

WBL Board Meeting

January 28, 2009

The meeting was held at Linda Marshall's home.

In attendance: Don Berman, Ellen Cherniavsky, Richard Ferrin, Jim Geist, Fred King, Clyde Kruskal, Linda Marshall, Steve Robinson, Ellen Rosenthal and non-voting members Chris Miller, Donna Rogall, and Nadine Wood.

Fred King called the meeting to order at 8:02 PM.

Secretary's Report

The Board approved the minutes, without objection.

Treasurer's Report

Steve Robinson reported a balance of \$11,663.89 in the WBL's checking account as of December 31, 2008, and a current balance of \$14,176.28. The building fund now has \$225.03. The WBL has \$38,624.71 in an investment account. The WBL started 2008 with approximately \$15,000 in its checking account, so the net result for the year is approximately minus \$4,000. The Board approved the treasurer's report, without objection.

Bulletin

Donna Rogall recommended an increase of ad rates. Current rates are \$75 for a full page ad, \$50 for a half page ad, \$30 for a quarter page ad, and \$20 for an eighth page ad. These are the rates per issue. She proposed increasing rates to \$125, \$75, \$50, and \$25 for full, half, quarter, and eighth page ads respectively. Under this proposal, the sixth appearance of an ad in a year would be free. A motion was made to adopt the increases as suggested by Donna, such motion passing unanimously.

Don Berman suggested publicizing the fact that advertisers may advertise in the WBL Directory as well. Fred King suggested that the Bulletin Committee meet regarding the issue of the number of pages in the Bulletin, and recommend keeping the number of pages the same or increase the number of pages. The Bulletin Committee consists of Don Berman (chair), Nadine Wood, Steve Robinson, Richard Ferrin, and Donna Rogall.

Donna noted that the next Bulletin deadline is March 16. February 5 is the deadline for District Six TableTalk. Donna asked if there should be any change to the WBL's May tournament advertisement, and whether there would be a Spring youth tournament. Ellen Rosenthal replied that she discussed the idea of a Spring youth tournament with the teachers, but the teachers said the students were not yet ready. She said that Mark Rosen though we might be able to put together a youth tournament by the time of the May sectional. Jim Geist suggested offering free plays as a prize. Ellen Rosenthal will take the lead on trying to organize a May tournament.

Donna also noted that she needs biographies for all persons wishing to run for seats on the WBL Board in May.

Unit Game

Fred King welcomed Chris Miller to the meeting, as the Chief Director and Club Manager.

Fred reported that the Church wants to raise the rent from \$250 to \$300. Steve Robinson told Fred, however, that we are only paying \$225 now. Players have raised the same issues as in the past about the condition of the restrooms, poor lighting, and mold in the new players' room.

Fred King said that Barbara Doran heard that Silver Spring will be building a new facility similar to the old Silver Spring Armory. We should investigate the possibility of reserving that space as a playing area. Nadine Wood said that according to a community official, a new community center was last on the agenda for Silver Spring. However, further research is warranted. Jim Geist agreed to investigate further.

Regarding the increase in rent, Fred asked if we need to consider raising entry fees. Lynn Jones said that they would pay for higher rates for the GNTs. If the WBL agrees to the Church's request for increase in rent, we need to request improved conditions in exchange. Fred asked if the WBL has a written contract with the Church. He will ask Dick Wegman.

Fred King reported that attendance at the Unit Game has declined, especially the B/C/D game. Jim Geist said that the Geers are building attendance for the newcomer game.

Fred noted that Gloria Shulstadt's daughter has proposed serving dinner at a Unit Game in memory of her late mother. Steve Robinson said that she thinks she can spend up to \$500 on this. Nadine Wood suggested that a dinner would be infeasible but suggested that she be encouraged to make a donation to the Summer NABC, and perhaps make a donation of a small snack for the Unit Game one week. Steve Robinson will talk to Ms. Shulstadt's daughter.

January Sectional

Nadine Wood reported attendance at the January sectional of 449.5 tables. In 2008, the total table count was 1694.5, which is the best since 2000.

Nadine expressed concern about losing her helpers for the sectionals. In January, the Sunday game started late and ended late, so the cleanup was late. When Gloria the maid and her sister comes, the cleanup is good. Last time, the sister and one other person were the only ones to do the cleanup. The cleanup was insufficient in several respects. Betty from the Schweinhaut Center complained about the bathrooms, and the rubber mats in the kitchen. Nadine said she needs help inspecting the area after cleanup at the end of the tournament. Donna Rogall agreed to contact Gloria the maid and get her in touch with Nadine.

Fred King expressed the need for more volunteers. Nadine said that for the next tournament, she may not be in town for the shopping days for the tournament. She will get dry goods and frozen goods a week before, but somebody needs to purchase bread, pastries, and lunch meats. Don Berman will get a list from Nadine and shop for these last-minute items.

Richard Ferrin will assist Friday night, Jim Geist will assist Saturday morning (and find a second to assist). Jim will also assist Sunday evening.

Fred raised the issue of complaints about the lunch line at the sectionals. He heard a suggestion to reverse the direction of the line to prevent food spillage on the carpets. Nadine commented that the lineup for getting soft drinks was a bottleneck. Richard Ferrin suggested having only one line for salads instead of the two lines now used (on both sides of the table). Perhaps this can be accomplished by putting the table against the wall. Clyde Kruskal suggested putting cold drinks on the opposite side of the hall, with the salads. Clyde and Jim Geist will be in charge of setting up a new arrangement for the food line.

Nadine reported the following dates for WBL sectionals in 2010: January 7-10, March 25-28, May 13-16, and October 7-10.

Bridge in Schools

Ellen Rosenthal reported that three private schools seemed to be interested in programs, but insufficient student interest was generated. One school, St Catherine LaBourre, will start a program. Bullis school may start a program. Clarksburg public school is interested. Another school in Frederick is interested; we sent them literature in the mail. The Frederick school is interested in a program during school hours.

Ellen also reported a decrease in the number of volunteers for the program. Prince George's county has started a program, which may have promise for next year.

Mentoring Program

Linda Marshall noted that there were a few dropout mentees, and a few new mentees, so the overall number of mentees in the program remained steady.

Bridge and Bowling

Linda Marshall reported that 18 have signed up so far for bowling, 25 signed up for bridge. Don Berman arranged for practice time with the alley. We will have six lanes.

WBL Contribution to the NABC

Fred King noted that one idea floated to raise money was for the WBL to raise the per-person card fee by \$1 for one sectional. NVBA raised money through a variety of methods, including a silent auction, raffles, etc., all of which appear to have involved a lot of work. He noted that \$36,000 is left over in the NABC budget from the 2002 Washington NABC.

Richard Ferrin moved to increase the card fee per player by \$1 for all sessions in the May sectional, and to match the amount raised from that with a grant from the WBL's investment fund. With the money raised, one game at the NABC would be named to honor the WBL's contribution. The motion passed unanimously.

Fred King said that the ACBL negotiated a parking rate at the hotel garage of \$25 per day. The logistics have not yet been worked out. The ACBL is cutting the estimated table count to 12,800 tables, which means the budget now is based on 13,000 tables, and a corresponding reduction in the ACBL contribution of \$10,500 (which gives us \$10.50 per table).

Lovenberg Conditions of Contest

Jim Geist sent an e-mail confirming the wording of the new rule.

Online Partnership Desk

Fred King said that few people use the online partnership desk, and moved that the WBL drop it for 2009. The motion passed unanimously.

Dealing Machine Upgrade

Fred King proposed that we ask Lee Jensen's opinion as to whether the WBL should order a new machine. Ellen Cherniavsky will ask Lee to inspect the old machine and make a recommendation. Steve Robinson recommended that the WBL purchase a new one, because the old one is about due to break. Ellen Cherniavsky suggested an upgrade. The cost for the upgraded new machine would be \$3,250 (with a \$1,000 discount). Don Berman added that the Australian company that made the machine the WBL currently uses will no longer support that model.

The motion was made for the WBL to purchase a new dealing machine now. The motion failed 5-3. However, Ellen Cherniavsky will ask Lee Jensen's opinion and the issue will be revisited at the next Board meeting.

Elections

Fred King said that the nominating rules currently require 25 signatures on a petition, but that nominations from the floor would be accepted. He questioned whether this made sense, but noted that it is part of the WBL Constitution. Fred appointed a nominating committee, consisting of Steve Robinson, Clyde Kruskal, Linda Marshall, and Jim Allen to review the nominating procedures and make recommendations.

Next Meeting

The next WBL Board meeting will take place March 4 at Richard Ferrin's house. The Board thanked Linda Marshall for her hospitality. Whereupon, the meeting adjourned at 10:40 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard Ferrin,
Secretary