



Memorandum of Discussion

ACBL Unit 174 Board of Directors Meeting

June 1st, 2009

Houston Bridge Studio

Call to order

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 pm. Present were Pat Levy, President, Paul Cuneo, Vice-President, John Erickson, Secretary, Joyce Ryan, Karen Nimmons, Bob Dowlen, Robert Reichel, Lauri Laufman and Sue Adamson. Also present as guests were Eric Snow and Bert Onstott.

Guests

Eric Snow presented the final financial report of the March NABC. The bottom line showed a total of \$51,238 to be returned to the coffers of the Unit. Eric wants to consult with the Unit Treasurer, Jim Woodward, to see if any further detail is needed.

Eric also stated that the Houston Visitors and Convention Bureau was very helpful in making the NABC go smoothly. The Bureau helped us arrange for \$5 daily parking, provided shuttle buses for local restaurants, helped us prepare a restaurant guide, and helped to arrange tours. The cost of membership is \$100 per year.

Bert initiated discussion of a club request for reimbursement of the cost of a party for participants of a social bridge event.

Motion: To partially reimburse the club for its submitted costs. The motion was seconded and approved.

Financial Reporting

Norm Gautier reported that the January financial report that he received was incomplete. As a further check it was decided that the Unit Secretary will be responsible for comparing the financial reports received from the Treasurer in monthly Board meetings with the report posted on the Unit website. He will then communicate the result to the Financial Verifier.

Minutes of May board meeting

John

The minutes of the May meeting were approved by on-line poll.



Committee Reports

Pat requested all committee chairmen to send in their reports prior to the Board meeting via Yahoo groups to save time and facilitate discussion during the meeting.

Awards/Flyers

Karen

Flyers

Flyers for the NAOP qualifying games were distributed.

Awards

Three Life Master plaques were presented.

Bridge in Schools

Errol LeCesne was mentioned as someone who might like to take a more active role in teaching bridge in schools. Pat will follow up.

Member Communications Committee

John

Betty Freedman submitted a report showing that attempts were made to contact 40 members. Many messages were left, but few returned.

Membership

John

Unit membership totals 2,452 as of June 1, an increase of one over the previous month's total. Eighteen new members joined. Margot Leonard has sent 88 letters welcoming new members.

Goodwill

Karen

One card was sent.

I/N, Education & Book Sales

Sue

I/N volunteers are set for the June Sectional. Sue is trying to determine if the Houston Greeters organization can distribute information about where newcomers to Houston can find bridge games.

A total of eight books were sold.

NAP/GNT

John

NAP

Unit clubs may hold qualifying games throughout June, July and August. Flyers announcing the qualifying games and the Unit Finals in November have been distributed to clubs. An online version is on the Unit website.

GNT

Congratulations to Brett Elliott, Harry Elliott, Byron Elliott, Robert Reichek and Herbert Kalman who won the District Flight C competition held in Richardson over the Memorial Day weekend. Their team is eligible to compete in the national final at the Washington D.C. NABC this summer.

STAC

Bob

The next Unit STAC will be in October.



Supplies

Lauri

Lauri is looking for a handyman to repair damaged rolling crates.

Tournament Coordination

Paul

The 2010 Unit calendar should be ready by the August meeting.

Old Business

May Sectional

Bob/Lauri

Final financial results are still not determined, but a loss of at least \$500 is expected.

June Sectional

Karen/John

The final payment to the Stafford Centre has been made. Overtime charges were waived. Concessions will be handled by an FFA group headed by Susan Ricks. She was apprised of our needs, so hopefully things will go more smoothly than at the last sectional. Discussion was held concerning the number of boards to play per match, in the Sunday Swiss Team event. It was decided to play six nine-board matches in Flight A/X, and six eight-board matches in Flights B/C/D.

August Sectional

Paul

Paul presented a flyer and revised schedule for the August 21-23 Sectional.

Motion: To approve the revised schedule and flyer.

The motion was seconded and approved.

Paul has arranged with the Westchase Marriott to hold our August Sectional for 2010, 2011 and 2012 for the same terms as this year's August Sectional.

New Business

Use of Funds Received from NABC

Joyce presented a number of ideas for use of the \$50,000+ received from the NABC. The ideas were discussed, but no decision was made. John, Robert and Lauri volunteered to form a committee to make recommendations at the July meeting.

Sectional Tournament Sites

John

John met with Therese Cole to view the nearly finished Shriners Ballroom. The final permits are expected to be approved by the end of July, at which time remaining construction, including parking, will get underway, and booking will begin for rentals in 2010. We expressed interest for our April 2010 Sectional, and Therese said that as an old client, they would be delighted to continue the relationship. John and Therese will stay in touch.

District 16 Representative

As Eric Snow has expressed a desire to retire from the task of Unit Rep to the District, discussion was held about naming a replacement. It was decided to ask Bert Onstott if he would accept the responsibility. Bert accepted after the meeting.

Publicity



The Board discussed placing "Bridge Bites", a bridge column provided free of charge by the ACBL, into local publications, such as the Houston Press.

Social Bridge

Planning discussion took place about where to hold the next event. Upon hearing the news that it would not be feasible for the Clear Lake area to hold the event, the northside will be contacted to see if they're interested in hosting it again.

Adjourn

Motion: That the meeting be adjourned.

The motion was seconded and approved at 9:55 pm.

Respectfully submitted

John Erickson

Secretary

