

NVBA Board Meeting
October 8, 2023

Attendees:

Georgette Weiss, President
Jay Simon, Vice President
Ann Atcheson, Treasurer
Jason Carter, Board Member
Joe Hertz, Board Member
Jamie Dahlberg, Board Member
John Wertman, Board Member
Kevin O'Brien, Board Member
Howard Stevens, Education Committee
Amy Brisson, Sectional Tournament Chair
Lucy McCoy, Newsletter Editor

Unable to Attend:

Eric Poskanzer, Secretary
Jim Gerding, Unit Game Chief Director
Marty Bley, Prior President
Margot Hennings, ACBL Board Member
Ron Kral, Unit Webmaster

Meeting Called to Order at 9:34am

Prior Minutes

- Minutes were approved

October Sectional Items (Amy Brisson)

- Transportation, Clocks, Bidding Boxes, Bridge Mates: Speaking for Jim, Ann verified that all is taken care of due to prior experiences; Ann will assist Jim as needed
- Setting up 43 tables in the main room and some number of tables downstairs to handle an overflow; Expecting to have 3 clocks; Amy is picking up paper products from Margot
- Saturday night game (Kevin): there has been no communication with Amy since August, Kevin will reach out to the Elks this coming week to advertise (relying on the NVBA weekly email this coming week for most of the advertising, he is ready to run a 2 or 3 table individual movement but he may need boards made and will talk with Jim about printing hand records and convention cards (This may be an issue as Jim is away and only has 2 days to make up all the boards for the sectional)
- Some pessimism about the event was expressed due to lack of advertising with the club directors, the WBL, and not on the sectional flyer and only looking to have 2-3 tables and now there are questions about whether or not this event is even part of the Sectional – several board members were surprised when it was mentioned during this conversation and recent emails that it is not part of the sectional; after rehashing prior discussions, board agreed to let Kevin hold his event as long as room is ready for the Sectional on Sunday – suggested start time is 7:15pm and need to be out of the building by 10pm – notify Amy of final times so she can coordinate with the Elks staff
- Guaranteed Partnerships – Jason feels that it doesn't work well and there has not been a call to get GPs for the Sectional (it is not mentioned on the Sectional flyer); there's a problem with the NVBAPartnership@gmail.com address that needs resolution (Jason needs access), current workaround is for Jay to access the emails and forward them to Jason, we can try putting in a rule that autoforwards all new emails to Jason
- Free plays: Amy, with discussion with Margot, is using the free play table in the Policy and Procedures manual – Webmaster gets 4/sectional, Asst. Webmaster gets 1/sectional, Hospitality gets 1/helper and

with tournament chair can hand out more, Lucy McCoy gets 6, Cheer and Sympathy gets 1/sectional, Georgette gets 1 for Thursday, Doug Grove gets as many as he needs, Tournament chair or co-chair gets 7/sectional, WBL chair gets 5/sectional, partnership chair gets 6/sectional, caddy chair gets 2/sectional, seeding chair gets 1/sectional, I/N lecturer gets 1/lecture, director and tournament chair can give out 10 free plays at their discretion, NVBA flyer creator gets 1 per session played, weekly NVBA email creator gets 1/session played, Pianola coordinator get 3/sectional

Financials (Ann Acheson):

- August and September reports were sent out
- Still losing money at the weekly unit game but attendance is improving so our losses are marginally less
- Approved the financial reports.

Review of Action Items (from 8/20 meeting):

1. Let Liz at BethEl know that we are going to weekly face-to-face games – Georgette – Done
2. Identify conflicts with Unit game and High Holy Days at BethEl – Georgette – none – Done
3. Have ACBL change the report distribution list to new distribution set up by Joe (omits Margot and Marty) - Georgette – Doesn't appear to be done – Georgette to recontact ACBL (Joe to send Georgette the correct email list)
4. Contact ACBL for a complete list of all monthly reports – Georgette – Done
5. Ensure Lucy gets the monthly In-Out Report – Eric – Done
6. Send out revised minutes from June 4th and July 30th board meetings – Eric – Done
7. Need to remove the Thursday online game from the NVBA web site – Done
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 – Jim
10. Buy 6 dozen decks of plastic playing cards (3 dozen for Joe's Braille card test – Jim – Done
11. Bring October NVBA Sectional Flyers to Baltimore Regional for distribution – not assigned – Done
12. Advertise the October NVBA Sectional in the Baltimore Regional daily newsletters – Georgette – Done
13. Work with ACBL to raise the issue of blind players and Braille cards with dealing machines – Joe (in progress but there is a workaround)
14. Further investigate with the Richmond unit on how its directory works – Joe – Done
15. Update position descriptions and forward to Kevin – All board members (in progress)
16. Create fourth quarter Unit game schedule – Jim – Done

RSVP Software:

- RSVP Usage was intended to help grow the game but it's just another tool, it does help to run the game
- Need to promote it in the weekly newsletter
- Free trial is over, minimum charge is \$15/month, on a month-to-month basis.
- Vote to keep using RSVP through the end of the year and increase our promotion of using it including giving Kevin feedback on the current message in the weekly NVBA email discussing RSVP – passed

Wine and Cheese:

- Discussed if having wine and cheese was contributing to the increase in attendance – some believe it is.
- Some people believe some drink too much and others won't play when wine is served, we open 4 – 6 bottles – wine and cheese and pizza were not advertised in the newsletter
- Rusty is willing to continue to supplying the wine for the foreseeable future
- Motion to only have wine and cheese on the 1st Thursday of a month but not at NAP/GNT qualifers and promote it accordingly – passed

Blind Player Accommodation:

- Since Joe appears to have a a proof of concept to make Braille cards and dealing machines work together, we'll leave discussion for this issue until we get more information from Joe

Limited Section Revival:

- We don't have the attendance to revive a limited section
- To get more people we could: 1) send a separate newsletter to our 49ers, 199ers, or 499ers, and Kevin will try to automate this email and then can advertise his Tuesday ACBL Community game
- When we stopped having a 199er game, Howard stopped sending out the 199er email. 199er list is a manual effort based on people requesting to be on it – possibly just send to all non-life masters
- ACBL Community games: there is one on Tuesday evenings, \$3/game, a brief bridge tip, and play 12 boards, and experts after the game to review 2 of the boards, there's a 0-20 and 0-50 game – we should try to encourage our new players to play in this and possibly have them play for free on Thursday night, belief is that 49ers won't play in an open Thursday night game
- Motion that through the end of 2023, 49ers who play in the Tuesday Community game will play for free if they play in the Thursday night game – discussion moved on to other options for the time being
- Jamie raised the possibility of having 0-49ers play for free and not just the 0-5; even if there is only a 3 table Howell
- Motion: Through the end of the year, separate 0-NLM game with a minimum of 3 tables with a financial incentive for 0-49ers playing for free, advertise at the Sectional and in the email with first game on October 19th – passed

Swan Games

- An avenue for people who don't go out at night to play bridge online
- Go to Swangames.com

Holiday Party:

- Date is December 14th
- Georgette needs information on what awards are given out in December – Dave Murray award, Sarah Goodwin Attendance award, Leo Cardillo Volunteer award (if merited) – Georgette needs to research further
- Be thinking about who should receive them – Rusty is one possible recipient

Quarterly Newsletter (Lucy):

- Almost ready for publishing – need to look at Hail and Farewell and new life master levels sections

Additional Agenda Items:

- None

New Business:

- None

Action Items:

- Policy and Procedures – complete review of your position description
- Awards – think about who should receive each
- Provide Kevin with feedback on tomorrow's weekly email
- Recontact ACBL on reports distribution list – Georgette

Next Meeting:

- November 5th – Jay will run the meeting

Meeting adjourned at 11:24am