

**NORTH JERSEY BRIDGE ASSOCIATION
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
November 15, 2014
Glen Rock Bridge Center, Maywood, NJ**

President Dick Murray called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. 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
Carol McMackin	Administrative Secretary, Annual Dinner, Budget
Robert Sorce	Recording Secretary, Site
Marlene Case	Tournaments, Hospitality, Budget
Stasha Cohen	Website
Doug Cestone	Distribution, Auditor, Site
Blair Seidler	Website, Player of the Year
Pat Rogers Linnemeyer	Club Coordinator
Barbara LeVay	Sanctions, Hospitality, Annual Dinner
Ron Nelken	Pro-Am, Newcomer/Intermediate Promotion
John Hogan	Recorder, Site, Tournaments
Jack Forbes	Pairings
Kathy Lathrop	Tournaments, Hospitality, Flyers

Also in attendance: Glenda Calkins, District 3 Director, Marilyn Wells, Jerry Goodman.
Absent and excused: Neale Van Delft, Debi Fabian, Tod Thorgersen, Michael Jeshion, Linda Connolly.

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

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Dick introduced new members Kathy Lathrop and Jack Forbes to the board.

Some shifting of job responsibilities will be necessary in the new year. We need a STaC coordinator. Also, Susan Koster, who has done a great job, will no longer be able to continue as youth coordinator. Volunteers are needed to fill both positions.

Unit 188 has requested permission to run a charity game during the November 2015 sectional. We asked the district to have them find another date.

Blair will be retiring in the new year. We appreciate his hard work and contributions.

It was a mistake to attempt to fix the website, as the code is antiquated. We need to blow it up and start over. We will provide Steve Fabian with parameters, and he will give us recommendations as to how to proceed. Debi will become web coordinator. Stasha will maintain the current website during the transition.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Lee distributed the 2014 budget projections and the updated actual income and expense data to date. Both documents were reviewed by board members.

Although we were unable to hold an April sectional, it was a good year and we continue to make money on sectionals.

Gale asked if there will be a District 3 distribution this year. Glenda responded that, due to decreased attendance at District 3 events, there will be no distribution this year.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

TOURNAMENTS

Marlene reported that sectional attendance is down from last year, and speculated that our advertising might be overly focused on the web and email. She has learned from some older, less computer savvy members that they were unaware of the tournament. Dick stated the average age of members in our unit is seventy one. Carol said attendance is down everywhere. John mentioned the Saturday imp game has been falling off, and speculated timing may be a problem. Dick asked Marlene to make decisions regarding changes to advertising.

Marlene suggested adding a session on Friday might help with retention. She proposed open games at 10 a.m. and 3 p.m., and adding a new 21 board open game Friday evening. Gale said a decision would need to be made now if the change is to be implemented for the next sectional. Bob made a motion to approve the new Friday schedule, and Carol seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Marilyn said she felt it would be beneficial to raise the B strat for the Sunday Swiss game to 2500. Doug moved that we change the B strat for the Sunday Swiss to 2500, and Barbara seconded. The motion carried with one nay vote.

Marlene reported the dates for the 2017 Sectionals will be January 27-29, April 21-23, and September 15-17. The late fall Sectional is tentatively scheduled for November 10-12. However, the schedule is saturated and it is difficult to find available dates.

SITE

Bob reported a new setup person was used for the recent Sectional. We received positive feedback from the directors regarding his work.

One of the three fire inspectors will not allow parking along the stream. The other two are comfortable with it. This takes away eight potential parking spaces. Bob suggested we try to clarify what the code actually requires. Carol stated she is certain the code does not allow parking along the stream, as this might prevent a fire truck from making a wide turn in an emergency. It was generally agreed to avoid parking cars in this area.

Bob reported an inventory of supplies was done during the recent sectional. We currently have 318 bidding boxes, seventy nine tables, and 215 folding chairs. No additional supplies are needed at this time.

It is getting harder to find volunteers for setup and parking duty. Volunteers are needed to help with setup on Thursday from 10 a.m. to noon. Volunteers are needed for parking on Saturday between 9 a.m. and 10 a.m. Anyone interested in helping out should contact Bob via email.

SANCTIONS

No report.

CADDIES

Carol relayed Debi's solicitation for new caddies.

ANNUAL DINNER/BRUNCH

The annual dinner will be held at The Crowne Plaza in Suffern on December 14, 2014. Carol reported sign up to date is about average. Pat will be taking over oversight of the annual dinner next year.

JOHNKE/REITMAN

Lee reported the date for the 2015 Johnke will be April 25. We still need a director. A date is needed for the Reitman.

NEWSLETTER

No report.

MAILING

No report.

CLUB COORDINATOR

Pat reported everything is fine.

PRO-AM

Ron reported the event was difficult to coordinate, but well attended. The Sparta club participated for the first time.

NEWCOMER/INTERMEDIATE PROMOTION

Ron stated turnout was down. The 2015 game will be held on May 2nd, and the sanction has been obtained.

MEMBERSHIP

No report.

FLYERS

Kathy will work with Neale to update flyers and confirm the distribution list.

DISTRIBUTION

Doug reported there are no problems. He has expanded distribution to include part of Long Island, and plans a further expansion in the future.

WEBSITE

Stasha said she is often unavailable at critical times, therefore it is a good idea for Debi to take over web coordination. Blair said he has been working with Debi. Some errors were found in the script and have been corrected.

PLAYER OF THE YEAR

No report.

PAIRINGS

Jack reported pairings for the recent Sectional went reasonably well, and that overall things worked seamlessly.

CONDUCT AND ETHICS

No report.

RECORDER

No report.

PRIZES

No report.

OLD BUSINESS

The board again discussed the possibility of using pre-duped boards. Dick stated Lila was willing to donate the use of her sorting machine, and therefore the total cost could be held to \$300. Availability and transport within a narrow window of time is the sole remaining problem which has not yet been resolved. Glenda said it is best to have one person handling the boards and suggested we consider Rob Van Eckeren, when and if he is available.

Lee stated \$1200 a year is a lot of money. Bob suggested an increase in card fees to cover the additional expenditure. Gale said an increase in card fees should be reserved to match an anticipated increase in the site rental fee.

Dick said we need more details, and we should ask Rob Van Eckeren to present a total package detailing all costs and services. Therefore, we will not be able to implement the change in January.

NEW BUSINESS

Stasha asked if anything was done to honor Paul Nickerson, who recently passed away. Gale stated that, in accordance with the family's wishes, \$125 will be donated to Dickinson College. Additionally, a donation of \$125 will be made in his name to The Alzheimer's Association.

Dick reported complaints about the quality of cards used for the recent tournament. Marilyn responded they are in the process of replacing cards as needed.

There have been complaints of game results not being available in a timely fashion. Marilyn advised the board of a service provided by The Common Game, called Fast Results. Anyone with an email address registered with the ACBL will receive an email with a link to results, often the same day. The entire cost is \$25 per sectional. A motion was made by Barbara, seconded by Pat, to use Fast Results. The motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made at 11:23 a.m. by Barbara, seconded by Lee, to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously.