

January 7, 2017
Minutes of LBA Meeting

The meeting was called to order at 10:05 a.m. by President Vangie Smith.

Other board members in attendance were: Hannah Davis, Beth Dlutowski, Jean Donoho, Chuck Fassler, Dotty Losey, Jim Morguelan, Denise Tonini, and Freida Trower.

Board members absent were: Judy Banks, Darlene Pyles, Norman Smith, John Van Cleve, and Janet Vowels.

Verna Goldberg was there as Directors' Representative. Bill Toutant joined the meeting near the end.

Minutes

Hannah Davis moved to approve the minutes of the October 15, 2016, meeting, Jim Morguelan seconded, and the motion passed. Dotty Losey will resend the minutes of the November 15, 2016, meeting to be posted on the LBA website.

Treasurer's Report

Freida Trower distributed two reports: Balance Sheet as of December 31, 2016, and Profit & Loss January through December 2016. The club has almost \$40,000 cash on hand, and we are able to pay all our bills. Tournament income is up; the income from the November 2016 regional (approximately \$11,500, per Hannah) has not been received yet. The club's main expenses are rent (\$4800/month for the first two years of the lease), utilities, janitorial services, and insurance.

Jim asked about the \$80,000 expense for new space; Vangie explained that this is for build-out for the new location, and she also discussed Brixmor's provision of \$50,000 toward the buildout and the club's \$50,000 deposit into escrow with Brixmor, to be returned after five years in our current location. Chuck asked why the leasehold improvements are not capitalized; Freida explained that they are not capitalized for non-profit corporations. Vangie gave kudos to Chuck for all the work he did reviewing the lease. Jean Donoho asked about the \$880 chair fund liability; Freida noted that this is money left from the fund, and we have recently purchased additional chairs and tables, which will deplete this amount.

Jean moved to approve the Treasurer's Report, Jim seconded, and the motion passed.

Quip Report

Vangie distributed copies of the ACBL Quip report, which summarizes Unit 117 membership data and trends (gains, losses, new member retention, average member age, average years of ACBL membership).

History of Unit and Club

Vangie gave an overview of the club's history for the new board members. Most clubs have separate club and unit boards, with the club board handling club business and the unit board handling business related to the area in the unit outside the club. A past president, Pam Dean, consolidated the unit and club board of directors to make it easier to manage. The downside is that downstate suffers, as the income goes only to Louisville. The Barren River tournament was held for them, but downstate participation dwindled in the past years; it was replaced with a two-day Swiss in Louisville, and some downstate members are unhappy. Vangie urged the board to be mindful of the downstate games, and there was a suggestion to consider splitting income from the Swiss tournament with them. Hannah moved to give \$500 to the downstate games, Denise Tonini seconded, and the motion passed. Vangie will also ask the downstate reps if there are needs for additional funds this year.

The LBA is made up of many clubs. The LBA owns sanctions for games on Monday evening (2), Tuesday evening (1), Thursday afternoon (2), Thursday evening (1), Saturday afternoon (2), Saturday evening (1), and Sunday afternoon (1). Other games are owned by the directors and are autonomous. Game directors are independent contractors. Verna Goldberg explained that directors pay rent of \$14.50/table to the LBA and \$1/table to the ACBL, and they take the rest in profit.

Some of the night games are doing poorly. Verna suggested asking Pat London to switch ownership of Sunday and Monday night games with the club; Vangie wants to keep Monday night as there are sanctions for two games. Bill McAvinue will be directing the Sunday evening game in January. Beth Dlutowski asked if there had been any surveying on interest in night games.

Standing Rules

The Standing Rules were reviewed, and the following changes were made.

1. Delete second sentence (re: Barren River tournament, no longer held).
2. OK
3. OK
4. OK
5. OK
6. Change "distributed" to "made available."
7. OK
8. OK
9. OK Also noted that Dotty will send annual roster of club managers for posting on the bulletin board.
10. OK Also noted that Dotty will complete the key list for the new location.
11. OK
12. OK Also noted that Vangie will check on whether President and Treasurer are bonded.
13. OK
14. OK
15. OK
16. Change "will have" to "will seek to have."

17. OK
18. Delete this rule. As there is no other business than district activities, this is covered by rule 19.
19. OK Vangie noted that there are four district meetings per year, held during the four regional tournaments allotted to the district (Indianapolis, Cincinnati, Dayton, and Louisville).
20. OK Freida noted that the club has only checking and savings accounts—no CDs or other investments.
21. OK
22. In first sentence, replace “following the first year of a Treasurer’s term of office and audited following the second year of the term” with “by a third party each year.”
23. Delete (pertains to Barren River tournament, no longer held).
24. OK
25. Delete “including Barren River.”
26. OK
27. OK
28. OK
29. OK
30. Delete—Discussed that we now have \$39K in cash on hand.
31. OK
32. OK
33. OK—Chuck asked if this should be in the Bylaws.
34. A. OK
B. OK-- Chuck believes this should be in the Bylaws.
C. OK
D. OK
E. OK
F. OK

Jim moved to accept the revisions, Jean seconded, and the motion passed.

Jobs

Vangie is establishing a new job assignment: Newcomer and Novice Coordinator. The Charity job has gone by the wayside. Vangie wants to do more with Special Games on Saturday night, perhaps monthly or bi-monthly.

The following job assignments for board members and others were made:

Concessions – Norman Smith
Maintenance – John Van Cleve
Supplies - John Van Cleve
Bulletin Board - Denise Tonini
Education – Rachelle Goodwin
Special Games – Jim Morguelan
Hospitality – Janet Vowels and Denise Tonini
Newcomers & Novices – Beth Dlutowski
Unit GNT/NAP Coordinator – Chuck Fassler

Legal - Chuck Fassler
Condolences – Marianne Cooper
Conduct & Ethics – Pam Feldhoff
Recorder – Dotty Losey
Calendar – Beth Dlutowski
Back Page – Kay Omanson
Midwest Monitor - TBD

Marianne Thomas Resignation/Replacement

Marianne Thomas has resigned as Historian and board member. Vangie discussed with Norman Smith and John Van Cleve how to replace her, and they agreed it would be good to have a current board member fill the Historian office. Hannah Davis volunteered to be the Historian, as she held that office during the previous term. Replacing Hannah's board position was then discussed, and it was agreed to ask Rachelle Goodwin (one of the top non-winners in the November 2016 election) if she would serve on the board. If she accepts, then she would be a good fit for the Education job. Beth will ask Rachelle if she will accept appointment to the board of directors.

[1/8/17 Addendum: Rachelle Goodwin has accepted the board position and will take the Education assignment.]

New Tables

Ten new tables are scheduled to arrive on Wednesday, 1/11/17, and Kit Overpeck will supervise their assembly.

Dealing Machine

The dealing machine, recently sent away for repair, is old and needs cleaning weekly. We discussed the need to purchase a second dealing machine, which costs \$3200-\$4400. Baron Barclay lent us theirs while ours was out for repair, and they are not interested in selling it to us. Lexington has one person to maintain the score pads and dealing machine. Later in the meeting, Bill Toutant reviewed his research on dealing machines. Baron Barclay sells one like we have for \$4400. Diplomat has a \$3200 machine, which he thinks is compatible with our software. They seem to have similar life spans. Vangie will check on where the Diplomat machine is serviced. Chuck moved to purchase a new dealing machine, after investigation and negotiation, Jim seconded, and the motion passed.

Parking

Again there are complaints about parking in spots that should go to retail customers, especially on Tuesday and Friday morning games. Brixmor will put up signs for 90 minute parking (this will not apply to handicapped spaces), and those who overstay may be fined. Vangie is considering providing decals for bridge players. We will educate members again.

Non Life Master Tournament

Marianne Thomas ran the Non Life Master (NLM) tournament in August; Beth agreed to take this on as the NLM co-chair, with the help of John Van Cleve as the Life Master co-chair.

Jean noted that the Holiday Inn may be the host for the NLM tournament, but will not be the host for our sectionals, due to conflicts with other events they have scheduled.

Louisville/Lexington Regional Tournament

Beth asked about changing the times for Gold Rush pairs to 10:00 and 3:00 to help with travel schedules (not too early for distant players and not too late at night after a 7:00 start). The upcoming Cincinnati regional has Gold Rush at 10:00 and 2:30. Games at the regional tournament are 9:00, 1:00 and 7:00, except for the Sunday Swiss starting at 10:00. Vangie noted that running open pairs and Gold Rush on the same schedule increases the table count and therefore increases the point awards. Also, directors prefer synchronized schedules. The Holts in Lexington do most of the management for the regional, and Hannah is the Louisville liaison. They do a wonderful job, but it would be forward-thinking for Louisville to have comparable experience and input, and increased communication (including a post-tournament meeting) is desired. Hannah will bring this up with Sondra Holt next week.

New Ideas for Increasing Game Attendance

The meeting agenda listed the following ideas:

- Saturday night games
- Two session games on Sunday
- Free classes on Saturday
- Mentoring program

Another suggestion was offering a free play for first-timers. Denise Tonini moved to provide a free play for first-timers, Verna seconded, and the motion passed.

We also discussed the way less-experienced players react to advice from players with more experience; Vangie may send out an email re: offering advice after asking for permission.

Jim suggested that directors introduce newcomers before the game starts.

Mentor/mentee games are held twice a year. The mentorship program (pairing an experienced player with a newer one for a multi-game commitment) was successful and increased attendance too. Bridge classes at Bates Elementary and Manual HS will continue. We would like to do the same at U of L and Bellarmine and perhaps Collegiate HS. Frank Collechia is teaching at U of L. Ralph Letizia and Harold Stengel have Collegiate connections. Denise will check on JCPS Lifelong Learning.

Bridge Club Ideas from Jim Morguelan

Jim distributed his list of 19 ideas for discussion.

1. *Directors announcement: "Please take 15 seconds and silence your cell phones." Also have two small signs posted.* Agreed that this is a good procedure.
2. *Have a mobile spill station with paper towels, etc.* Good idea.
3. *Put a sliding door on the learning area room so players aren't distracted.* This was explored before and deemed too expensive. Jim may have workers that can do it cheaply.

4. *Deck check and boards—some are very old, lots of decks are old/dirty.* Players can tell directors when cards are old and dirty. Dirty cards are hard on the dealing machine.
5. *Numbering system for all tables to aid directors and guide players.* Not feasible. Directors set up games different ways depending on the game size and number.
6. *Sign/brochure/business card holders for possible revenue from advertising.*
7. *Bridge book learning library, donations of books by players.* Good idea. Could have a lending library.
8. *Drink holders on tables.*
9. *Pictures of Directors on wall and times of all games they run.* Good idea.
10. *Partnership bulletin board area.* Good idea.
11. *David Fleischaker Award.* Vangie has an idea for different award categories.
12. *Monthly/bi-monthly/quarterly learning seminars given by directors or club experts.*
An example topic noted was convention card review, which Verna often does with her beginner classes.
13. *Hold a free junior learning clinic and then a game for \$2 or \$3.*
14. *Common Game bridge analysis software.* Kit is also looking at another analysis software.
15. *Have a weekly game were certain boards are analyzed by group.* Kit is doing this now on Saturday and Thursday.
16. *Have a weekly game that is shorter, maybe 15 boards for \$5.* ACBL requires 18 boards.
17. *Possible a little decoration, maybe a couch and table with a lamp.* There is room in the ladies' room for a couch for resting. Cincinnati has a couch in a common area.
18. *Raise money to buy another fridge? Storing lunches in morning gets crowded.* Where to put it?
19. *Possibly have a national expert give a seminar once a year.* Good idea.

Paper Products

Denise requested purchasing paper products instead of Styrofoam, and several members agreed.

Adjournment

Hannah moved to adjourn the meeting, Jim seconded, and the meeting was adjourned at 12:30 p.m.

Action Items

1. Dotty will resend the minutes of the November 15, 2016, meeting to be posted on the LBA website. [Done 1/8/17]
2. Give \$500 to the downstate reps.
3. Vangie will also ask the downstate reps if there are needs for additional funds this year.
4. Dotty will send annual roster of club managers for posting on the bulletin board.
5. Dotty will complete a new key list.
6. Vangie will check on whether President and Treasurer are bonded.
7. Dotty will update the Standing Rules.
8. Vangie will check on where the Diplomat dealing machine is serviced.

9. Purchase a new dealing machine.
10. Institute free play for first-timers.
11. Denise will check on JCPS Lifelong Learning.

Respectfully submitted,
Dotty Losey
LBA Secretary