

**NORTH JERSEY BRIDGE ASSOCIATION
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
March 29, 2014
Christ Church, Ridgewood, NJ**

President Dick Murray called the meeting to order at 10:09 am. Board members in attendance were:

Dick Murray	President
Gale Mirro	Vice President, Budget
Carol McMackin	Administrative Secretary, Annual Dinner, Budget
Lee Ohliger	Treasurer, Conduct and Ethics, Budget
Robert Sorce	Recording Secretary, Site
Neale Van Delft	Newsletter
Tod Thorgersen	Prizes, Johnke, Reitman
Lila Burg	Pairings, Tournament, Johnke, Reitman
Linda Connolly	Newcomer/Intermediate Promotion, Membership
Doug Cestone	Site, Auditor, Distribution and Mailing

Also in attendance: Jerry Goodman, Andy Lohan, Paul Nickerson, and District 3 Director Glenda Calkins.

Absent and excused: Marlene Case, Pat Rogers Linnemeyer, Barbara LeVay, Blair Seidler, Ron Nelken, Jan Weber, Michael Jeshion, Debi Fabian, and John Hogan.

The minutes of the prior meeting were reviewed. Neale pointed out a typo and suggested the time of adjournment be changed from 11:23 pm to 11:23 am. A motion was made by Gale, seconded by Carol, to accept the minutes with the amendment. The motion passed unanimously.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Dick welcomed the board and stated a quorum had been achieved. He announced we are currently short two board members, as Jan will be resigning from the board after the Johnke, and Jerry Schraub's position has not yet been filled. He asked board members to suggest qualified replacements.

The roster and the newsletter directory will need to be updated.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Lee stated he had only one event to report on so far. The Winter Sectional made a profit of approximately two thousand dollars. There were 232 tables, which is not a great number. Foul weather may have been a factor in reducing turnout. Guardian Angel Church has increased the rental fee by \$600.00.

Lee passed out copies of the budget for review. Carol questioned the expenditure of \$184.00 for print outs. Lee responded that this included "save the dates" flyers, and Carol suggested using email for this purpose in the future. A discussion on the merits of email ensued. Both Lee and Gale stated we ended 2013 under budget, as we had projected a loss of \$3,000. Gale has reduced Stac projections, and is using last year's numbers for budget assumptions. Lee stated the projections for the fall Sectional may be aggressive.

Andy asked for the current bank balance, and Lee reported it is approximately \$67,000.00.

A motion was made by Gale, seconded by Lee, to accept the budget. The motion passed unanimously.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

TOURNAMENTS

Dick mentioned the Sectional directors have suggested the use of pre-duplicated boards. Glenda reported that Unit 140 has recently instituted this practice and the players love it. She also stated we are the only unit in our area that does not use pre-duped boards. The cost of implementation is approximately \$300 per event. Rob Van Eckeren of District 140 is currently the only person authorized to use the District 3 card sorting machine. Glenda also stated the use of pre duplicated boards will raise some security issues. Director Sol Weinstein has expressed concern about the potential for unauthorized access to the boards prior to play. A lengthy discussion ensued. Dick questioned whether there would be any benefit to justify the additional expense. Gale spoke in favor of pre-duped boards, saying that we need to remain competitive with the other units. Lee posited that it would be a waste of money. Bob asked why the directors prefer pre-duplicated boards, and Jerry responded it limits the possibility of player error, and the associated penalties. Dick stressed we have time to make a decision, and we could not do so without Marlene's input.

Dick reported the ACBL has raised the sanction fee by 1.5%.

Bob suggested Sectional attendance might be increased by changing the 0-299 games to 0-500 NLM. He stated the 299 limit is an anachronism, since the ACBL raised the life master award requirement to 500 points. Lee pointed out the turnout for the afternoon games was good. Gale stated players who now have over 299 points should move over to the open game. She also reported raising the Friday night Swiss from 500 to a 750 point maximum has not resulted in increased attendance.

SANCTIONS

No report.

SITE

Bob reported a donation has been made to Guardian Angel church in the amount of \$306.00, for the purchase of a new chair rack. 5 new tables and 8 new chairs have been purchased, and no new expenditures for equipment are anticipated. A full inventory will be done to confirm this.

Silvana has agreed to provide Bob with access to the keys on Thursday morning, which will allow for the resumption of early setup. The board will provide her with a letter of authorization.

PAIRINGS

Lila reported everything is fine.

CADDIES

No report.

ANNUAL DINNER

Carol stated we have a proposed contract with Crowne Plaza for December 14th. A discussion ensued about the per person cost. The cost has gone from \$55.00 to \$75.00 over 4 years. In addition, there is a \$3.00 charge for each person over the guarantee of 120 attendees. It was generally agreed this was excessive, and it was suggested we might look for another venue in the future. Dick stated the idea had merit, and warranted further discussion. A motion to approve the date was made by Gale and seconded by Lee. The motion passed unanimously.

JOHNKE/REITMAN

Tod reported that we currently have 22 teams signed up for the Johnke, which is below last year's total. There is also a shortage of C level players. It was agreed that the deadline should be extended through Thursday, April 3rd, and clubs will be asked to further promote the event.

A date is still needed for the Reitman. There are many conflicts with other events, as well as the Jewish holidays. After a lengthy discussion, it was agreed both September 13th and October 11th would work. Mike will contact the church to check availability.

PRIZES

No report.

PRO-AM

Gale suggested we propose acceptable dates to Ron for consideration. Once again, potential conflicts were discussed, and it was agreed November 14th and 15th would be acceptable.

NEWCOMER/INTERMEDIATE PROMOTION

Linda stated the 0-99 Newcomer's game is scheduled for May 3rd, and ACBL sanction has been received.

DISTRIBUTION

No report.

CLUB COORDINATOR

No report.

NEWSLETTER

Neale reported the April newsletter is now available online. Dick stated his belief that communication with the membership is of paramount importance and Neale's work is very much appreciated.

Tod mentioned that the Richard Lighton award, which is given in recognition of contributions to the newsletter, has not been given out for several years due to lack of membership participation. It was generally agreed contributions to the newsletter should be solicited.

WEBSITE

Lee stated the website is archaic and needs to be brought into the 21st century. Stasha has communicated that although she will maintain the website, she does not have the skills needed to do the update. Lee reported his son Jonathan is currently working on upgrading the site, and will use the Word Press template to accomplish this. Dick asked for a time frame and a projected cost. Lee stated the work should be finished very soon and there would be no additional cost beyond the \$120 per year that we pay to Webx for hosting. Paul pointed out Webx will provide assistance on request, and Bob said Steve Fabian has also volunteered to help if needed.

PLAYER OF THE YEAR

Neale stated that Player of the Year has been updated and is included in the current newsletter.

MEMBERSHIP

No report.

CONDUCT AND ETHICS

No report.

RECORDER

No report.

OLD BUSINESS

Glenda informed the board that Unit 188 in Westchester has decided to remove itself from the STaC consortium that has existed for several years, including severing their relationship with the small Connecticut units. She asked if we would allow these smaller units to affiliate with Unit 106 for the STaC. A discussion ensued about the merits of the proposal and the difficulties it might present. Paul speculated that a small game may produce outsized percentage wins and skew the overalls. Dick said it seemed like the right thing to do as long as it did not affect our costs. A straw vote was taken to accept the proposal, and there were no objections.

NEW BUSINESS

Dick suggested May 31st as the date for the next meeting. It will be held in Christ Church if the venue is available. If not, the meeting will be held at The Bridge Center at Glen Rock in Maywood. Andy suggested we should explore the possibility of having meetings at night on those occasions when the preferred venue is not available during the day, or a quorum has not been achieved.

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