

NVBA Board Meeting
August 20, 2023

Attendees:

Georgette Weiss, President
Ann Atcheson, Treasurer
Eric Poskanzer, Secretary
Jason Carter, Board Member
Joe Hertz, Board Member
Jamie Dahlberg, Board Member
Kevin O'Brien, Board Member
John Wertman, Board Member
Jim Gerding, Unit Game Chief Director
Ron Kral, Unit Webmaster
Howard Stevens, Education Committee

Unable to Attend:

Jay Simon, Vice President
Marty Bley, Prior President
Margot Hennings, ACBL Board Member
Lucy McCoy, Newsletter Editor

Meeting Called to Order at 9:41am

June 4th and July 30th '23 Meeting Minutes:

- Final revisions not ready, will send out this coming week
- Postpone the approvals until next meeting.

Financials (Ann Acheson):

- Projecting a \$15,000 Unit game loss for calendar year '23.
- Averaging more than \$1,000 monthly loss with a positive offset due to sectionals and lower admin costs for the weekly Unit game
- Lost \$1,250 and \$1,300 in June and July, respectively. Online games gave a profit of \$3,700 in '22.
- Approved the July, 2023 financial report.

Unit Game Status:

- Options: Weekly face-to-face Unit game or biweekly Unit game with online game on alternate weeks.
- WBL has shut down its online game – only playing face-to-face.
- Currently committed to BethEl for weekly game through end of September.
- Need to remove the Thursday online game from the NVBA web site and cease advertising this game – Joe will get with Daniel Morgan who owned the document needing change.
- Agreement: Only hold weekly face-to-face game; online game suspended for now.

RSVP Software:

- We have another free month of software use.
- Brenda will not change software to remove the list of attendees but will work to make access to the software using a link from the NVBA website without having to login.
- Discussed offering a discount for using RSVP, sending out the RSVP notice later in the week.
- Jim to contact Keith on how he increased RSVP use at his club by the players.
- It is believed that there is the ability within the software to auto-enroll pairs into a specific game or all games – not assigned
- Will continue to use RSVP and re-consider its use when its free usage lapses.

Replacing Card Decks:

- Only Sectional card decks are being considered.
- At \$5 per deck, cost to replace cards in a full set of boards is \$180.
- Decision: At next sectional, have the players identify boards they believe need new cards; directors will review these boards and replace the cards, as needed.
- Decision: Unit to buy 3 dozen decks of plastic cards (currently a 20% discount for plastic cards) plus 3 dozen decks for Joe's proof of concept for Braille cards; Jim will order.

Wine and Cheese:

- Discussed if having wine and cheese was contributing to the increase in attendance.
- Rusty is willing to continue to supplying the wine for the foreseeable future. Some players have voiced concerns about having alcohol at the game – they will not play if wine is available.
- Cost of cheese and crackers is relatively low (~\$20 per week).
- Decision: continue serving wine and cheese at the Unit game as long as Rusty continues his support.

Advertise October NVBA Sectional:

- Bring October NVBA Sectional Flyers to Baltimore Regional for distribution – not assigned.
- Advertise the October NVBA Sectional in the Baltimore Regional daily newsletters – Georgette

Blind Players, Braille Cards and Dealing Machines

- Per Joe, traditional Braille cards do not work in the dealing machines.
- Need to buy and manually mark-up at least one deck with Braille markings and get an official Braille deck to see if it will work properly in the dealing machine (proof of concept) – assigned to Joe.
- If the manually marked up deck properly works in the dealing machine, we can move forward.
- Joe will work with Margot to address this at the national ACBL level.

NVBA Teacher's Page (NVBA Website):

- Ron contacted all people listed on the web site list of teachers. Leslie Schaefer only person yet to respond. Updates were made based on these conversations – updates to be posted after the Baltimore Regional – assigned to Ron.
- Marilyn Golias raised that she is not being treated equitably and has some issues; she would not be specific with Ron; so there is nothing we can do at this time.

Online Membership Directory:

- WBL/Ted Ying was contacted about his online directory application; need to talk with Linda instead.
- This application is basically the Richmond Unit's online directory.
- Data privacy (data scraping) issues are still a major concern; we must comply with ACBL policy.
- Joe will further investigate with the Richmond unit on how its directory works.

Longest Day 2023:

- Our final contribution was \$32,646
- Kevin stated that a lot of people were responsible for the success of our campaign.

Fall Sectional (October 12-15, 2023):

- Discussed what we can do on Saturday night as there is no game but we have the site. There are costs associated with anything we do: ACBL fees, director fees, food, clean-up, set-up, volunteers, etc.
- Suggestions include: showing the 11 year old documentary of the junior team, play various card games, have a special game for our high school students (~20 students).
- Do Amy and Margot have the bandwidth to handle one more event during a Sectional?

- Decision: table discussion until we begin planning for the Spring sectional. Meanwhile, Kevin will discuss options with Amy, Elks, and ACBL.

Position Descriptions:

- Please review position description for your position and send to Kevin – assigned to all board members.

Baltimore Regional:

- No news to report.

ACBL Reports:

- Joe will set up a new distribution list that is only elected board members; Georgette will forward this to ACBL.

Club Reopenings:

- No recent new reopenings; Marilyn Golias is holding games but by invitation and seemingly at different times and places each week.

Holiday Party:

- We need to set the date – most likely December 7th or 14th
- Hold off planning until after the Fall Sectional.

Miscellaneous Items:

- Need the Unit game schedule for the last quarter '23 – assigned to Jim.

Next Meeting will be October 8, 2023.

Meeting adjourned at 11:25am.

Action Items:

1. Let Liz at BethEl know that we are going to weekly face-to-face games – Georgette
2. Identify conflicts with Unit game and High Holy Days at BethEl – Georgette
3. Have ACBL change the report distribution list to new distribution set up by Joe (omits Margot and Marty) - Georgette
4. Contact ACBL for a complete list of all monthly reports – Georgette
5. Ensure Lucy gets the monthly In-Out Report – Eric
6. Send out revised minutes from June 4th and July 30th board meetings – Eric
7. Need to remove the Thursday online game from the NVBA web site – not assigned
8. Identify how to auto-enroll pairs into a specific game – not assigned
9. Jim to contact Keith on how he increased RSVP use at his club by the players.
10. Buy 6 dozen decks of plastic playing cards (3 dozen for Joe's Braille card test – Jim
11. Bring October NVBA Sectional Flyers to Baltimore Regional for distribution – not assigned.
12. Advertise the October NVBA Sectional in the Baltimore Regional daily newsletters – Georgette
13. Work with ACBL to raise the issue of blind players and Braille cards with dealing machines – Joe
14. Further investigate with the Richmond unit on how its directory works – Joe
15. Update position descriptions and forward to Kevin – All board members
16. Create fourth quarter Unit game schedule – Jim