderful volunteers and staff, but we need more help. Too many of us are still doing too many jobs and often for too many years. If we all do our fair share, the work will be a snap and we can all enjoy more and better bridge. If you are interested in helping out – and we have tons of jobs! – please see me or any Board member to get started. You will enjoy the opportunity to serve the NVBA, its members, and this great game of Bridge that we all enjoy! Are there any questions or comments from the membership?

5. 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 Margot Hennings.
 - Treasurer, Dale Dallaire
 - Secretary, Marge Gazzola
 - Intermediate-Novice Program & Publicity, Ron Kral
 - Staffing Coordinator & alternate Hospitality Provider, Carole Grob
 - Technology Advisor, 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 Kuschner.
- Unit Game Hospitality Chair, Bob Zier
- Unit Game Business manager, Gene Schuyler
- Cheer & Sympathy/Goodwill Chair, Virginia Fletcher.
- 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.
- Education, Joanne Pretti
- Webmaster, Sumner Steinfeldt
- Prize Chair, Mary Mudd and Barry Sparks
- Holiday Party, Ron & Mary Ann Kral, and others!
- Tournament Directors, Candy Kuschner, Doug Grove, Millard Nachtwey and Terry Lavender.
- BIL, Sam Coleman
- Sectional PC, Mary Ann Kral

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 (and Margot!) 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 (two club free plays?).

0-5	Ms. Kiyomi Shiba
5-20	Mr. Nagy A Wehbe
20-50	Mr. Eric P Poskanzer
50-100	Mr. Kevin O'Brien
100-200	Mr. William C. Gurley
200-300	Mrs. Martha D. Bley
300-500	Mr. David H Banh
500-1000	Mr. David H Schultz
1000-2500	Mr. Herbert K Fallin

2500-5000 Mr. Sumner Steinfeldt
5000-7500 Mr. Kenneth B Davis
7500-10,000 Mr. Jeff M Roman
10,000 Plus! Lt.Col Ed R Lewis

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 (two club free plays?).

0-5 Mrs. Joanne Stewart
5-20 Mr. Nagy A Wehbe
20-50 Joan R White
50-100 Ms. Ellie Clark
100-200 Mrs. Elizabeth Huffman
200-300 Mr. Abdul W Etemadi
300-500 Mr. Robert S Boyd
500-1000 Mr. Salam A Saidi
1000-2500 Mr. Robert G Hartmann
2500-5000 Mr. Donald W Geerhart
5000-7500 Mr. Kenneth B Davis
7500-10,000 Mr. Jeff M Roman
10,000Plus Mr. Robert W Gookin

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 (Play free at Annual meeting):

Mrs. Mary Ann Craft
Mr. Mahadeo R Patwardhan
Mr. Prahalad Rajkumar
Mr. Edwin L Brawn
Ms. Marilyn A Smebakken
Ms. Helen S Cooper
Miss Jennifer Linn
Ms. Helen Dodge
Ms. Susan M Miskura
Elizabeth A Parker
Elizabeth S Traylor
Donna M Josaitis
Mrs. Elizabeth S Schepps
Col. Madison C Schepps
Mrs. Martha D Bley
Mr. Ross A Bley
Nancy Young
Mr. David H Banh
Ms. Nancy Detweiler
Mr. William C Gurley
Mrs. Martha S Mangano
Mr. Kevin R O'Brien
Nancy Cartwright
Dr. Edward A Molnar
Mr. Daniel Weinberg

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 this year's LM/NLM game on 31 May 2007. And the Board has voted to make the LM/NLM FREE for all players! It's a great deal and it's a lot of fun! Be there!!!

D. This is the fourth 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. Although I have not had the pleasure of being a partner to this year's winner, I can honestly say that he is one of my very favorite opponents! The many virtues of this year's Dave Murray Award winner will be ably detailed by Sumner Steinfeldt. Sumner, the mike is yours! After speaking about his longtime partner and friend, Sumner presented a trophy to Ed Gofreed, the 2007 winner of the "Dave Murray Favorite Partner Award".

E. The FINAL AWARD! Each year, the NVBA recognizes the top players of the year in four categories. These players have won more masterpoints playing in NVBA-sponsored events in the preceding twelve months than all of their peers. And the winners (8 Sectional Free Plays) are:

1. Rookie of the Year (less than 20 MPs at the start of the year) - Nagy A Wehbe
2. The Rush Buckley (NonLifeMaster) - Bob Silverstein
3. The Man of the Year - Ken Davis
4. The Woman of the Year - Janet Gookin

7. We are almost done! I am pleased to note that this year's NVBA election did require a vote, and that vote has now been tabulated. It is my hope that we will always have more candidates than are required to fill the Board vacancies. The results of the election are as follows:

President, Leo Cardillo
Secretary, Marge Gazzola
Executive Director #1 Ron Kral
Executive Director #2 Bruce Houston
Executive Director #3 Herb Fallin
Executive Director #4 Ed Brawn

Let's have a round of applause for our returning and new Board members!

I remind you in advance that next year's election will require candidates for the other four Board positions, including two Officer positions and two Executive Director positions. As I noted earlier, 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! Do I hear a motion to adjourn? Jeff Roman so moved. Second? Ron Kral seconded. All in favor? The motion carried. The NVBA Annual Meeting was adjourned at 7:15, followed by a 43-table Stratiflighted Charity Pairs game.

Respectfully submitted,

Marjorie Gazzola
Secretary, Unit 218