

NVBA Board Meeting
June 4, 2023, Rev.1 – August 22, 2023

Attendees:

Georgette Weiss, President
Jay Simon, Vice President
Ann Atcheson, Treasurer
Joe Hertz, Board Member
Kevin O'Brien, Board Member
Marty Bley, Past President and Baltimore Regional Chair
Jim Gerding, Unit Game Chief Director
Ron Kral, Unit Webmaster
Lucy McCoy, Newsletter Editor & D6 Tournament Coordinator

Unable to Attend:

Eric Poskanzer, Secretary
Jason Carter, Board Member
Jamie Dahlberg, Board Member

Meeting Called to Order at 9:39am

Financials: were sent out this morning before the meeting around 7am.

- Ann pointed out the two sectionals (February and April), both made a profit) with less profit in April (fewer tables in April, D6 GNT Flight A Finals in February).
- Report also included the online and face-to-face Unit game reports
- LM/NLM Unit game (small profit made primarily due to charging full price) report. The costs for refreshments were not included.
- NVBA continues to lose money each week for the Unit game, except for the special games (e.g., LM/NLM).
- June Treasurer Report is approved.

Action Items:

- Never managed to contact B. Starzek about the seminar on revitalizing Unit games.
- Membership growth and retention – need to follow up and get a status update.
- All other items are covered below.

New Online Community Games:

- ACBL 0-20 and 0-50 games will begin June 20 at 5pm. From the Agenda: Each session will have a short bridge tip pregame, then 12 boards, and then a 2-hand post-game review via Zoom. Include List uses presently active 0-50 players. ACBL Executive Director Bronia Jenkins will enlist "Star Players" to come to the post-game teaching Zoom session, to review some of the hands played. The initial games will be Tuesday, June 20, at 5 pm Eastern. ACBL may make changes as they see what appeals to the players. This will have an effect on when the NVBA Unit Game will be able to successfully reopen the Newcomer and/or 199er Sections, depending on how ACBL handles it. 34.81% of our members have under 50 ACBL Masterpoints®, many of these have zero. Kevin has asked ACBL for more information on the specifics of their plans, but do not expect a reply before Monday.
- Do we want to encourage our 0-50 members to play in this event? This may be counter productive to getting members back to face-to-face; Jay suggested taking a passive stance until ACBL publishes results; Marty suggested each board member call a page worth's of the members from the directory and get factual information from the members as to why they're not playing.

- Jim will provide Brenda (RSVPBridge) with a file of members who have ever played in our Unit game; more complicated than originally anticipated; will be used to send out emails to the Unit game. This application can be used to pay game entry fees – works like BBO money.

Unit Game Schedule:

- Need to start looking at our schedule for July; 1st week is the Reston Regional.
- Big Question: do we want weekly games? Do we want an online game concurrent with a face-to-face game? Our use of the word ‘bi-weekly’ may be causing confusion with our members – need consistency in our communications and scheduling (weekly or alternating weeks).
- Motion to have weekly Face-to-face at BethEl and a combined online game with WBL for a full quarter – passed without opposition.

Attendance Raising Actions:

- First effort is our going face-to-face every week.
- Kevin has suggested giving free plays or discounts – some disagree that discounts will improve attendance, only 1 known person took a free play for being first back to face-to-face; there could have been others – possibly 6 or so per Jim, also several free plays used and several 0-5 free play attendees for LM/NLM game, some people were using their volunteer free plays.
- Having a weekly program (Jay didn’t state what this could be – teaching at 6:30) is seen as better than discounts for enticing newer players to the game.
- Kevin gave out free plays at his club if the person paid for and played in 3 games in a month; this requires the ability to easily track attendance – RSVP would expedite this.

Regional Tournament:

- Shawn has everything under control.
- Someone is to come up with a budget; up to her as it’s in her hands.
- We have the volunteers; room bookings are low but seem to be picking up; Bridge University has been advertised but no reservation numbers were provided; David Rodney is sending the flyer out to an area of 250 miles (not just District 6) using Pianola. There is not a hard cut-off date for the \$117 room rate even though it’s advertised as June 8th.
- We have no financial responsibility for rooms.

July NVBA Newsletter:

- Per Lucy, we could include ads for the Regional and the Sectionals – we used to do this – leave it to Lucy’s discretion.

NVBA Fall Sectional (October 12-15):

- No decisions that the board needs to make at this time; leave it up to Margot.
- Amy Brisson will handle Sectional Chair responsibilities in Margot’s absence.

Longest Day (Kevin, Bridge Heroes 2023 Captain):

- People have made player donations.
- Checks can be made out to Alzheimer’s Association – need to drop off the checks or can use the AA website.
- No entry or security fee for the Unit game – cash or check donations only, in lieu; there will be a PC available for online donations.

ACBL 2023 Membership Growth and Retention Webinar:

- Kevin to get link and access to this recording and share it with the board.

Unit Game Alternate Locations:

- Is Bethlehem Lutheran available? Keith Hafen is acting as a go-between.
- Keith negotiated a \$250 price for his game and is seeing if Bethlehem Lutheran is okay to that for us.
- If we were to go there, we could use his tables and equipment; not a lot of storage available.
- Waiting to hear back from the church.
- If we start averaging 15 tables at BethEl, using the church would be a moot point.

Club Reopening Status:

- Gene Schuyler's game is open on Wednesdays – although this game has been running all along
- Marshall's Wednesday night game is also reopening.

New Day and Time for Unit Game:

- John Wertman has raised moving the game to Sunday; On hold at this time – leave on agenda for next month.

Policy and Procedures – Position Descriptions:

- Need to send updates to Kevin.
- Joe is working on his position description.

Additional Agenda Items:

- None received by Kevin.

New Business:

- None raised.

Action Items:

1. Position Description updates – everyone.
2. Growth and Retention link – Kevin to send out.
3. March and April In-Out Reports – Georgette.

Next Meeting:

- July 30 at 9:30

Meeting Adjourned at 10:42.