

June 26, 2016
Minutes of LBA Meeting

The meeting was called to order at 8:00 a.m. by President Vangie Smith.

Other board members in attendance were: Judy Banks, Hannah Davis, Jean Donoho, Erin Kennedy, Dotty Losey, Darlene Pyles, Norman Smith, Denise Tonini, Freida Trower, John Van Cleve, and Janet Vowels.

Verna Goldberg was there as Directors' Representative.

Not in attendance were: Candi Conway, Tom Reece, and Marianne Thomas.

Discussion of Upcoming Vote for District Representative

Two candidates, Beth Reid of Louisville and A.J. Stephani of Cincinnati, are running for District 11 Representative, a 3-year term. Beth Reid is the current representative. Both candidates were invited to speak to the board, which they did separately. Their comments are summarized below.

Beth Reid is a past Unit 117 president and has served as the District 11 rep for the past nine years. Her reports are published in the Midwest Monitor following each board meeting. The ACBL national board has 25 district reps who set ACBL policy and strategy, which ACBL management implements. She works well with CEO Robert Hartman. Beth chairs the finance committee and governance committee, and she has served on the legal search committee. A major voice for our unit would be lost if she is not re-elected. She believes in term limits and has announced that this would be her last term.

A.J. Stephani is a past president of the Cincinnati Bridge Club. He thanked Beth for her service, which takes a lot of time. A.J. outlined the reasons he is running now and not later. He senses growing disconnect between the ACBL and its grass roots, with three specific examples:

- Score fiasco: ACBL spent \$2 million to replace ACBLScore, and there is nothing to show for it and no reason given. Other technology issues are not discussed. Membership deserves answers and better communication.
- Unusual governance structure: There is no voice on the board for critical areas--no club managers, directors, teachers, professional players, youth. The board composition needs to be analyzed.
- Demographics cliff: Average ACBL membership is getting older at a pace that outstrips replacement. We need different marketing strategies to rejuvenate and keep the game alive.

After the candidates left, Verna noted that Beth is also aware of these issues.

August Meeting

The LBA Board will meet on Monday, August 15, 2016, at 3:00 to hold the District Representative election. Downstate members can call in.

Minutes

John Van Cleve moved to accept the minutes of the February 20, 2016, meeting, Jean Donoho seconded, and the motion passed.

Treasurer's Report

Freida Trower discussed the treasurer's report, which Vangie will post. The club's cash position has improved (\$25K on hand now), as we have finished paying for the new space. In addition, the landlord, Brixmor, is holding \$50K for five years as a guarantee, and that will be returned. The club received \$7100 in donations for chairs, and this covered the cost. Vangie also noted that the current sectional tournament is up 25 tables so far, and there is no rent expense. John Van Cleve moved to accept the treasurer's report, Norman Smith seconded, and the motion passed.

President's Report

Vangie applauded the great collaborative effort on our new building, especially from John Van Cleve, Norman Smith, Freida Trower, and Chuck Fassler.

Vice President's Report

Jean Donoho is thankful for the help with hospitality at the sectional. She will not be here in October and will need help then.

Education

Norman Smith reported that the program at Manual is completed for the year, and we intend to go back to Manual and also to Assumption next year. Youth education at Bates Elementary is continuing, and there is a possibility of teaching at Presentation next year. Kit Overpeck went to a program in Reno on teaching kids, and a program with Kit is under way.

Verna Goldberg noted that the mentor/mentee program has been fabulous. Are we starting again in September? Verna talked to Dallas in Dayton; Dayton does mentor/mentee once a year to avoid draining the mentor pool, and they designated two or three games to let mentor/mentee pairs play after the program at half price. Cincinnati pays part of the ACBL fee and game fee for students who finish classes. Cincinnati and Lexington own all the games; we don't own them all, so the situation is different. We will have another mentor/mentee game at the end of lessons. There is no limit on master points for mentees; Vangie believes mentoring is a greater benefit to mid-level players. It is important to get them into open games.

Denise Tonini said that Cincinnati has food on Saturday morning and an experienced player answering questions; we could do this on Saturday morning or Tuesday night.

Concessions

Norman is working with the Coca-Cola district manager to get credit for rest of their product. The Pepsi machine is in place. The company is stocking the machine at no cost or expense to us. There is a problem with the Pepsi machine—it is rattling and doesn't take dimes.

Maintenance

John reported that everything is working, including the dishwasher—don't slam the dishwasher door. The cleaning is being done for the same price as at the old club.

The board discussed putting a door on the training room. Hannah Davis moved to add a door to the training room entrance, Vangie seconded, and the motion passed. John will explore French doors and accordion doors.

Regionals

Daytime caddies are needed for the November regional tournament. If anyone has caddy suggestions, please contact Hannah Davis. School booster clubs or home schoolers may be a source. Vangie has a gymnastics connection, and Judy Banks can provide home school organization information.

Decisions on pricing team games are left to each unit. We have been charging all teams one price, even though teams may have four, five, or six members; and all members earn the same master points. John Van Cleve moved that every team member pays the same price for all sessions of a team game (for example a team of 4 players pays \$48 (4*12) and a team of 6 players pays \$72 (6 * 12), Jean Donoho seconded, and the motion passed. Hannah will talk to Sondra Marlin about this.

New Business

Gum

The board discussed the ongoing problem of chewing gum stuck to tables and sometimes on the carpet. Judy Banks suggested a committee of gum chewers to come up with a way to monitor. Norman Smith sees this as a cost of doing business, and we can charge a fee to clean up, and we can police our partners. Jean Donoho believes we should ban gum from the club; the entire club should not have to pay for cleanup. Norman Smith moved to put the membership on notice by letter that we are monitoring chewing and will impose a cleanup fee, Hannah Davis seconded, and the motion passed, with Jean Donoho opposing.

GNT Bid

Vangie wants to host the GNT qualifying games. Costs need to be explored. Kit Overpeck and Vangie are putting together a proposal for the August meeting. The board agreed to consider the GNT bid proposal.

Separate Awards Board

Marianne Thomas suggested having an awards board for club members who attained Life Master some place other than Unit 117. It was discussed that those players likely have their names on an awards board elsewhere, and the board decided not to do this.

Newcomer Representative

Vangie wants to add a permanent newcomer representative to the board, to make newcomers feel welcome, introduce them around, and to give them a voice. Hannah Davis moved to add a newcomer representative to the board, Norman Smith seconded, and the motion passed.

Honor Plaques

Vangie is interested in instituting a photo-embossed plaque to recognize someone who does the most for the club, shows spirit, etc. She asked board members to think about the concept.

Swiss Teams

Lexington holds Eight is Enough Swiss teams monthly, and they get great participation. We are having a two-day Swiss in October in place of Barren River. We could have a 299er Swiss every quarter. Mauri Malka has organized Eight is Enough, and there were some problems getting the top players matched up with newer ones. It was suggested to sign up pairs (not teams), assign the pairs to A, B, and C pools, and the director can put together teams. Agreed to discuss further at the August meeting.

Adjournment

John Van Cleve moved to adjourn the meeting, Norman Smith seconded, and the motion passed. At 9:12 a.m. Vangie adjourned the meeting.

Action Items

1. Board will meet on Monday, August 15, 2016, at 3:00 to hold the District Representative election.
2. Vangie Smith will post the Treasurer's report.
3. John Van Cleve will explore French doors and accordion doors for the training room.
4. Hannah Davis will talk to Sondra Marlin about charging all team members for all session at the regional.

Respectfully submitted,
Dotty Losey
LBA Secretary