

**NORTH JERSEY BRIDGE ASSOCIATION  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
November 2, 2013  
Bridge Center at Glen Rock, Maywood, NJ**

President Stasha Cohen called the meeting to order at 10:04 am. Board members in attendance were:

Stasha Cohen	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
Barbara LeVay	Sanctions, Annual Dinner
Marlene Case	Tournaments, Hospitality, Budget
Ron Nelken	Pro-Am, Newcomer/Intermediate Promotion
Larry Ascher	Recorder, Prizes, Johnke/Reitman
Lila Burg	Pairings, Tournament Johnke, Reitman
Debi Fabian	Caddies
Linda Connolly	Newcomer/Intermediate Promotion, Membership
Doug Cestone	Site, Auditor, Mailing

Also in attendance: Jerry Goodman, Andy Lohan, Paul Nickerson, Dick Murray, Pat Rogers Linnemeyer, and District 3 Director Glenda Calkins and District 3 representative Betty Ann Smith.

Absent and excused: Neale Van Delft, Blair Seidler, Susan Green, Jan Weber, Michael Jeshion, Tod Thorgersen, and John Hogan.

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

### **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

Stasha announced this would be her last report, as she is giving up the presidency. Stasha introduced new board members Dick Murray and Pat Rogers Linnemeyer. Stasha also announced that Dick Murray would be assuming the Presidency, an announcement that was greeted enthusiastically. Dick thanked everyone, and stressed that he regarded the board as a team effort, and he looked forward to working with everyone.

Stasha informed the board that, due to planned renovations at The Guardian Angel church hall, it may be necessary to cancel the spring sectional, as there are apparently no other venues available at a reasonable price. A discussion of various alternatives ensued, including doing a "normal" sectional at the clubs, adding another Stac week, and running the sectional at multiple locations. Gale speculated that any of these would cause confusion among participants, and said if we can't do the Sectional as we usually do it, we shouldn't do it at all. Ron mentioned that The Royal Manor in Garfield has been used previously. It was generally agreed that the search for an alternative venue should continue.

## **TREASURER'S REPORT**

Lee stated that the last sectional was very successful, and provided board members with an updated 2013 budget. Jerry asked how the staging of the annual dinner in January might affect the budget, and Lee responded that for accounting purposes, the annual dinner will be treated as if it took place in 2013. Lee also advised the board that our sectional net profit year to date is \$4,700 ahead of budget.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **TOURNAMENTS**

Marlene said the last sectional went well, and everything is ready to go for the upcoming event. Debi related a complaint she received about the lack of a kosher and/or vegetarian alternative at the last event. Marlene responded that she prepares food for 240-260 people, and regularly receives requests for special dietary needs including lactose intolerance, allergies, Kosher, vegetarian, etc., but it is not possible to meet these requests, unless a professional caterer is engaged. Gale suggested people with special dietary needs should bring their own food, or limit themselves to the many salads available.

### **SANCTIONS**

No report.

### **SITE**

Bob stated more tables are needed in Allendale, and asked the board for purchasing advice. Both Andy and Glenda recommended speaking to Ken Persson at Maywood Furniture. Andy volunteered to assist with the purchase, and to be available to accept the delivery.

Doug asked about possible changes in the Thursday setup time, and Bob responded that, due to constraints on table setup imposed by the church, setup must be shifted to the afternoon, probably around 5:00 pm, to accommodate the volunteers who regularly play in afternoon games.

### **PAIRINGS**

Lila reported everything is under control.

### **CADDIES**

Debi stated she is, as always, looking for new caddies, and asked the board members for referrals. Carol mentioned caddies will not be needed for the annual dinner.

### **ANNUAL DINNER/BRUNCH**

Carol reported there currently are no directors available for the annual brunch, and therefore the event may have to be canceled. Stasha suggested using a local director, and asked Jerry if he would be available. Jerry responded that he would consider it and report back.

#### JOHNKE/REITMAN

Stasha reminded the board that a date is still needed for the Johnke, and it possibly could be held in April. May 3rd, 4th, and 10th were all suggested. It was pointed out that there would be a conflict with a district event on May 3rd. Gale felt doing it in June would be unacceptable, as the playoffs would run too late in the year. It was generally agreed that a date could not be chosen until potential conflicts with the sectional and annual brunch are resolved.

#### PRIZES

No report.

#### PRO-AM

Ron stated that the Pro-Am will be held next weekend, and a decent turnout is expected. Each Am will receive a free play in the future, and a discussion ensued as to the best way to implement this. Stasha suggested the free play might be used at any sectional within a year.

#### NEWCOMER/INTERMEDIATE PROMOTION

Linda stated a date is needed for the next newcomer event, and Stasha commented that the uncertainty of the sectional prevents us from definitively setting any dates at this time.

#### MAILING

Doug reported there are no problems, and everything has gone out.

#### CLUB COORDINATOR

Gale reported everything is fine.

#### NEWSLETTER

Debi suggested we should use an email blast to make people aware of newsletter availability. Stasha agreed, saying that email is an important marketing device.

#### WEBSITE

Stasha advised the board that, due to time constraints, Blair will no longer be able to manage the website. Stasha also volunteered to take over administration of the website in mid January, and will be designing an entirely new site. Debi volunteered the services of her husband, Steve Fabian, who designs websites professionally.

#### PLAYER OF THE YEAR

In Blair's absence, Lee conveyed that everything is up to date. There was a discussion as to whether the annual awards should be listed in the newsletter, and if so, whether publication should be delayed until the awards are presented. Gale pointed out that there are important reminders of upcoming events in the newsletter that should not be delayed. It was generally agreed the newsletter should be published on schedule, with names of award recipients included.

#### MEMBERSHIP

No report

## CONDUCT AND ETHICS

No report

## RECORDER

No report.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

Glenda reported that the recent donation made to the NY/NJ Youth Bridge Organization was well used to help fund a trip to Atlanta for students led by Barbara Clark of Unit 140. In addition to playing bridge, the group visited colleges and local attractions. Glenda stated it was a wonderful experience for everyone.

Glenda also informed the board that our upcoming sectional was mentioned in the New York Times.

Andy updated the board on the youth sectional in Paramus. There are now three locations participating, including two catholic schools in Paramus, and the Mahwah library.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Gale brought up the planned charitable donation to be made in the name of recently deceased board member Jerry Schraub. Marion Schraub has indicated she would like the donation to go to the American Cancer Society. The amount is yet to be determined. It was generally agreed that, in keeping with Jewish tradition, the amount will be a multiple of eighteen.

Stasha began a discussion on the merits of holding future board meetings in Maywood. Stasha listed the pros and cons as she saw them, stating we would save approximately \$125 per meeting that we currently pay for the Ridgewood venue. However, some board members feel the location is inconvenient, and the lesson being conducted simultaneously might prove a distraction. Also, tables and chairs must be setup and disassembled in Maywood. Both Paul and Andy suggested we could alternate between the two locations. Debi moved that a vote be taken, and Gale seconded. A majority voted that future meetings will be held in Ridgewood.

After the vote, Paul expressed his concern that the vote would prevent the board from meeting in an alternate location if it became necessary. Debi moved that we vote on allowing a change of venue in an emergency, and Gale seconded. The motion passed unanimously, with one abstention.

A motion was made at 11:23 am by Carol, seconded by Marlene, to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously.