

Forty-sixth Annual Meeting of the Northern Virginia Bridge Association
(Draft minutes)

May 1, 2008

The Forty-sixth Annual Meeting of the Northern Virginia Bridge Association was held at Beth El Hebrew Congregation on May 1, 2008. President Leo Cardillo welcomed everyone to the NVBA Annual Meeting and the eleventh annual Pat Eyman Memorial Strawberry Pairs, and called the meeting to order at 6:30 p. m.

President's Comments:

1. **WELCOME:** On behalf of all the NVBA Board members, I am pleased to welcome our members and guests to the forty-sixth Annual Meeting and Elections of the NVBA! In addition, tonight we commemorate the memory of Pat Eyman, a long-term member of the NVBA Board, VP and President, by conducting the eleventh annual "Pat Eyman Strawberry Pairs"! The Annual meeting is now called to order.

2. **MINUTES:** The first order of business is to ask for a motion to accept last year's minutes (Copies are available for review). Do I hear a motion? (A motion to do so was made, seconded and the motion carried).

3. **TREASURER'S REPORT:** The NVBA Policies and Procedures require that the Treasurer provide a "State of the NVBA treasury" at the annual meeting. Dale Dallaire, the NVBA Treasurer, could not attend tonight's meeting due to a death in the family, so I will present her brief comments. Copies of the financial summary for the 2007-08 fiscal year are available.

Fiscal year 2007 included the acquisition of a duplicating machine and accessories, as well as a new PC and printer for the Unit. This one-time expense of \$5000, added to other expenses such as our free LM/NLM game and increased rent here at Beth El, resulted in a loss of about \$9500. The Board anticipated this loss and worked to reduce expenses in many areas and to increase the price of the Unit Game to balance the books. Next fiscal year is expected to show an appropriate profit. Are there any questions about the Financial Report? (There were none)

4. **HIGHLIGHTS:** At the end of my fifth year as the NVBA President, I am pleased to report that the NVBA is doing very well. Thanks to the untiring efforts of our many volunteers and our professional bridge staff, much has been accomplished during the last twelve months.

(1). **Attendance** at the Sectionals and the Unit Game continues to increase. Sectional attendance has been over 400 tables at the new Elks location, setting a record of about 450 tables earlier this year. Unit Game attendance increased to an average of thirty tables(20 open/10 199er), with the three-table increase in the open game. In addition the NVBA policy of free 0-5 masterpoints play is drawing increasing numbers of these players to all of our events.

(2). **Elks:** The Elks location for the Sectional is a proven success. Contracts and deposits are in place to secure the use of this excellent facility in the years ahead.

(3). **Technology:** The acquisition of the duplicating equipment and the new PC will enhance the playing enjoyment of all of our members.

(4). **Youth Bridge:** The NVBA continues to actively support Youth Bridge. Suzanne Abrams has taken over the reins at Thomas Jefferson High School and maintained her successful program at Garfield Elementary School. The NVBA provides a generous cookie allowance for both of these activities! Next year new volunteers will start a similar program at Key

Intermediate School. Mark Chen has recently volunteered to fill the youth Advisor position on the NVBA Board, and will bring a great deal of enthusiasm and bridge expertise to the youth bridge activities. Working with the WBL and other volunteers, the NVBA will support the first Youth National in Atlanta this July and in August next year at our own DC National, chaired by Margot. All of these growing youth bridge activities are strategically important to the long-term health of this great game of bridge.

(5). **Finances:** The Board will continue to devote considerable energy to the question of Unit finances. I am confident that we have passed the low point, but none of us will rest until the financial picture is solidly and enduringly positive.

(6). **Volunteers:** The NVBA prospers because of the excellent work of our professional staff and our volunteers. Simply stated, the NVBA needs more volunteers. If you are interested in helping out, please see me or any Board member to get started. You will enjoy the opportunity to serve the NVBA, its members, and this great game of bridge that we all enjoy!

(7). **Regional:** Support the 2008 July 4th Regional, co-chaired by Carole Grob and Dale Dallaire.

Are there any questions or comments from the membership?(There were none).

5. **THANKS:** I would like to briefly thank some of the folks that are directly responsible for the success of the NVBA. Let me start by asking that the **NVBA Board members** stand and that you give them a big hand when they are all standing:

- Vice President Margot Hennings.
- Treasurer Dale Dallaire
- Secretary Marge Gazzola
- Ron Kral
- Carole Grob
- Ed Brawn
- Bruce Houston
- Herb Fallon

Please join me in giving them all a well-deserved round of applause!

There are many other professional staff and volunteers who support the NVBA throughout the year, literally too many to mention in one sitting. But I do want to acknowledge a few and I ask the following folks to stand as I call their name:

- Chief Unit game Director, Marshall Kuschner
- Unit Game Hospitality Chair, Bob Zier
- Unit Game Business manager, Marty Bley
- Cheer & Sympathy/Goodwill Chair, Virginia Fletcher
- Recorder & Seeding, Jeff Roman
- Caddy Chair, Stan Schenker
- Conduct & Ethics Chair, Mel Welles
- Conduct & Ethics Co-Chair, Paul Black
- Membership Chair, Norma & Matt Pierzchala
- Newsletter Editor, Lucy McCoy
- Newsletter Production, Julianne Smith
- Education, Joanne Pretti
- Webmasters, Sumner Steinfeldt and John Mason
- Prize Chair, Vacant
- Holiday Party, Ron & Mary Ann Kral, and others!

- Tournament Directors, Candy Kuschner, Doug Grove, Millard Nachtwey and Terry Lavender and others!
- BIL(Bridge Information Line), Tony Cincotta
- Sectional PC(Partnership Chair), Mary Ann Kral

I know that I may have missed a few of these great support folks – please forgive me, if I did. Let's have a big round of applause for these folks and all the other volunteers that contribute to the NVBA program and are vital to its success!

6. At this time, I ask Margot and Marge to join me and assist in the presentation of our awards.

A. The Mini-McKenney award is given to the player in each category who has won the most masterpoints in the past calendar year as recorded by the ACBL. As I call your name, please come forward to receive your award (one club free play).

0-5	Amanda E. Carter
5-20	Eleanor L. Schwartz
20-50	Neil Selvin
50-100	Joyce E. Currie
100-200	Francesco Parisi-Presicce
200-300	Ellie Clark
300-500	Kevin O'Brien
500-1000	Matt Meckstroth
1000-2500	Herbert K. Fallin Jr.
2500-5000	Tom J. Cogan
5000-7500	Kenneth B. Davis
7500-10,000	Jeff M. Roman
10,000 Plus	Robert W. Gookin

B. The Ace of Clubs award is given to the player in each category who has won the most masterpoints in the previous year at clubs within the Unit. Again, as I call your name, please come forward to receive your award (one club free play).

0-5	Shirley E. Prikals
5-20	Eleanor L. Schwartz
20-50	Rod Spicer
50-100	Kiyomi Shiba
100-200	Dr. Jose Cortina
200-300	Alan M. Gordon
300-500	Anthony V. Cincotta
500-1000	Robert S. Boyd
1000-2500	Herbert K. Fallin Jr.
2500-5000	Tom J. Cogan
5000-7500	Kenneth B. Davis
7500-10,000	Jeff M Roman
10,000 Plus	Robert W. Gookin

C. A key measure of the vitality of any Unit is the number of new Life Masters that are developed each year. The following new Life Masters are being honored with their names embossed on the cakes that you see in the back of the room. I ask them to stand as I call out their names and that you hold your applause until they are all standing (Play free at Annual meeting):

William Bailey
Dorothy Bechtle

Carolyn H. Becroft
Donald E. Brown
Cherie Charles
Ellie Clark
Nancy Gamber
Ned Griffith
Elizabeth Huffman
Terry Jones
John R. Miles
Carl W. Noller
Louise H. Oetjen
Francesco Parisi-Presicci
Bob Silverstein
Richard L. Slater
Susan C. Slattery
Margaret A. Storey
Cathy J. Stryker
Ednamae H. Trevey
Lenore Ward
Wanda M. Worsham

Please enjoy the cake, but first join me in giving these new LM's a well-earned round of applause. And, yes, I will be looking for ALL OF THEM at this year's LM/NLM game on 15 May 2008. And the Board has voted to make the LM/NLM FREE for all players! It's a great deal and it's a lot of fun! Be there!!!

D. This is the fifth year that the NVBA is awarding the "Dave Murray Favorite Partner Award", in memory of a very fine player who was also 'everybody's favorite partner'. Personally, I hold this particular award in the highest regard, because the winners are exceptionally talented bridge players who also demonstrate and promote the best possible behavior at the table. One cannot win this award with only great skill or exceptional behavior – one has to have both of these qualities. Although I have not had the pleasure of being a partner to this year's winner, I can honestly say that the winner is one of my very favorite opponents! The many virtues of this year's Dave Murray Award winner will be ably detailed by Ed Gofreed. Ed, the mike is yours! After speaking about his longtime friend and partner, Ed presented a trophy to Lorraine Yarmowich, the 2008 winner of the "Dave Murray Favorite Partner Award".

E. The FINAL AWARDS! Each year, the NVBA recognizes the top players of the year in four categories. These players have won more masterpoints playing in NVBA-sponsored events in the preceding twelve months than all of their peers. And the winners (4 Sectional Free Plays) are:

1. Rookie of the Year (less than 20 MPs at the start of the year) – Robert Magruder
2. The Rush Buckley (NonLifeMaster) - Bob Silverstein – a repeat winner!
3. The Man of the Year – Robert W. Gookin
4. The Woman of the Year - Janet R. Gookin

7. We are almost done! The NVBA Board works very hard to manage the business of the NVBA. This year three members of the Board are retiring, and I'd like them to come forward and accept a token of our appreciation for their service.

Margot Hennings – 19+ years of service!

Carole Grob
Ed Brawn

Let's have a round of applause for our retiring Board members!

8. I am pleased to welcome three new members to the Board:

Alan Breed, Vice-President
Jim Dick, Executive Director
Jennifer Nisenoff, Executive Director

Let's have a round of applause for our new Board members!

9. The business of the Annual Meeting has been accomplished! Do I hear a motion to adjourn? Jeff Roman so moved. Second? Ron Kral seconded. All in favor? The motion carried. The NVBA Annual Meeting was adjourned at 7:15, followed by a 44.5 table Stratiflighted Charity Pairs game.

Respectfully submitted,

Marjorie Gazzola
Secretary, Unit 218