

**WBL Board Meeting
24 February 2010**

The meeting was held at Linda Marshall's home.

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

President Don Berman called the meeting to order at 7:46 PM.

Secretary's Report

The Board approved the minutes subject to the modification that Steve Schatzow volunteered to bring bagels for Saturday and Sunday for the March Sectional.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Fred King has purchased QuickBooksPro. He reported that as of 31 December 2009 our total funds were down about \$8000 from 1 Jan 2009. He is investigating this and hopes to have more details by the next meeting. He added that we have made money on the dealing machine.

The Treasurer's report was approved without objection.

President's Report

President Don Berman noted that we need to think about the WBL Board elections in May. All current members of the Board are planning to run.

March Sectional

Tournament Chair Nadine Wood has rented the Argyle Center in addition to the space at the Senior Center. Twenty four tables of the Compact KO can be accommodated at the Argyle Center, but we and all our equipment (e.g. bidding boxes) must be out of there by 2pm. It was suggested that hospitality be limited to sodas and water there. For the tournament, someone is needed to keep the bathrooms clean, and Nadine needs more help with the hospitality. Street parking should be monitored so that people don't block driveways or park across the street from the Center.

The Newport Mills school has been rented on Saturday and Sunday for the May sectional. The Friday morning session will be held at the synagogue. It was suggested that we look into renting the school for the Friday evening game. Don Berman will look into places and times for the Friday game.

Donna Rogall noted that March 8 will be the last appearance in TableTalk of the ad for the May sectional.

Jim Geist reported that the new Silver Spring Civic Center building will not open until June or July. The Great Hall will hold 50-60 tables. Rental rates are yet to be determined.

Don Berman said that the Kensington Armory was a good alternative, at a reasonable cost, though the downstairs location of the kitchen is a drawback.

Carole Banks stated that the Seventh Day Adventist church near her home has adequate space, however holding a card game there might be an issue. The location is farther out than desired.

Unit Game

Chris Miller reported that one of the Unit Championship sanctions was lost due to the game being cancelled on account of the snow. The sanction could be offered to the clubs, in addition to the two sanctions we have available.

A continuing issue is that we do not now have a key to close up with at Ohr Kodesh, and must pay an extra \$60 for the janitor to remain.

Bridge in Schools

Ajit Thyagarajan was not present.

WBL Bulletin

Donna Rogall noted that since 2000 the printing cost has risen from \$910 to \$995 and since 2001 the mail processing fee has risen from \$300 to \$500. The periodical per piece rate is 12.5 cents. Charlie Williams used to get us a 20 percent discount, but this is no longer available. Charlie Williams has offered a quote, good for a year, of about \$1500, our current price. Donna added that Don Berman got quotes from two other printing companies that were \$400+ higher than Todd Allan's quote.

Fred King reported that the post office has been moved from Burtonsville to Gaithersburg, and that the periodical rate is cheaper than bulk mail: 15 cents as opposed to 25 cents. He suggested we stop running ads that advertisers have not paid for, but no action was taken.

Donna mentioned that the next Bulletin needs an advertisement for the July regional. Fred commented that our contract with the hotel specifies that they can't sell rooms for less than the rate quoted to us, but that they have already done that with respect to an AAA rate for the weekend. Fred's view is that we no longer have an obligation to meet our room block requirements.

Nadine needs a volunteer chair and an information chair.

Snow Policy

There was a lengthy discussion of what the snow policy should be. Clyde Kruskal agreed to send out suggested wording for the Board to review.

Budget for 2010

Treasurer Fred King will prepare a budget to be presented at the next meeting under a set of assumptions about the future table count. He noted that the NVBA has raised their Unit Game rate to \$9. Nadine Wood said that the dates for sectionals in 2011 are Jan 6-9, May 12-15, Aug 11-14 and Oct 13-26.

Bridgemates

Ellen Cherniavsky got a quote and a demo Bridgemate from the company. In the interim, Doug Grove prepared a statement for the MABC, and Fred King agreed to be a member of the MABC committee that will evaluate Wireless Electronic Scoring Technology. The Board will await the results from this committee, which is to meet both in Reno and New Orleans, where the competing technologies, Bridgemate and BridgePad, will be employed.

Next Meeting

The next WBL Board meeting will take place March 31, 2010 at Nadine Wood's house. The meeting was adjourned at 9:37 PM.

Respectfully submitted, Ellen Cherniavsky, Secretary