

WBL Board Meeting

March 4, 2009

The meeting was held at Richard Ferrin's home.

In attendance: Carole Banks, Don Berman, Richard Ferrin, Jim Geist, Fred King, Clyde Kruskal, Steve Robinson, Ellen Rosenthal and non-voting members Barry Bragin, Kitty Gottfried, Donna Rogall, and Nadine Wood. Bryan Geer also attended the meeting.

Fred King called the meeting to order at 8:15 PM.

Secretary's Report

The Board approved the minutes, without objection.

Treasurer's Report

Steve Robinson reported a balance of \$16,919.92 in the WBL's checking account, and a balance of approximately \$38,000 in an investment account. The Board approved the treasurer's report, without objection.

Bulletin

Donna Rogall reported that the Bulletin Committee met and determined that the Bulletin should continue to print 32 pages per issue, but that Donna should come to the Committee for approval of an increase for a particular issue on an as-needed basis. She stated that while it appeared earlier that 32 pages would not be enough, one advertiser decided not to advertise, and so that pushed the regular page count back to 32 pages.

The next deadline for the Bulletin is March 16. Donna needs bios for persons intending to run for the Board. The cover will feature the May Sectional and the Annual Meeting.

Donna noted that the May sectional will feature a one-day bridge class taught by Shawn Stringer and Lois Geer. Carole Banks asked whether there would be a youth tournament at the sectional. Ellen Rosenthal stated that Mark Rosen would help out, but he doesn't want to run it. Ellen would help with a tournament, but she needs help too. Fred King suggested that Barbara Shaw can get trophies. Carole Banks suggested that Mark Lavine may be willing to help with the youth tournament. Ellen Rosenthal will ask Mark. Barry Bragin questioned whether it would be appropriate to hold the youth tournament on the same weekend as the sectional. Barry expressed concern that the students might be overwhelmed, in addition to the space problems. He noted that the students would need extra attention. Nadine Wood suggested that the people currently working at the sectional might be able to help with the youth tournament if it is held on another weekend, perhaps the previous Saturday. Fred King said he would speak with Mark Lavine about the matter.

Unit Game

Steve Robinson relayed a suggestion by Chris Miller that all games be sold for \$8 per person, except tournaments. Some now are \$7, some are \$9. There are more \$7 games now. Changing the fee to \$8 for all non-tournament games would work out about even, perhaps yield a little more. Fred King said that the Board would take this under consideration.

Fred reported that the Church accepted the WBL's offer of \$260 per month for rent.

Bryan Geer reported that the newcomer game is ready to "graduate" some more players to the non-life-master game. He again noted that the newcomer game is running about 6 tables on average. They do a lesson from 7:30 to 8:00, followed by 12 boards of supervised play from 8:00-10:00.

He noted that the room for the newcomer game is moldy, with a strong odor. Maybe if the carpet were replaced it would solve the problem. Richard Ferrin suggested that the Board get an estimate for carpet replacement. Carole Banks asked if it were possible to move the newcomer game upstairs. Jim Geist said that that would be too disruptive. Fred King then appointed a committee to meet with the Church, consisting of himself, Bryan Geer, and Jim Geist, to address the conditions in the room for the newcomers' game.

Fred noted continued complaints with lighting in the main room. He said that Manny doesn't always replace the bulbs. He asked if the lighting problems were worse in particular places in the room. Don Berman replied that the lighting problem seemed to be generalized, and not worse in any particular part of the room.

Last Sectional

Nadine reported that there were 456 tables at the sectional, plus 12 tables for the GNT 0-5000 semifinals and finals. We had 89 tables on Saturday morning, resulting in a shortage of space on Saturday. The Swiss on Sunday was smaller because of the bracketed KO on Saturday, but still we got 56 tables, which was good, much better than the last time that we ran a bracketed KO on Saturday. Also, the threat of snow affected attendance on Sunday.

The lunch line went faster, partly because the salads were pre-dressed, and the drink table was moved away from the hot foods. For the next tournament, Nadine will leave midday Saturday so that she can attend her daughter's graduation.

Nadine reported that the cleanup girls arrived late, but the good news is that we had everything out early, because we had more people helping. The cleanup crew worked hard, and swept the stage this time.

Fred King commented that we need more help after the last Saturday game. Caddies should help. He suggested increasing the caddie pay from \$25 to \$30 (same pay as the Mid-Atlantic), but ask the caddies to perform some light cleanup. Kitty Gottfried said that she needs help washing dishes Saturday and Sunday. Carole Banks agreed that we need more help. We should hire someone to help, rather than relying on the same

volunteers every time. Nadine replied that it would suffice to procure services of an extra caddy. Hiring an outside service would be too expensive. Nadine suggested raising Alan Crank's pay for Saturday and Sunday, since he helps so much in the kitchen. Jim said that we need to check with the caddies to see how many could help with other duties.

Fred asked whether we would have enough work to keep one extra person busy, or whether we should instead add a little extra work for the existing caddies. Nadine replied that we need an additional caddy. She suggested giving them all a raise.

Fred then moved to raise the base caddy pay to \$30 per session (both for sectionals and for the Unit Game) and to authorize Nadine and Kitty to hire as many caddies as they need. The raise would be conditional upon the understanding that caddies would be expected to perform additional duties as needed. Richard Ferrin seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Kitty noted that one person complained about caddies' behavior at the Sunday Swiss. This person stated that the caddies seemed to be confused and/or surly. Fred stated that only one caddy seemed to be having a problem moving the boards correctly, and the problem was limited to the Sunday Swiss.

Bridge in Schools

Ellen Rosenthal reported new programs at Clarksburg, Frederick, and at St. Catherine's in Wheaton. She said that Patty Tucker is discussing Bridge in Schools with the units. I sent out all of her information to the teachers. Patty is going to have a group discussion at Houston regarding teaching. Ellen recommended that we pay to have our volunteer teachers attend workshops. We need more teachers, and people to spread the word to the students.

Fred King asked if there is anything the Board can do to recognize volunteers at the end of the year. Ellen suggested a volunteer party, plus some free plays. Richard Ferrin agreed to host a volunteer party.

Summer Nationals

Fred King said that we are looking for people who can volunteer space in front of their houses for parking, in lieu of the \$25 per day charge at the Marriott. The idea would be to carpool to the game. He asked that a call for volunteers for this effort be publicized in the Bulletin. Don Berman volunteered to provide parking spaces at the Laurel Bridge Club. Fred stated that he is working on getting parking space at University of District of Columbia's Van Ness Campus. ACBL will give us \$4000 to defray expense of hiring a shuttle bus from the remote parking site.

Bridge and Bowling

Fred King reported that this year's event featured 26 bowlers, and 12 tables of bridge. Clyde Kruskal expressed concern about allowing pre-formed teams to participate in the bridge event, since the rest of the teams were formed of non-regular partnerships with an attempt to balance the skill level.

Online Partnership

Fred King reported that the online partnership program has been canceled. The WBL has fully paid the NVBA to defray past costs of this program.

Dealing Machine

Fred King stated that the Board is awaiting an evaluation from Lee Jensen.

Election

Fred King reported that Jim Allen has agreed to run the election again this year.

Barometer Pairs

Nadine Wood raised the issue of whether the Friday night sectional games should discontinue Barometer Pairs. It costs more to run the game (because of the additional boards that must be duplicated), the game is difficult on the directing staff, and the game doesn't seem to have attracted increased attendance. Steve Robinson agreed, saying the Barometer Pairs is a waste of money. Fred King replied that the point was to add something different for Friday night. Steve Robinson suggested having two IMP Pairs, and two strata-flighted games for the four sectionals' Friday night games. Nadine noted that the Friday night games are already scheduled through 2009. Fred noted that the NVBA holds a triple-nickel Swiss on Friday night.

Recorder System

Barry Bragin stated that the directors should announce at every event who is the recorder, and note that the recorder is available for handling player memos. Barry stated that the ACBL recorder form is bad, and that he would construct an alternative form. The forms should be made available on a table at the game.

Fred King moved to adopt Barry Bragin's suggestion. The motion passed unanimously, with Clyde Kruskal abstaining.

Barry also suggested that the WBL needs an alternate recorder, so that a backup is available when the recorder is unavailable.

Next Meeting

The next WBL Board meeting will take place April 1 at Carole Bank's house. The Board thanked Richard Ferrin for his hospitality. Whereupon, the meeting adjourned at 10:44 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard Ferrin,
Secretary