

Northern Virginia Bridge Association  
Minutes – Board Meeting  
September 14, 2010  
FINAL

The September 2010 NVBA Board Meeting was held on Tuesday September 14, 2010 at the Westwood Country Club in Vienna.

Those attending were:

Bob Boyd, President  
Alan Breed, Vice President  
Lynda Flanger, Treasurer  
Jennifer Nisenoff, Secretary  
Jim Dick, Board Member  
Bruce Houston, Board Member  
Paul Black, Board Member  
Amanda Carter, Board Member  
Virginia Gibbons, Board Member  
Mike Cappelletti, Candidate for District Director  
Avril Rodney, Representing Margot Hennings, Candidate for District Director

### **Elections for District 6 Director**

Each Board of Directors within District 6 is voting for the next District Director. Unit 218 chose to do this during our September Board meeting. ACBL regulations allow for each candidate to address the Board during the election meeting and both candidates took advantage of this opportunity. Mike Cappelletti joined the meeting and Avril Rodney joined representing Margot Hennings who was out of town on business. Bob outlined a proposed methodology for the presentations and Mike spoke first.

1. Mike reviewed that he would like to focus on promoting bridge at all levels and has a special interest in having bridge accepted as an Olympic Sport. He said that the groundwork has been done; however, the ACBL could push to complete the necessary work. Mike also believes that having bridge as an Olympic sport could help get college kids interested in playing.
2. He believes that it is also important to have novices feel comfortable playing in various venues and outlined some ideas that could be implemented.
3. Avril introduced Margot's statement. She informed the Board that Margot was very sorry she couldn't attend; however, she was on a business trip. Her travel is usually quite limited and due to her flexible work arrangements, she has plenty of time and energy to devote to bridge related activities.

4. Margot's statement outlined her previous and current commitments to the Bridge community including her current and past tournament responsibilities spanning Sectionals, Regionals and Nationals.
5. After a few questions, Bob thanked Mike and Avril for attending and after they left, Jennifer administered the election. All votes were cast and each was placed in an envelope, sealed, signed, and collected. All counting is done by the ACBL. Jennifer indicated she would FedEx the ballots the following day.

### **Minutes from July Meeting**

The Board reviewed the minutes from the July Board of Directors' meeting. Jim made a motion to approve, Lynda seconded, all approved.

### **Treasurer's Report**

Lynda distributed a number of financial reports and reviewed our current status.

1. The Unit Game table count is down about 1.2 tables from last year. The Open section is up slightly while the 199er game has experienced decreases. The Board believes this movement could be the result of the mentoring program as well as 199er's "graduating" to the open.
2. Food costs at the unit game are at times an issue when there are substitutes assisting. The Board will ensure the spending policy is well understood. It was also noted that in our membership survey last year, limiting the hospitality would not result in a loss of participants in our game.
3. Lynda reported that the Unit Game was about \$137 in the red while Sectionals were about \$3500 in the black. Although the loss for the Unit Game is modest, she also reminded the Board that our rent at Beth El is scheduled to increase next year.
4. A number of items were discussed to reduce expenses:
  - a. The Newsletter is popular with our membership; however, printing and mailing costs continue to be high. If more of our members agreed to read the newsletter electronically or if we could eliminate/reduce mailing costs and distribute copies at various games, this could help. The board agreed that we needed Lucy to participate in this discussion and decided to make this the lead item at next month's Board meeting.
  - b. Cherrydale Baptist Church has been our alternative site this Fall. It has received good reviews and is also less expensive than Beth El. The Board discussed our ability to use this site more often to help reduce rent costs.
  - c. Bob will talk with his contacts at Beth El to determine if we can reduce our rent as a result of our smaller table count.
5. Our tax return has been filed and our fiscal year has been changed to match the calendar year. As a result, we will not be able to change our fiscal year again for 10 years.
6. The Budget Committee for our 2011 budget will consist of Alan (Chair), Lynda and Bruce. Their goal is to have a budget ready for the Board's November meeting.

## **Old Business**

1. Wireless scoring devices – The MABC made a decision at their last meeting to purchase 320-400 of the BridgeMate II machines sometime this Fall. They will be available for our Regionals and we hope to have access to them on a regular basis starting at our Sectionals next Spring. At this time we are not sure about the terms and conditions of their use.
2. Mentoring – Overall Bob has received good feedback from the 199er's participating in the Mentoring Program and they seem to feel more comfortable venturing out of the 199er game and participating in the Open. The last mentoring session of this year will be at the end of September and we will resume next Spring. Based on feedback, the Board discussed a few ideas to augment the program next year including post game reviews of the hands and outlining expectations for participants.
3. Policies and Procedures Manual – Paul is leading the effort to update this document and has received some input. Bob requested each Board member to review the document and provide updates—especially for the areas where they have expertise.

## **New Business**

1. Holiday Party - Virginia is the Chair for the event. Other status includes:
  - a. Ron will determine the winner for the Sara Goodwin award.
  - b. Bob has received some nominations for the Dave Murray award. Jim will solicit club owners for other nominations
  - c. For players who attend the party without food contributions, we will ask them to pay \$10/person.
2. Insurance – Will be discussed in the October meeting
3. St. Elizabeth's Program – Bob reported that the WBL and NVBA both fund this program and requested \$175 from the NVBA for simple snacks and awards/trophies to take the program through the end of 2011. All approved.
4. Rush Buckley Award Criteria – Lucy brought this topic to the attention of the Board so we will hold discussion until next month when she can attend.

## **Meeting Adjourned**

Alan made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Jim seconded, all approved.

## **Next Meeting:**

The next Board meeting will be held on October 12, 2010 at 7:00 at the Westwood Country Club in Vienna. All NVBA members are welcomed to attend. If you wish to attend, please alert Alan Breed in advance so he can ensure we have enough space in the meeting room.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Nisenoff, Secretary