

WBL Board Meeting

16 December 2009

The meeting was held at Carole Banks' home.

In attendance: Carole Banks, Don Berman, Ellen Cherniavsky, Richard Ferrin, Jim Geist, Fred King, Clyde Kruskal, Linda Marshall, Hank Meyer, Ron Zucker; non-voting members Barry Bragin, Kitty Gottfried, Chris Miller, Donna Rogall, Nadine Wood; guest Ajit Thyagarajan.

President Don Berman called the meeting to order at 7:39 PM.

Secretary's Report

The Board approved the minutes without objection.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Fred King reported that at the start of December our total funds were: Checking \$7501.04; Money Market \$20,007.32; CD \$20,000.00 for a total of \$47,508.36. This compares to the figures at the beginning of the year, which were Checking: \$12,282.00 and Money Market \$38,624.71 for a total of \$50,906.71 or a decrease of about \$3400 over the first 11 months of the year. The Unit Game has been making a positive cash flow of about \$800-900 a month. In addition we receive about \$5200 a year from ACBL dues. The cost of writing, editing, printing, sorting and mailing the Bulletin is about \$15,000 a year, offset by advertising revenue of about \$2000 a year. Out of a gross income of over \$60,000 from the sectionals, the net was just over \$1000, so sectionals basically break even.

The Treasurer's report was approved without objection.

Review of Ohr Kodesh Experience

A number of issues were noted. A coat rack is needed, and the selling table should be located outside the playing room. Additional trash bins would be helpful to reduce the clean-up burden. A list of things to buy will be made the next time we play there. The microphone should not be live at all times and players should be cautioned that the tables against the wall are in a natural echo chamber. The space for the lesson was cramped, and it was decided that the lesson will be held in the main room, and the divider removed; the games will share a common refreshment table. The temperature will be adjusted through remote programming so that it does not get too cold late in the evening. Kitty Gottfried, in charge of hospitality, noted that it is expensive to supply kosher refreshments; Ron Zucker volunteered to go shopping with her.

Holiday Party

Nadine Wood reported that food is being cooked as people usually don't bring portions sufficient for the entire membership.

January Sectional and Life Master Presentation

Nadine asked for and got volunteers. Emails will follow identifying the new Life Masters whose names will appear on the cakes.

Unit Game

Chris Miller reported that the main game is fractionally down in attendance while the teaching game is up.

Bridge in Schools

Guest Ajit Thyagarajan has agreed to be the new chair of this committee. He will follow up on Mark Rosen's work. Ajit observed that bridge has a marketing problem, and suggested that a social networking page on Facebook could be useful, and Twitter might be an avenue as well.

Joint WBL/ABA Game

Carole Banks reported that this game is scheduled for 11:00am on January 9, 2010 at the sectional. Flyers have gone out. President Don Berman will deliver a welcome address, and there will be a cake. Mementos in the form of regular-size pencils bearing the name of the event will be put on every table. Both types of masterpoints will be awarded.

At this point the question of whether to donate to Leslie Schaefer's game bidding boxes that the WBL is replacing was brought up. Don Berman agreed to do more research into the matter, as we usually only need to replace inserts; the bidding boxes themselves are relatively sturdy.

WBL Bulletin

Donna Rogall reported receiving a used camera, which Donna estimated at being worth \$30, and requested that that amount plus \$12 for a new battery be authorized. This was passed with seven in favor, one opposed, two abstentions.

Printing of WBL/NBVA Directory

Don Berman will take care of this. Last year we printed 900 copies and ran out by August. Email addresses will not be published.

Next Meeting

The next WBL Board meeting will take place January 27, 2010 at Ellen Cherniavsky's house. The Board thanked Carole Banks for her hospitality. Whereupon, the meeting adjourned at 9:12 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Ellen Cherniavsky,
Secretary