

February 21, 2015
Minutes of LBA Annual Meeting

The meeting was called to order at 4:40 pm by President Vangie Smith.

Other members in attendance were: Carolyn Carpenter, Candi Conway, Hannah Davis, Betsy Dues, Dotty Losey, Kay Omanson, Tom Reece, Norman Smith, and Bill Toutant.

Verna Goldberg was there as Directors' Representative. Brian Ross also attended.

Not in attendance were: Betsy Blakeman, Erin Kennedy, Darlene Pyles, Marianne Thomas, and Tinker Zimmerman.

President's Report

Vangie reported on the site visit to 10300 Linn Station Road and distributed a floor plan diagram and non-binding proposal from Gant Hill. The 6500 square foot space is on the first floor of an office building. There are 5000 square feet of usable space (we now have 3300), making it large enough to hold a sectional. There will be no buildout, maintenance, utility, or common area costs. The proposed rent is more than double the current rent. Frank Bowen is analyzing table counts and the effect of an increase of \$2/table. Savings from utilities, maintenance, cleaners, supplies, and sectionals will be reviewed. Is signage possible out front by the road? Will carpet be replaced?

The current lease is up in November. Kay noted that Central Music got out of several months of their lease. When LBA moved to the current space, the buildout cost was \$85,000; without buildout costs, we could buy out the lease.

Vangie says that this place is good compared to the others seen. She will have attorney review contract. Brian suggested that Ken Hayes (with his insurance background and experience as president during last move) also review. Will look at the numbers and visit decision again.

Treasurer's Report

Kay will e-mail financial statements for the last quarter. Verna asked if the club's money is held in an interest-earning account. Tom suggested looking into First State Bank in Tennessee, where 3.25% has been available.

Tournaments/Sectionals

Vangie distributed a calendar with tournaments, STaC games, and holidays noted.

Education

Brian described the mentoring program in Dayton. Dallas Moore from Dayton will send handouts and protocols to Vangie. In Dayton, mentors and mentees sign up to guarantee playing together a certain number of games over a specified term. Mentors play for free. The Dayton club is smaller and owns all of its games; Verna wants to think about the free plays. Discussed charging half price for mentors. Dayton has 30-40 mentor/mentee pairs

per cycle, and the program pays for itself. The program may encourage a feeling of belonging and make it easier for new players to move from the novice games to the front room. Vangie needs someone to run this program (organizing, advertising, etc.).

Vangie distributed Tinker's education plan. She and Tinker will be meeting at lunch. Agreed to hold next mentor/mentee game on 3/21, as Verna's classes end mid-March and Brian's on 3/31. Payment in advance will be collected. Betsy suggested that there be time to discuss hands; Verna noted that fewer hands could be played.

Special Games

Eight is Enough: Lexington does this monthly on Sunday with potluck. We need to talk it up.

Social Game: Does it make sense to run a weekly social game? When—a night when count is light? ACBL calls this "Homestyle Bridge." Verna will call ACBL and find out about Homestyle Bridge.

Charity Game: The next charity game will be 3/10, a Tuesday night. The charity is Alzheimer's. All board members are asked to play. Candi needs prizes and help selling raffle tickets. Verna will announce the charity game.

Increasing Table Count

Ways to increase table were discussed. In addition to the social game noted above, Bridge in a Day was mentioned. The proposed space on Linn Station has room for this kind of event. Candi mentioned that the retired teachers' association could be a source of new players. Norman suggested that an organization may respond to an invitation with a structured program; the club may be better served by committing to one effort rather than scattershot efforts. Candi will call the teachers' association. Vangie will give Bridge in a Day materials to Verna.

Hospitality

There should be a hospitality committee for tournaments; chairs can ask for help. Food not finished after the sectional will be taken to Wayside.

Stealing

There have been thefts at the bridge center. Last year money was taken from purses, and it happened another time recently. Also, someone put on another person's coat and refused to relinquish it.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:15.

Action Items

1. Kay will e-mail financial statements for the last quarter.
2. Verna will call ACBL and find out about Homestyle Bridge.
3. Verna will announce the 3/10 charity game.
4. Candi will call the teachers' association.

5. Vangie will give Bridge in a Day materials to Verna.

Respectfully submitted,
Dotty Losey
LBA Secretary