

Northern Virginia Bridge Association
Minutes – Board Meeting
January 26, 2010

Draft

The January 2010 NVBA Board Meeting was held on Tuesday January 26, 2010 at the Westwood Country Club in Vienna.

Those attending were:

Bob Boyd, President
Alan Breed, Vice President
Lynda Flanger, Treasurer
Jennifer Nisenoff, Secretary
Virginia Gibbons, Board Member
Bruce Houston, Board Member
Paul Black, Board Member
Jim Dick, Board Member
Leo Cardillo, Past President and Unit Game Coordinator
Lucy McCoy, Newsletter Editor
Dave Loken, Newsletter Columnist

Bob welcomed Dave to our meeting and emphasized that all NVBA members are welcomed to attend our Board meetings. The Board requests advanced notice to ensure we have sufficient space in our meeting room.

Minutes from December Meeting

Jennifer distributed updated minutes based on feedback provided since amended minutes were sent out via email.

1. Due to a report of freezing rain, the December meeting was terminated quickly. There were differences in understanding of two recommended budget items.
2. Some additional changes were provided and agreed to by the majority of the Board.
3. Alan made a motion to approve the minutes as amended and Jim seconded. Nine board members approved, one declined. The opposition was due to the fact that the version of the budget for 2010 assumed that all players would pay \$7 entry fees for the LM/NLM game.

Treasurer's Report

1. Lynda distributed the following reports: Balance Sheet as of 12/31/2009, The NVBA Unit Game Table Count, and the P&L for May through December, 2009.
2. The Board discussed producing a monthly report on the Unit Game financials. Leo volunteered to do this and Lynda said she could do it as well. They will work details of this offline.
3. The Profit and Loss statement reflects the data that will be in the year-end tax return. This short year resulted from the change of fiscal year to a calendar year basis.
 - a. The statement shows a \$4,433.58 loss for this portion of the year.
 - b. There are two Sectionals missing.
 - c. The data in this report reflect the facts of the financials and shouldn't be used for projecting 2010 financials.
4. The Board is extremely appreciative of Lynda's efforts to tie up a number of loose ends and to complete work on the new report formats. These reports break out financials between Sectionals, the Unit Games, and Administrative items.
5. Alan made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report, Leo seconded, all approved.

Member Survey

1. Bob led the discussion about the Member Survey distributed at the Holiday Party in December.
2. Bob emphasized that we should use the results of the survey to help guide the Board's decisions about changes to our policies and guidelines.
3. Salient areas include:
 - a. Reduction in the amount or quality of the food at the unit game would not affect attendance
 - b. Raising the entry fee also would not affect people from attending
 - c. There was some support for a "frequent player" program.
4. Seven NVBA members and one WBL member volunteered to help the Board. Leo will send an email to these people to thank them for their input and determine what they would be interested in doing.

Financial Discussion

1. The Board discussed the use of Bridgemates in our Sectionals and what the impact would be to our expenses.
 - a. Bob, Doug and Margot agreed to have a trial this technology in upcoming Sectionals and will arrange to obtain favorable rental rates.
 - b. The first use will be only in the larger room and in the second sectional we will expand to the game in the room downstairs as well.
2. The Board discussed a price increase for the Unit Game starting on 2/1/2010.
 - a. This would only affect the Open games (A/X, B/C/D, or Open Stratified). It will not include the 199er games.

- b. It would not include the GNTs, NAPs, Sectionals, or STaC's. This is to ensure that the entry fee of the Unit Game is not higher than MABC Regionals whose entry fees are \$10.
 - c. This is consistent with the increase of entry fees for Club Games of \$1 that will begin on 2/1.
 - d. Bob made a motion to approve and Leo seconded. 7 Board Members approved and 1 did not. This nay vote was as a result that there is a feeling we should concentrate on reducing expenses as an alternative to raising the entry fee.
3. The Board wanted to discuss and confirm our policy about Free Plays in the Open Games at the Unit Game.
 - a. At the Holiday Party Bob announced that for the Open Games (A/X, B/C/D, Open Stratified) only overall winners for each section would receive a free play. This is a change from the current policy where free plays are given to winners in each direction. This does not affect the 199er Game.
 - b. Leo proposed that we officially agree to this change, Alan seconded, the entire Board approved.
 - c. Note, in post meeting emails it was determined that there still might be some discussion required to ensure everyone has the same understanding about our new policy. This will be discussed at the next Board meeting.
 4. We need to confirm our policy for entry fees at the LM/NLM game. A number of options were outlined at our previous meeting.
 - a. Options include:
 - i. Continue the current policy that all participants play free
 - ii. All players pay \$7 and are given a free play for a future game
 - iii. NLM's pay \$7 and LM's play for free.
 - b. The current budget assumes that everyone will pay \$7 and that they be given a free play for a future game.
 - c. The Board agreed to defer this item until the next Board Meeting.

Board Elections

1. The next Newsletter must include information about the Annual Meeting and candidates for any Board vacancies.
2. Leo, Bruce and Paul agreed to serve on the Nominating Committee
3. Positions up for re-election include:
 - a. VP: Alan Breed
 - b. Treasurer: Lynda Flanger
 - c. Board Member: Jim Dick
4. There are two updates needed to the term end dates of various Board Members on the NVBA Website:
 - a. Bruce Houston's term ends on 2011
 - b. Lynda Flanger's term actually ends in 2010 which was the term expiration of the Treasurer whose position she assumed earlier in the year.
 - c. Jennifer will request that these updates be made to the Website.

Other Items

1. Online Partnership Desk
 - a. Leo reported that he has received inquiries about an online partnership desk capability.
 - b. Terry Jones also believes that this is necessary as outlined in her proposal to the Board when she was confirmed as the Education Chair.
 - c. Leo agreed to research a potential replacement to our previously discontinued program including one sponsored by the ACBL
2. Advertising on our website.
 - a. Bob informed the Board that Gene would like to include an icon on our homepage advertising his lessons and that he would be willing to pay a monthly fee.
 - b. The Board discussed the pros and cons of advertising and decided the following:
 - i. This would be in a separate section of the home page, be limited to bridge items, and that it would be clear that these are advertisements and not necessarily endorsements
 - ii. The Board reserves the right to reject or discontinue any ad based on content.
 - iii. The fee will initially be \$10/month, paid quarterly or annually to the NVBA Treasurer
 - c. Paul made a motion to accept this proposal, Leo seconded, all approved.
 - d. Bob will send a notice to all Bridge Teachers on the NVBA website to outline our new capability and we will include an announcement in the next Newsletter.
3. Jim requested that the Board approve allowing his Friday morning games to be included in NVBA Sectionals in the same manner that Norma's Thursday games were approved in a previous meeting. The Board agreed and Bob will work with Jim, Margot and Doug on logistics. Due to timing this may not be able to be implemented until the September Sectional.
4. Lynda had a few financial items to discuss:
 - a. At least four people have suggested that we allow ads in our Newsletter. Lucy shared that this is already allowed and that fees are outlined in the Policy and Guideline document. We will provide the details of this in our next Newsletter.
 - b. There has also been a suggestion to include a second line in the Membership Directory to list professional information. Bob will talk to Don Berman about this.
 - c. Lynda wanted to ensure the Board knew that the ACBL raised Director fees by 8%.
 - d. We have had a problem with a few returned checks. The Board had a proposal that effective 2/1/2010 we will charge a \$35 fee for returned checks and a warning that if this is not paid in 30 days the member would be reported to the ACBL. Jim made a motion to accept this new policy, Alan seconded, all approved.

5. Holiday Party. Virginia shared a list of recommendations for the Holiday Party based on the results of the 2009 Event. This list included types and amounts of food, planning, etc. The Board wants to thank Virginia and all the contributors who made the Party such a wonderful success.

Meeting Adjourned.

Jim made a motion to adjourn our meeting and multiple members seconded. All approved.

Next Meeting:

The next Board meeting will be held on March 9, 2010 at 7:00 at the Westwood Country Club in Vienna. All NVBA members are welcomed to attend. If you wish to attend, please alert Alan Breed in advance so he can ensure we have enough space in the meeting room.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Nisenoff, Secretary