

**NORTH JERSEY BRIDGE ASSOCIATION
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
June 1, 2013
CHRIST CHURCH, RIDGEWOOD, NJ**

President Stasha Cohen called the meeting to order at 10:07 am. Board members in attendance were:

Stasha Cohen	President
Gale Mirro	Vice President, Budget
Lee Ohliger	Treasurer, Conduct and Ethics, Budget
Carol McMackin	Administrative Secretary, Annual Dinner, Budget
Robert Sorce	Recording Secretary, Site
Neale Van Delft	Newsletter, Site, Website
Blair Seidler	Website, Player of the year
Larry Ascher	Recorder, Prizes, Johnke/Reitman
Susan Green	Club Coordinator
Jan Weber	Tournaments, Hospitality, Johnke/Reitman
Marlene Case	Tournaments, Budget
Debi Fabian	Caddies
Linda Connolly	Newcomer/Intermediate Promotion, Membership
Michael Jeshion	Johnke, Reitman
Doug Cestone	Site, Auditor, Mailing
Tod Thorgersen	Johnke/Reitman, Prizes
John Hogan	Site, Tournaments

Also in attendance: Glenda Calkins, District 3 Director, Jerry Goodman, District 3 Representative, Andy Lohan, and Marilyn Wells.

Absent and excused: Ron Nelken, Jerry Schraub.

Absent: Barbara LeVay, Lila Burg.

The minutes of the prior meeting were reviewed. A motion was made by Marlene, seconded by Linda to accept the minutes as submitted. The motion passed unanimously.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Stasha reported that the recent sectional went very well. The implementation of the new point person system also went well. Although no emergencies were encountered, designated point persons were available at all sessions. Bob provided a list of designated point persons in advance.

A Co-Chair is still needed for the Tournament Committee.

As of now, attendance for the scheduled second annual brunch is below last year's. Entries are still being accepted and those interested in attending should contact Carol. Glenda speculated that some members might not be aware of the event. Doug volunteered to email club owners, asking them to announce the event. Stasha noted that continuation of the annual brunch is dependent on good attendance.

A nominating committee is being formed and board members as well as non-board members are needed. Neale will be chairing the board, and Carol has agreed to serve. Marilyn volunteered to serve as a non-board member.

A proxy is needed to attend the Saratoga Regional.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Lee reiterated that the recent Sectional was a success. Lee presented the projected 2013 budget, which was then reviewed by board members.

Lee also reported that he has closed the matured CD issued by Hudson City bank, but had difficulty depositing it in the Bank of America account. Bank officials apparently questioned Lee's authority to make deposits. In addition, a fee is charged for deposits over \$10,000. A debate ensued on interest rates, fees, and the possibility of changing banks. Jan suggested splitting large deposits to avoid the fee. Tod and Jan recommended Chase, and Andy suggested Capital One. Lee responded that he would research banking alternatives.

Lee moved that a Secretary's Certificate be issued and approved, establishing his authority to conduct banking business on behalf of the NJBA. The motion was seconded by Marlene. The motion was passed unanimously.

Susan and Neale suggested that two signatures be required on checks. Glenda did not think that this was necessary, but suggested a second person should hold authority to draw on the account in the event Lee is not available. Jerry suggested the President should hold that authority. Carol stated that the by-laws allow the board to appoint a new treasurer in an emergency situation.

Lee reported on three charitable donations, as follows:

\$200 to The Stony Point Ambulance Corp, in memory of former NJBA board member Kathy Filor.

\$300 to The NY chapter of The Juvenile Diabetes Foundation, in memory of former District 3 Director Joan Gerard.

\$100 to The Bergen Volunteer Medical Initiative.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

TOURNAMENTS

Marlene reported that everything went smoothly at the recent tournament.

SITE

No Report.

CADDIES

Debi stated that caddies will no longer be used for kitchen duty, as Marlene prefers to have an adult in this position. Debi also asked that we continue canvassing for new candidates, as some current caddies will be leaving for college soon.

PRO-AM

There is some uncertainty about the date of the Pro-Am, and whether it might conflict with the NAOP finals. Stasha will email Ron and Barbara for clarification.

ANNUAL DINNER/BRUNCH

Carol stated that the annual dinner will be held at The Crowne Plaza in Suffern on January 12, 2014. The annual brunch will be held at The Crowne Plaza in Suffern on June 9, 2013.

JOHNKE/REITMAN

Tod reported that this year's Johnke went well, and the food served was excellent. There were twenty-nine teams participating, an improvement over last year's twenty-four. Blair pointed out that, due to the placement of tables, Flight A is often disturbed by other flights that finish earlier and are getting their dinner. Various potential solutions were discussed, although choices are limited by uneven lighting. Lee suggested that the flight ending last should be seated closer to the windows.

The Reitman will be held on October 5th.

NEWSLETTER

Neale reviewed changes to the listings, and is adding John Hogan to the Tournament Committee. A discussion ensued about member awareness of the newsletter since individual mailings were eliminated. Debi suggested sending an email blast to members when the new issue was available online. Blair stated that he will not send out unsolicited email. Stasha suggested making the newsletter available at Sectionals, and Doug agreed to mail copies to Marlene for that purpose. It was also agreed that the Maywood club needs additional copies.

MAILING

No report.

CLUB COORDINATOR

No report.

NEWCOMER/INTERMEDIATE PROMOTION

Linda reported that the May 0-99 game went well. However, turnout was light. There were only forty-six participants, compared with one hundred at the previous event.

Andy reported on a planned mini-sectional for grammar school students on June 19. Glenda spoke of the district's non-profit 501C3 plan, The NY/NJ Youth Bridge Organization, which makes money available for youth events. She asked Neale to add a solicitation for donations to the newsletter. Lee suggested we should also make a contribution to the NY/NJ YBO. Jan moved that we should make a donation of \$500. The motion was seconded by Tod, and passed unanimously.

WEBSITE

Blair informed the board that the website needs updating. Due to outdated code, the dropdown menus will not work with Internet Explorer v.10. Blair intends to update the site in July, and advised that hosting costs may increase, possibly by as much as \$200 over budget. The board agreed to increase the budget if necessary.

PLAYER OF THE YEAR

Blair reported that Player of the Year will be updated soon.

MEMBERSHIP

No report.

CONDUCT AND ETHICS

No report.

PRIZES

Tod reported that individual prizes will be given to the winners of the Annual Brunch this year. Acknowledgement and distribution of prizes will take place at the Annual Dinner.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

Glenda suggested that those wishing to learn more about ACBL rules and regulations attend the "Solly Speaks" Q&A on Monday, August 19th at the Fairfield Regional. In addition to National Tournament Director Sol Weinstein, ACBL CEO Robert Hartmann will be in attendance.

Marlene asked the board to consider ways to increase Friday night Sectional attendance .

John Hogan suggested an earlier start to the Saturday sectionals, and the possibility of adding a three session Knockout event that would start on Friday and continue on Saturday morning. He stated that a similar event had been well received at a recent tournament in Las Vegas. There was an extensive discussion on the merits of Knockouts. Glenda felt that such an event would not be successful without a captive audience. Marilyn stated that participants in Knockouts often end up mismatched, and sectional participants prefer a bracketed Swiss.

A motion was made at 11:44 am by Lee, seconded by Stasha to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously.