

[Final and Approved]
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
April 30, 2017

ATTENDEES: Ron Kral, President
Ann Atcheson, Treasurer
Donna Hickling, Secretary
Marty Bley, Board Member
David Lindley, Board Member
Susan Miskura, Board Member
Kevin O'Brien, Board Member
Lucy McCoy, Newsletter Chair
Howard Stevens, Education Chair
Joe Hertz, Web Coordinator
John Wertman, Youth Advisor
George Parkins, Candidate Board Member

Unable to attend: Leo Cardillo

CALL TO ORDER: The Treasurer called the April 2017 meeting of the Board of Directors to order at 9:06 a.m. on April 30, 2017 at the Elks Club in Fairfax Virginia.

Secretary's Report

The minutes from the March meeting were reviewed and approved unanimously with four changes.

Treasurer's Report

The Board reviewed and unanimously approved the April financial statements from the Treasurer, which detailed profit and loss since the beginning of the calendar year, set forth budgeted to actual expenditures, and compared the balance sheet for assets and liabilities with that of the prior year.

Ann sent out the revised 2017 budget for review. It included all projected expenses, including two not yet approved by the Board: Carrying cases for board sets and new board sets.

Unit Game attendance has improved. With this improvement, combined with the recent price increase, it is no longer running at a loss. Ron explained that the Unit Game financials are cyclical; after a price increase it runs at a profit; then as costs increase over time it breaks even and then eventually runs at a loss; this loss is followed by another price increase. The objective is to break even over time.

The February Sectional was less profitable than in February 2016 due to slightly fewer tables and increased Directors' fees.

All the NVBA financials have been posted to the web.

Preparations for the Annual Meeting

Ron needs to send the names of the trophy winners to Leo for engraving. Lucy has the names of the 2016 Life Masters to be written on the cake. Potential space issues have been resolved; the Newcomer Game will be held in the multi-purpose room.

Responses To Annual Meeting Notice

David received one response to the annual meeting notice from Doug Grove. It suggested that the NVBA Policies and Procedures should include specific information on how NVBA will communicate with the membership. The Board, however, agreed that it would be preferable not to have specific guidance and to leave it to the Board to make decisions on a case-by-case basis.

The Board also discussed that many members are not aware of the Mini-McKinney and Ace of Clubs races. Because these races are designed to increase bridge attendance, the Board agreed that information on them would be added to the newsletter and weekly email.

Recognition of Newcomers at the Annual Meeting

The Board agreed that Ron would ask the players in the Newcomer Game to stand up for a round of applause at the Annual Meeting.

Purchase of Playing Cards and Carrying Cases

Ron began the discussion of the need for new board sets and carrying cases for the boards. Due to an error by Bridge Buddy, NVBA has the opportunity to get a good deal on the board sets. The Board agreed unanimously to purchase six or seven board sets.

Ron also stated that the NVBA needs seven new carrying cases for the boards. The Board voted to purchase these at approximately \$25 a piece with the total cost not to exceed \$300. One member voted no. Kevin will find out from Jim Gerding whether he requires the large or small cases.

LM/NLM Game

Sign-up for the LM/NLM game scheduled for June 1, 2017 is available on the web. Four people have signed up. In addition, paper sign-up forms need to be distributed to the bridge clubs and the Unit Game. Ron will develop the forms.

Other volunteers are needed: a Master of Ceremonies (neither Ron nor Marty are able to attend the game); developer of signage; provider of name tags and markers; and perhaps a greeter.

Also, someone will need to solicit Life Master participation by calling them directly. The web site should emphasize the importance of not dropping out without informing the NVBA.

Ongoing Recognition of Newcomers

Kevin proposed a recognition program for newcomers, including written recognition when each earns the first whole point and a cake to celebrate their graduation from the Newcomer game. The Board agreed that the current recognition program, which issues a certificate when members achieve five and twenty points, is sufficient.

Non-Life Master Regional

ACBL has changed its rules to allow a Non-Life Master Regional to be held at Sectionals, giving NLMs an additional opportunity to earn gold points. District 6 is authorized to hold two or three a year, the first of which will be at the NVBA October Sectional. The Board unanimously approved holding the Non-Life Master Regional in October. Margot Hennings will chair the tournament; Marty, Dave, Ann, John, and Kevin volunteered to serve on the organizing committee.

Ron commented on the success of the NVBA Intermediate/Novice program and thanked all the volunteers for making it a success.

New Business

Recently the B/C stratum of the Unit Game has been playing 24 boards as opposed to the 26 or 27 that had been played previously. It is the sense of the Board that the players prefer to play the additional boards and are willing to suffer any penalties resulting from slow play. Ron will ask Jim Gerding to increase the number of boards.

The Board discussed zero tolerance compliance and whether a zero tolerance card should be placed in every bidding box. The Board agreed that violations of the policy are still a problem, although there have been no formal complaints. The Director should monitor any possible violations along with excessive table talk and slow play. Ron will mention zero tolerance at the annual meeting.

It is time for the independent audit of the 2016 finances.

Updated Old Business: Improving Unit Game Attendance

Susan brought up the ongoing issues of improving Unit Game attendance and volunteered to attend future Board meeting when the issue is on the agenda. Areas that need to be addressed include better use of social media, proactive facilitation of partnerships, and a mentoring or coaching program.

NEXT MEETING AND ADJOURNMENT: The next NVBA Board meeting will be held at 10:45 am on May 21, 2017 at the Beth El Temple in Alexandria VA. The meeting adjourned at 10:50 am.

Action Items

Item No.	Date	Item	Assignee	Status
16-1	6/7/2015	Post 199er lecture materials on the Web site	Ron	Kevin sent the materials to Ron, who will place them on the web site in

				April
16-2	6/9/2015	Print, read, and edit first 10 pages of NVBA Policies and Procedures	All	On hold
16-7	9/13/2015	Solicit NVBA volunteers and contact other organizations to identify potential caddies.	Jim, Leo	Jim will approach Sectional caddies; Leo will talk to Moshe Teichman, our Beth El contact, about potential caddies
16-10	9/13/2015	Identify a new caddy master	TBD	Need to find caddies first
16-11	9/13/2015	Review Board Member position descriptions	Ron	Review and revise the descriptions. When their revisions are complete, they will provide their results to Howard and Kevin for review and revision. Also, we should consult the WBL Policies and Procedures as a potential model.
16-18	10/4/2015	Draft standard contract for directors that hold their own Sectional games	Margot, Kevin	Open; Will be completed after NABC. Kevin will work with Bernie to put together a contract for Norma's Thursday game; Margot will review the existing spreadsheet contract with Kevin and Ann before the March Board meeting
16-49	2/28/2016	Develop formal report for 199er survey	Kevin	Open
16-99	12/18/2016	Send information about Newcomer Game to all NVBA members with less than 20 masterpoints via Pianola	Kevin	
16-100	12/18/2016	Consolidate information gathered for Dedicated Bridge Center	Francesca	Francesca drafted a report which has been reviewed and returned to her with suggested changes.
17-3	1/22/2017	Determine whether ACBL permits the addition of a third stratum to	Jim	Open, although has been approved for

		the A/X game		Regionals
17-4	1/22/2017	Notify Candy Kushner and Livingston Johnson that Lenore Ward will reschedule five of her Friday afternoon games to Tuesday afternoon in 2017	Ron	
17-6	1/22/2017	Investigate feasibility of Unit Game subscription plan	Leo	
17-8	2/12/2017	Complete 60/40 accounting	Margot	
17-9	2/12/2017	Post NVBA financials to website	Ron	
17-10	2/12/2017	Review the NVBA constitution for any other required amendments	Ron, Leo	
17-11	2/12/2017	Ask Gene Schuyler if he would like to hold his Friday Sectional games at the Elks Club	Jim	
17-13	2/12/2017	Draft agenda for 4/1 meeting on Sectional schedule and other Sectional issues	Margot	
17-15	3/26/2017	Provide strawberries for Annual Meeting	Ron	
17-16	3/26/2017	Provide cakes for Annual Meeting	Lucy	
17-17	3/26/2017	Provide trophies for Annual Meeting	Leo	
17-18	3/26/2017	Develop format for GP free plays	Leo, Margot	
17-19	4/30/2017	File NVBA tax return by 5/15/2016	Ann	
17-20	4/30/2017	Send names of trophy winners to Leo for engraving	Ron	
17-20	4/30/2017	Determine whether large or small carrying cases should be purchased	Kevin	
17-21	4/30/2017	Add message to web site stressing the importance of informing the NVBA before dropping out of the LM/NLM game	Joe	
17-22	4/30/2017	Ask Jim Gerding to increase the number of boards played in the B/C stratum of the Unit Game from 24 to 26 or 27	Ron	
17-23	4/30/2017	Mention zero tolerance at the Annual Meeting	Ron	
17-24	4/30/2017	Develop paper sign-up forms for the LM/NLM game	Ron	

Respectfully Submitted,
Donna Hickling, Secretary