

Northern Virginia Bridge Association
Minutes of the Board of Directors
March 3, 2008

The March 2008 NVBA Board meeting was held on Monday, March 3, at Leo Cardillo's home. Those attending were: President Leo Cardillo, Vice President Margot Hennings, Secretary Marge Gazzola, Board members Ron Kral, Ed Brawn and Herb Fallin, and Newsletter Liaison Lucy McCoy. Treasurer Dale Dallaire and Board members Carole Grob and Bruce Houston were absent. After dinner, President Cardillo called the meeting to order at 7 p.m.

Old Business

Minutes: Margot made a motion to accept the February minutes as amended, Ron seconded and the motion passed.

In-and-Out Report: NVBA member Ken Davis has achieved Emerald Life Master status. He will be sent a congratulatory letter from the Unit and 8 Sectional free plays. The Board discussed a suggestion from Kevin O'Brien that members receive certificates from the Unit when they move from one level to another in the life master hierarchy.

Treasurer's Report

Financial Reports: Dale could not be present for the meeting but she emailed the following financial reports to the Board:

Functional Expense Report May 2007 through February 2008
Balance Sheet Previous Year Comparison
Profit & Loss Previous Year Comparison
Rolling P&L March 2007 through February 2008

Financial Issues: The Board discussed expenses and income over the last two years but were unable to pinpoint why expenses were so much higher based on the financial reports. Herb suggested that he meet with Dale and that they produce a high-level summary report to give the Board a top-level understanding of our budget.

President's Report

NVBA Election: Nominating Committee Chair Herb Fallin reported that he has candidates confirmed for the three open Board positions: Alan Breed, Jim Dick and Jennifer Nisenoff. Alan Breed will be asked to run for the Vice-President's position. Their bios and photos have been prepared and are being sent to Lucy for inclusion in the next Newsletter. The Board agreed that Ellie Schwartz will be asked to become a non-voting novice representative on the Board. Vice President Margot Hennings and Board members Carole Grob and Ed Brawn will not run for another term on the Board.

Unit Game: Because Beth El and the First Presbyterian Church are unavailable, the March 20 Unit Game will be held at the Reston Community Center. Ron, who made the arrangements for the game at RCC, said that, although the Center normally closes at 10 p. m., they have agreed to let us stay later. The charge for the night is \$180. There are 25 tables at RCC and we will probably need more. Leo and Ron will transport tables and other equipment from Beth El to RCC. We will serve only cold food. Bob Zier will handle food and coffee on March 20 and our caddie must be informed about the location change.

Life Master/Non Life Master Game: The Board discussed the cost of events and services such as the Holiday Party, Annual Meeting, free LM/NLM game and food that cost the Unit money yet generate goodwill and provide benefits to players. It was agreed to publicize in the newsletter or in flyers the fact that we have shifted some expenses that benefited a few to ones that benefit everyone. It was reported that there have been comments from some "A" level players that many of our efforts and dollars are directed to lower level players, and the Board discussed what we could do for "A" players. The Board voted unanimously to have a free-to-all LM/NML game again this year. It will be held on May 15, and Ron will run the game and arrange partnerships.

BIL Line/NVBA Cell Phone: Tony Cincotta has accepted the task of keeping the Bridge Information and Partnership Line (BI&PL) up-to-date. The telephone number of this line is 703-869-0852 and Tony's email address is: tony.cincotta@cox.net.

Partnership Website: The charge for our online Partnership Website has increased from \$100 to \$200. The Board discussed whether we want to continue this site, and if we've been splitting the cost with WBL. Leo will check with WBL, but the Board agreed that we probably do not want to renew this online capability.

Youth Bridge Donation: Leo has received a \$100 donation for youth bridge from an NVBA club that is going out of business. The Board agreed that the money should be used to buy ACBL memberships for youth players.

Round Robin: NVBA member Mike Zane has volunteered to restart the Round Robin. Leo will send Mike an email suggesting that he co-ordinate with Steve Robinson and report back to the Board. It was suggested that we might want to honor deceased NVBA member Bette Dudka by naming the Round Robin after her.

Vice President's Report

Sectional: Vice President/Tournament Chair Margot Hennings reported that in spite of a very bad weather forecast, the February NVBA Sectional had 460 tables (the 2007 February Sectional had 453). The Board discussed the issue of subsidizing sandwiches on Sunday at the Sectional. It was felt that charging \$7 instead of \$6 is too much for members to pay. Caddies worked at the two evening games to sell snacks since the Elks couldn't provide staffing, and were paid \$25 for each session. In an email previously sent to the Board, Margot reported that we now have signed contracts at the Elks through November 2009 for the same rental charge - \$3680 a tournament - that we had in 2007 and 2008 and it includes use of the Fairfax room downstairs. We had an 80-table game on Saturday afternoon and it remains to be seen whether that was an anomaly due to the roast for Jeff Roman or the beginning of a new upward trend. Margot also prepared several "crib sheets" to help the Elks with Sectional staffing and planning. In her email Margot also stated that with the exception of the long lines for lunch on Saturday and the sandwich overage, things went smoothly overall.

Tournament Assistant(TA): Margot had sent the Board a memo from Tournament Director Doug Grove concerning TAs plus an employment form that the NVBA must complete in order to implement ACBL policy before our April Sectional. In his memo, Doug describes a TA as a person who is not an ACBL employee, who is a club director, and who has passed the Tournament Assistant Certification exam. Since a TA is not an independent contractor, an official of the unit who hires the TA must sign an acknowledgement of the sponsor's responsibilities regarding the TA and this form must be mailed to the ACBL. Gene Schuyler has taken the TA exam but Millard Nachtwey has not scored it yet. After he passes the test, Gene would be qualified to work at the Thursday evening Sectional games. The Board also discussed whether we need 3 directors at the Thursday Sectional games or if we could pull down the wall and use 2 directors for what is usually a 35/40 table game. On March 4 Board members received an email from Margot and voted by email on two motions: that the Board pay the \$50 test fee for Gene and that his pay for directing the Thursday games at NVBA and WBL Sectionals be the same as that he would receive on other nights he assists Marshall in running the Unit Game. Also in her March 4 email Margot reported that she had signed the ACBL form authorizing Millard to hire Gene as our "second" at Thursday night Sectional games.

NABC Funding: Margot suggested that the NVBA have two additional team or pair events at the Unit Game before the July 2009 NABC as fund-raising games. We will charge extra but cannot give additional masterpoints at these games. The Board agreed that we will have the two additional games, one this year and one next year. Margot will check the Unit Game schedule. Margot also reported that she had recently presented her NABC fund-raising plans to WBL Board member Carole Banks.

Regional Co-Chairs Report

Regional co-chairs Dale Dallaire and Carole Grob were not present to give their report, but Leo told the Board that the MABC approved the budget for the July Reston Regional at the Hilton Head MABC meeting, which he attended. The MABC has offered \$350 for I/N marketing but Ron said this is inadequate. Ron would like to mail to a larger audience than just NVBA. He will email Eldon Clayman, MABC VP, about this matter and Leo will talk to Eldon at Gatlinburg. Dick Myers chairs the MABC Advertising and Publicity committee.

Technology Report

Ron Kral reported that his dealing machine has arrived and that there are now 4 machines in the area. Ron is the US rep for BridgeDealer4 out of the UK, manufactured in Australia. Ron offered his dealing machine as a backup to the NVBA's machine. The new NVBA PC works fine with Ron's laser printer but Marshall continues to have problems with his dot matrix printer.

Publicity and I/N Chair's Report

Ron wrote a program to analyze the results of one year's attendance at the Thursday I/N game. There were 260 unique individuals who played at least once, 90 in double digits and 170 in single digits. If everyone played there would be 64 tables. Ron proposed targeting a mailing to those who came fewer than 10 times. Doug Grove can provide names and addresses from a file of ACBL numbers. The cost would be about 50 cents per mailed item. Information about the Sectional, the LM/NML game and the Regional could be included. Margot made a motion to send the mailing as a letter not a postcard by April 1, Ron seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Newsletter Liaison Report

Lucy reported that she has all the photos and bios of those individuals running for the Board positions except Jennifer's, which is experiencing an email problem. Herb and Marge offered to relay the information to Lucy.

Education Chair Report

Leo reported that Education Chair Joanne Pretti has found a location for her 0-50 game, in the First Presbyterian Church at Ballston at 7 p. m. on Tuesdays.

New Business

Dave Murray Award: Ed Brawn presented the Board with a list of nominees for the Dave Murray Award submitted by club owners and directors. Board members discussed these nominations and others which had been previously received and chose the Dave Murray recipient for 2008. Marge made a motion that this individual be given the Dave Murray Award, Herb seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. The Dave Murray Award will be presented at the Annual Meeting in May. All the trophies and other prize equipment are in Margot's garage, and the Dave Murray trophy must be retrieved and engraved.

Annual Meeting: Since we have no NVBA Prize Chair, Marge will send the Ace of Clubs, Mini-McKenney and other award letters this year. Margot offered to organize and order the food, but we will need several volunteers to pick up the food and perform other tasks associated with the Annual Meeting. It was agreed that the menu will again be fried chicken, chicken Caesar salad, cole slaw, potato salad and roast vegetables. We will ask Marty and Ross Bley if they can provide plates, cups and tableware. Leo will make an appeal to the 199ers to see if any of them can offer some assistance. Ron offered to order the cakes and have them inscribed with the new Life Master names.

Positions Description Document : Marge had emailed Board members a copy of the NVBA Positions Description document, current as of May 2007. All agreed that changes and additions are needed, and that this document should be posted on the NVBA website.

April Board Meeting: The next NVBA Board meeting will be on Monday, April 7 and Carole will be asked if it can be held at the Springfield Golf and Country Club. Margot made a motion that the meeting be adjourned. Herb seconded the motion and Leo adjourned the meeting at 9:35 p. m. There was no executive session.

Respectfully submitted,

Marjorie Gazzola, Secretary