

**NORTH JERSEY BRIDGE ASSOCIATION
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
October 17, 2015
Christ Church, Ridgewood, NJ**

President Dick Murray called the meeting to order at 10:12 a.m. Attendance was taken and Bob confirmed that a quorum was present. Board members in attendance were:

Dick Murray	President
Gale Mirro	Vice President, Budget
Lee Ohliger	Treasurer, Conduct and Ethics, Budget
Robert Sorce	Recording Secretary, Site
Neale Van Delft	Newsletter
Marlene Case	Tournaments, Hospitality, Budget
Marilyn Cavell	Tournaments, Hospitality
Barbara LeVay	Sanctions, Hospitality, Annual Dinner
Debi Fabian	Caddies, Player of the Year, Website
Tod Thorgersen	Prizes, Reitman, Johnke
Jack Forbes	Pairings
Pat Rogers Linnemeyer	Club Coordinator, Annual Dinner
John Hogan	Recorder, Site, Tournaments
Kathy Lathrop	Flyers, Tournaments, Hospitality

Also in attendance: Andy Lohan, Susan Koster, Pam Mills, Michelle Lanigan.

Absent and excused: Carol McMackin, Doug Cestone, Ron Nelken, Linda Connolly, Stasha Cohen, Michael Jeshion.

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

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Dick offered thanks to Marlene on behalf of the board and the unit for the huge contribution she has made to the bridge community, and the tremendous amount of work she has done over the years. Dick also thanked retiring board members Linda Connolly and Robert Sorce for their service.

Dick welcomed and introduced prospective new board members Pam Mills and Michelle Lanigan, and returning board member Sue Koster. He also announced the end of his term as president, and endorsed John Hogan to assume the presidency.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Lee reported the final results of the Johnke/Reitman, and the three Sectionals held to date this year. The early fall Sectional made a profit of \$2,661.82, and the Reitman sustained a loss of \$1,247.98. Kathy asked how these figures compare with the previous year. Gale responded they were about the same, with perhaps a slightly larger loss for the Reitman. Gale asked if any newcomers had used their free play coupons at the Reitman. Both Tod and Debi responded affirmatively, and Tod said 10-12 coupons had been used.

Lee also distributed a copy of the 2015 projected budget, updated through October 15th.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

TOURNAMENTS

Marlene reported the recent Sectional did well, having a total of 282 tables. The Friday night session once again had a light turnout. A discussion followed regarding what actions, if any, might increase attendance, including dropping the point ceiling on the Swiss to 500, and/or changing the strats for the open game. The board decided collectively to maintain the status quo for the present time.

Marlene, who is leaving the board, said Marilyn Cavell will be taking over tournament duties starting with the November Sectional. Marlene stated Marilyn has been doing a superb job, and is very capable. Marilyn said she will need support from volunteers for food preparation. Also, she cannot be there all three days. Dick said we will appoint a co-chair to share responsibilities.

Dick proposed an increase in card fees. Barbara moved card fees should be increased by \$1.00, to \$15.00 per session on Friday and Saturday, and \$16.00 on Sunday. Lee seconded. The motion carried with two nay votes.

SANCTIONS

No report.

SITE

Bob reported everything went smoothly at the recent sectional. Guardian Angel Church has repainted the lines in the parking lot, as the board requested. This has eliminated the parking difficulties previously experienced on Friday afternoon.

PAIRINGS

Jack thanked the board for the coverage provided in his absence. He will also be away during the next Sectional, and will make arrangements for coverage.

CADDIES

Debi stated that we currently have enough caddies, but we should always seek new candidates. She also asked if adult caddies would be acceptable, and this was affirmed.

PLAYER OF THE YEAR

Debi reported everything is up to date.

ANNUAL DINNER

The annual dinner will be held at The Crowne Plaza in Suffern on December 13, 2015. Pat reported she and Carol had been to the venue, finalized the menu, and paid the deposit.

JOHNKE/REITMAN

Tod reported on the addition of the D flight at the Reitman. Debi brought seven teams from the Sparta club. There were twenty seven teams for the Reitman, and twenty two for the Johnke.

John asked if there is a reason to have flighted events and suggested a change to bracketed events, which would raise master point awards. Lee explained the mechanics of a bracketed event. Andy thought this would be easy to administer, and Debi said bracketed events have gotten very popular. Debi suggested we consult Marilyn Wells before making a decision. Neale said he would need notice of any changes prior to publication of the January newsletter. It was decided to implement a bracketed Swiss team format for both the Johnke and the Reitman.

Dick proposed raising the price of the Johnke and Reitman. Andy stated he thought the price should remain unchanged, as these are subsidized social events where players can get to know each other. Marlene said very few new people attend these events. Pat thought \$25.00 was reasonable. Gale reported food costs are rising. Pat made a motion to raise the price of the Johnke and the Reitman by \$5.00. Gale seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

PRIZES

Tod reported he still has one life master pen to be awarded.

PRO-AM

Neale asked Debi for feedback, and Debi reported participants enjoyed doing a group event.

NEWCOMER/INTERMEDIATE PROMOTION

Gale said we need a date for the 0-99 event for next year, and suggested May 14, 2016. The board agreed, and Barbara will get the sanction.

MEMBERSHIP

No report.

FLYERS

Kathy said there will be no need for the Unit to buy a new copy of Microsoft Publisher, as she already has it on her computer. Both she and Neale agreed the software works very well. Kathy requested a co-chair to share responsibilities.

Dick reported we are running out of promotional flyers at events. He has spoken with Doug, and requested board members to provide guidance on the number of flyers needed at specific clubs and events.

DISTRIBUTION

No report.

CLUB COORDINATOR

Pat reported everything is fine.

NEWSLETTER

Neale asked for an update on names and assignments of board members. Dick responded he and John will provide an update.

WEBSITE

Debi reported usage of the unit website continues to grow. Since the last meeting, we have had 6,500 visits from 3,200 users. 45% were new users. The most visited pages were the home page, clubs, and events/results.

Neale asked who shut down the old website. Debi said she assumed either Blair shut it down, or our access expired. Neither she nor Steve ever had access to the old site.

CONDUCT AND ETHICS

No report.

RECORDER

No report.

OLD BUSINESS

Tod asked Kathy who is responsible for editorial content on fliers. Kathy responded she is responsible, and has been updating information while basically maintaining the original format. The date and pricing for the Johnke will need to be updated in both the newsletter and fliers.

NEW BUSINESS

Andy said we are not doing enough to support young bridge players. We should talk to the people running youth programs in South Jersey. They are doing a great deal to promote the game, and we might get some ideas. Also, young players should have a separate event at the Sectionals. Dick stated this had been discussed previously, but we couldn't find a way to make it work. A vigorous discussion ensued. John said there is grant money available to send young people to the Nationals. We can promote that. Sue said we need a pool of young people to draw from, and in her experience it is very hard to get young people involved. We probably could not get four tables in a separate youth event. Andy said it would take a lot of work, but he is willing to do it. Sue said perhaps we could try an event in the spring to see if it will work. Andy suggested a start time of 3 p.m. on Saturday afternoon.

Kathy asked for an update on the winter Regional to be held in East Rutherford. Carol has to find a tournament coordinator to round up volunteers.

Barbara said she needs baskets to make up the door prizes for the Annual Dinner.

A motion was made at 11:47 by Gale, seconded by Barbara, to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously.