

October 14, 2017
Minutes of LBA Meeting

The meeting was called to order at 5:35 p.m. by President Vangie Smith.

Other board members in attendance were: Beth Dlutowski, Jean Donoho, Chuck Fassler, Dotty Losey, Darlene Pyles, Norman Smith, Freida Trower, John Van Cleve, and Janet Vowels.

Board members absent were: Judy Banks, Hannah Davis, Rachelle Goodwin, Jim Morguelan, and Denise Tonini.

Verna Goldberg was there as Directors' Representative.

Appreciation of Vangie Smith

Verna Goldberg noted that this is our last LBA meeting with Vangie Smith presiding, and she gave Vangie a heartfelt thank you for all her hard work. Vangie has been wonderful, working tirelessly, and no one could have done better. She also noted that no one else does more than John Van Cleve, and she thanked them both.

Vangie responded that her presidency has been challenging but a lot of fun, and she was grateful for having the best board of directors.

Minutes

No corrections or additions to the minutes of the June 24, 2017, meeting were requested. John Van Cleve moved to accept the minutes, Chuck Fassler seconded, and the minutes were approved.

President's Report

Vangie discussed the rent. The lease is \$4800/month for the first 36 months; we have one more year beginning in December until the rent increases to \$5100/month. Increased attendance at night games will be important. The parking situation is better, but continues to be an occasional problem. Jim Morguelan has attended only one meeting, and his term was cut to one year; Rachelle Goodwin's term was extended to two, ending in 2018.

Vice President's Report

Vangie thanked Jean Donoho for all the hard work she has put in on making our sectional tournaments a big success. Jean reported that the sandwich lunch worked out well today at the October Swiss sectional. Norman Smith, 2018-19 Vice President, will be taking over as chair of the February sectional.

Nominations for the LBA Board

Dotty Losey listed the candidates for LBA 2018-2019 officers and board of directors. There will be four two-year terms for the board and one one-year term to replace the remaining year of Denise Tonini's term, as Denise has been nominated as Treasurer.

2018-19 Officers Slate:

President – John Van Cleve

Vice President – Norman Smith

Secretary – Dotty Losey

Treasurer – Denise Tonini

Historian – Hannah Davis

2018 Board of Directors Slate (four local candidates and one downstate will be elected):

Mike Berman, Judy Gerald, Matt Just, Kay Omanson, Kit Overpeck, Stuart Ray, Janet Vowels;
Judy Banks for downstate.

The Kibitzer mailing will be assembled on Friday, 10/20/17. The Kibitzer is at Minuteman Press, and Dotty will have a proof to review on Monday, 10/16/17.

Treasurer's Report

Freida Trower distributed a year-to-date Profit & Loss statement. The club is in good shape with respect to cash on hand with \$51,000 in the bank (\$42,000 in savings and the rest in checking). The YTD profit of \$12,000 is attributable mainly to having the tournaments inhouse. When we have completed five years of the current lease, we will get back the \$50,000 deposit.

Jean asked if we are still losing money on coffee and sodas. It's still losing some; Norman Smith has a deposit of \$800-900 to submit. We are not sure whether we got a credit for sodas. Norman will investigate getting our own machine and stocking it; he will write up a proposal. Freida advised that soda receipts need to be dropped off in the Treasurer's drawer in the file cabinet, as they are the only bill we receive.

Beth Dlutowski asked if there is an income statement, to plan for upcoming rent increases. Freida can run it month by month, and Bill Toutant can provide monthly table counts. John wants this information to know what the breakeven point is.

Maintenance

John has a man coming to repair the gap at the front door on Wednesday, 10/18/17, and he is also bringing a quote for an accordion door for the training room, which John will discuss with Vangie. Verna thanked John for the new lights, which have made the 299er players happy.

Non-Life Master Tournament

Beth reported on the August NLM tournament. The overall counts matched last year, with more on Saturday and fewer on Sunday. There was good feedback from changing the times to 10:00 and 3:00. Charging \$3.00 for lunch was well-received, as was Matt Just's training event between sessions. There was concern that local attendance was less than expected, although we drew well from Lexington. The tournament made about \$1,000. Beth has written a report with the tournament details. Vangie noted that other clubs do a lot of practice ahead of time. We can do more publicity, particularly big posters at our club.

Director's Contract

Nothing is done yet on the director's contract. Vangie will write it up for John.

Pianola

Vangie played in a Cincinnati game that uses Pianola, and she discussed the administrative program for bridge players. The cost is based on average number of tables per game. A good tool for young or analytical players, it provides player stats and sends emails. Paying for Pianola will be more feasible if the Midwest Monitor is cancelled, which is under consideration; our club pays \$185/quarter for the Midwest Monitor.

Beth reported that Pianola is a software product with multiple components; she is interested in the analysis piece. The player database and game information are uploaded to create reports. Beth will test and review a 90-day trial. We need to investigate this with respect to the ACBL privacy policy. Players have to opt in on the ACBL website for reports and for emails. ACBL is promoting Pianola, which is an entity separate from ACBL. In Cincinnati, Mike Lipp thinks it brings players to his game, and it may entice younger players.

Increased Membership

Vangie distributed a summary of Cincinnati's increased membership suggestions. We discussed Homestyle bridge, boot camp, free play to newcomers, special games on Saturday night, classes provided through Bellarmine's Veritas program, monthly 8 is Enough games, shorter games of 18 boards at a lower cost, member guest night with free play for guest (need advance sign-up). Norman asked if we need communication to membership about the responsibilities of being a member. Vangie is willing to take over special games next year, if no one else will. She also believes we need a person to handle publicity, both in the club and outside.

Downstate

Darlene Pyles talked about downstate games. There are five games per week; three are flourishing, and two not so much. Hodgenville had a new pair that has played five times and won twice, so she thinks they will become regulars. Darlene had no suggestions or requests for assistance.

Paper v. Styrofoam Cups

Paper cups are much more costly than Styrofoam, so we have continued with Styrofoam. We discussed encouraging BYO mugs, which would require a rack to hold them and encouragement for users to wash up their own mugs.

Calendar

Beth reviewed the 2017 calendar for the rest of the year. The annual meeting and LBA game will be 11/14/17. The holiday party date has not been set. Verna will meet with directors and set a date, likely the second Saturday in December.

Louisville-Lexington Regional Tournament

Gold Rush pairs at the upcoming regional are scheduled at 1:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. Next year, they will be held at 10:00 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. Beth suggested holding three Gold Rush sessions per day (morning, afternoon, and evening), and players can play in two sessions. She will follow up with other areas (such as Atlanta, where this three-session approach was done) and see how it worked out. Vangie will check with Sondra Holt on the date of the next regional meeting on John's behalf.

Adjournment

John moved to adjourn the meeting, Freida seconded, and the meeting was adjourned at 7:05 p.m.

Action Items

1. Norman Smith will investigate getting our own soda machine and stocking it; he will write up a proposal.
2. John Van Cleve will discuss the quote for a training room door with Vangie Smith; he should receive the quote on 10/18/17.
3. Vangie will write up information on the director's contract for John.
4. Beth Dlutowski will test and review a 90-day Pianola trial.
5. Beth will follow up with other areas to see how holding three Gold Rush Pairs per day worked out.
6. Vangie will check with Sondra Holt on the date of the next regional meeting on John's behalf.

Respectfully submitted,
Dotty Losey
LBA Secretary