

ACBL HOUSTON UNIT 174
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
JANUARY 12, 2009
HOUSTON BRIDGE STUDIO

Call to order

The meeting was called to order at 7:15 pm. Present were Jolie Hess-President, Pat Levy-Vice President, Paul Cuneo, John Erickson and Joyce Ryan. Also present were Eric Snow and Jim Woodward-Treasurer. John Erickson was appointed as Secretary for the meeting due to Bert Onstott's absence.

Minutes of December board meeting **Bert**

The minutes were approved via on-line poll.

Houston NABC Committee report **Eric**

Eric Snow presented a preliminary Unit 174 budget for the NABC, showing a \$15,000 net profit to the Unit. Eric also stated that he would be more than willing to relinquish his position as our unit's representative to District 16.

Treasurer's Report **Jim**

Jim Woodward presented preliminary year end financial statements for 2008. He requested some time to finalize the statements before presenting them again at the February board meeting for our approval. The preliminary net income figure for the year is approximately \$7,700.

Committee Reports

Bridge in Schools **John**

Natalie Wernet and Sandy Stevens today completed a week long course to middle school students at the Westchester Academy for International Studies. Bonnie Watt was the teacher who requested the unit's help in providing bridge instruction. It appears that the result was quite successful.

Membership **Bert**

Membership is up 8 to 2,355. We had 16 new members. There is a web page on the unit web site with the charts. The number of new members seems to be increasing.

Goodwill

Pat

Get well cards were sent to Dottie Ann Goodloe, Charles Loucks, Fredi Weinbaum, Fred Fason and Sherry Gerdes, all recovering from illnesses, falls and operations. Barbara Harberg was sent a sympathy card, as her husband passed away.

I/N, Education, Book Sales

Joyce

Joyce sold 139 books, however, some were not in stock and will have to be delivered later.

Joyce is trying to interest the unit clubs in providing opportunities to attract I/N players. Currently, only Clear Lake is using some of the new programs. The BCOH, Bridge Studio and Clear Lake have mentor games now.

Lone Star Regional:

- Let the Good Times Roll is the theme.
- Joyce will decorate the area Monday morning. She may need help to introduce Monday evening's speaker.
- Much of the decorating material will be donated.
- Speaker schedule is complete and Bert has made a poster.
- Speaker gifts are needed.
- Speakers have been contacted about handouts so copies can be made in advance.
- Joyce wants more ways to alert new players about the unit web site.
- Refreshments have been ordered for Lynne Graham Day.
- New Players Services helpers will be needed for Lynne Graham Day.
- Joyce is finding opportunities for I/N players to volunteer at the tournament.
- Joyce is preparing posters for the Partnership Desk, Unit Web Site, and Ask a Teacher.

Motion: To approve up to \$30 each to purchase clocks for speakers.

The motion was seconded and approved.

Motion: To use \$200 from the Mary Lee Bentley fund for the volunteer and teacher reception on Thursday night.

The motion was seconded and approved.

NAP/GNT

John

The District 16 NAP finals were completed in Austin during the weekend of January 3-4. Our district was one of two districts awarded an additional qualifier in both flights B & C, based on NAP participation at the club level. Thus, the top three finishers in Flight A and the top four finishers in Flights B & C are eligible to play in the NABC finals in

Houston in March. Unit 174 was extremely well represented in Flights B & C. Congratulations to board member Paul Cuneo for qualifying for the next step in Flight C.

The unit GNT event for Flights B & C will be contested at the Bridge Studio on Sunday, February 15 beginning at 11:00 am. Scott Humphrey will be directing.

STAC

The unit STAC was just completed during the week of January 5-11. Bob was not present to give a report. A question was brought up about the minimum number of tables required to hold a valid STAC game. Bob will be asked to investigate for the next Board Meeting.

Supplies

Lauri

With the help of John and Bob an inventory was taken in December and supplies have been ordered to assure adequate quantities for the Regional. It was discovered that candy had been placed in one of the supply cabinets after the last sectional, and it was decided to discard it. Leftover candy should not be placed with supplies when future tournaments are concluded. Additional paint buckets were obtained for less than the budgeted cost, so we should have sufficient waste buckets for the Regional.

The Board is not aware of any badges needed.

Tournament Coordination

Pat

Pat called Stafford Centre and got the names of the hotels within the surrounding areas. She contacted over seven of them and the rates ranged from \$50 to \$149. Jolie and Pat will visit a few of them after the Regional and make a recommendation at the February meeting.

Old Business

Online Partnership Desk

Bert

Web server services were obtained for the low cost of \$80 for two years. The URL was registered and the site now fully supports team partnership requests and other bugs were fixed. Arlene has been asked to link the unit web site to the new version.

Unit Directory

Bert

Bert received the unit roster and should have the directory printed by the Regional.

Social Bridge

Bert

The committee, consisting of Pat Levy, Gary King, Sue Adamson, Laura Lee Jones, Anne Knott and Bert Onstott met on Tuesday, January 6. They have set April 25 as the date of the next event. The proposed budget shows a net loss of \$70. Notable changes

from last time are that \$25 will be charged instead of \$20 per participant, and costs will be reduced by using B & W flyers instead of color. They are planning on 100 participants.

Lone Star Regional

Jolie

We expected room bookings to be about 20% below last year, but they are more like 33% below.

Approximately \$1,700 has been received for event naming.

ABA Contract

Paul

Our proposal to rent our supplies for the ABA tournament in April will be voted on by the ABA Board next month. Their representative thinks it will be approved.

Stafford Down Payments

John

After several inquiries by John to Rebecca at the Stafford Centre about getting a contract for the May 1-3 Sectional, the responsibility for the contract has been passed to Lynda Breland. When John spoke with Lynda, she assured us that the dates are still reserved for us, and she will have a contract prepared for our approval soon.

Nominating Committee

The Committee has approved a slate of six candidates for Board membership to be voted on at the Election Sectional, May 1-3, 2009. The candidates are Bob Dowlen, Robert Reichel, Julian Barr, Sue Adamson, Nick Rasmussen, and Lorraine Coomes.

New Business

Boston NABC Report

Three Board members and longtime volunteer and unit representative to the District, Eric Snow were honored with national appointments by outgoing ACBL President, Dan Morse. Eric and Bert Onstott were honored as National Co-Volunteers of the year. Joyce Ryan was named to the National Goodwill Committee and Karen Nimmons was named to the National Charity Committee. Congratulations to all of them.

During our last Board Meeting, Dan Morse spoke to us about the Mind Sports Games held in Beijing in October 2008. He suggested we consider trying to spark local interest with other mind sports (chess, Go, backgammon, checkers, etc.) with the goal of combining some bridge tournaments with other mind sports tournaments. The Board decided to defer this project to a future date, as now we would prefer to concentrate on our Social Bridge agenda and other ways of attracting social bridge players and non-players to duplicate bridge.

Bridge Club Request

The Board received a request from an area club for some monetary assistance during February and March due to lost revenue because of the Regional and NABC. The Board decided to help clubs with unit projects, such as additional Unit Championship games.

Extra Unit Sanctioned Championship & Charity Games

Motion: An additional nine championship games, three to be played on either the first or third Tuesday of the month, three to be played on the second Wednesday of the month, and three to be played on the fourth Saturday of each month.

The motion was seconded and approved.

Executive Session

The Board met in executive session for ten minutes.

Adjournment

Motion: That the meeting be adjourned.

The motion was seconded and approved at 9:30 pm.