

Northern Virginia Bridge Association
Board of Director Meeting Minutes
June 21, 2011

ATTENDEES: Mike Cappelletti, President
Alan Breed, Vice President
Lynda Flanger, Treasurer
Alan Dockterman, Secretary
Betty Bursey, Board Member
Leo Cardillo, Board Member
Amanda Carter, Board Member
Jim Dick, Board Member
Ron Kral, Board Member
Lucy McCoy, Newsletter Liaison
John Mason, Website Liaison

CALL TO ORDER: The President called the June Meeting of the Board of Directors to order on Tuesday, June 21, 2011 at the Westwood Country Club in Vienna, VA.

Minutes from April Meeting

The Board reviewed the minutes from the April Board of Directors' meeting, which were approved unanimously by the Board.

Treasurer's Report

1. Lynda distributed the Profit & Loss Statement for the period of January thru May of 2011 and the Balance Sheet as of May 31, 2011. She observed that there was a net income for the period of nearly \$6000. This arose from a number of factors, including the elimination of caddies at unit games, the reduction in food and beverage costs, income from the Western Unit Game, and rental of bridgemates. She stated that bridgemates were amortized over a five year period.

2. New officers were elected at the annual meeting held in May of 2011, thereby requiring a change in check-signing authority. Accordingly, the board granted Mike Cappelletti and Alan Dockterman, the new president and secretary, authority to sign checks instead of Bob Boyd and Jennifer Nisenoff, the prior president and secretary.

Other Items of Business

1. Leo reported that he had purchased eight bridge tables and will look into purchasing sixteen more at a price of \$27 per table.
2. The Board was informed that Beth El had initiated a building campaign. Alan B. made a motion, seconded by Jim, that NVBA donate \$100 to the campaign. It carried unanimously.
3. Alan B. noted that the Board had been meeting at Westwood for three years. During the last six months, it had been assigning a dedicated room for the board meetings. However, on some occasions, the staff had informed him the room was no longer available, requiring the Board to find a location elsewhere at the club. He believed that since he was no longer a member, there was some reluctance to continue the current arrangement. Given the circumstances, he thought that the Board may need to find a different site.
4. The Board discussed the composition and duties of the current list of committee chairs. It agreed that a public relations committee should be set up, and Ron agreed to be its chairperson.
5. One of the NVBA members, Michael Zane, had been exploring the possibility of renting space at Landmark Mall for unit, sectional, and club games. It was observed that at least a five year lease term would be necessary and that 5000 square feet would be desirable. Jim agreed to look into the matter, to be assisted by Ron and Alan D. Leo said he would inquire about governmental possibilities and Amanda agreed to explore the rental market in general.
6. A major source of concern was the failure of the unit to attract more players at unit games, especially for the novice game. Alan B. reported that attendance at the unit games had fallen from an average of 30 tables in 2009 to 28 in 2010 and 2011 (through May). The board discussed written recommendations prepared by Ron. During the last year, 230-250 people had played in the beginner's game and there were over fifty tables at the LM/NLM game. Therefore, the members concluded, there certainly existed the potential to substantially increase participation.

Among the ideas he proposed which the board endorsed were the issuance of masterpoint slips, the introduction of each new member, encouragement of non-ACBL members to join, greater use of free plays, and personal contact with those who played at the unit game but did not return and with those who will play next month at the Regional. Jennifer Nisenhoff has agreed to help out at the novice games and assist the Board with these initiatives. The board reached consensus to review these efforts after a few months and then decide what additional modifications or actions should be taken.

7. Leo made a motion to cancel the Unit cell phone due to little use or benefit. It was seconded by Ron and passed unanimously.

8. Lynda informed the Board that WBL has decided to raise its rates to \$10 for special and sectional games, effective July 1, 2011. Leo maintained that a raise was probably not necessary at this time due to the improved financial condition of the Unit. The Board elected to defer any action until a later date.

9. Lynda provided additional information regarding developments at the Western Unit game, where it is up to six tables. She is looking to develop another weekly game in the western section of Northern Virginia.

10. Ron reported on the outreach efforts at Thomas Jefferson High School. There were two tournaments with trophies to winners and hand records. Based on feedback from the students, it was a huge success. He hoped to have four-five tournaments next year. In his view, the key to development of bridge in local schools was the identification of a teacher who would agree to be a sponsor for the program.

Jay Lamb, who was the sponsor from Thomas Jefferson High School in Fairfax, VA, will be invited to speak at a board meeting about a program to teach bridge to school teachers. Presumably they would then be more likely to sponsor programs in their schools. In that context, Mike agreed to explore funding for such a project, noting that Warren Buffett and Bill Gates had provided funds to the ACBL of \$1,000,000, half of which was unspent, that could be used.

11. John Mason explained to the Board the operation of the website, answered questions, and received suggestions on improving its content and functionality.

NEXT MEETING AND ADJOURNMENT:

The next Board meeting was scheduled for July 12, 2011 at 7:00 p.m. at the Westwood Country Club in Vienna. NVBA members are invited to attend. Any members who plan to be present are asked to let Alan B. know in advance and to tell him whether dinner will be ordered. The President then adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,

Alan Dockterman, Secretary

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