

Washington Bridge League – March 2022 Board Meeting Minutes

Date: Tuesday, March 29, 2022

Time: 7:30pm-9:00pm

Location: Virtual (Zoom)

Submitted by Lena Maman (WBL Secretary)

Attendees

Hadi Abushakra, Bob Bell, Herb Schulken, Lena Maman, Lloyd Rawley, Mary Tenenbaum, Linda Marshall, Alex Stille, Alex Gretsinger, Kathy Kopnisky, Brad Theurer (Tournament Chair), Joe Hertz (NVBA Board Member).

Absent: Clyde Kruskal

Secretary's Report

The Board approved the minutes of the February 2022 meeting.

Online Unit Game Report

- Herb provided an update on the unit game. The 0-20 and 199er games remain inactive. The 499er game continues to hold steady. Overall, since February 24, Herb reported the following table counts: 39, 38, 41, 31, and 33.
- Given Ted Ying's tentative acceptance to replace Chris Miller as Club Manager, Herb suggested the Board pay him for his services. The Board then discussed Ted Ying's tentative acceptance as a short-term solution. Hadi said he would reach out to Ted and ask him how long he intends to serve in this interim position.
- In response to Lena's interest in shadowing current directors at in-person unit games, Alex Stille reiterated the need for the Board to consider recruiting and encouraging new individuals into becoming Unit Game Directors.

Treasurer's Report

- The WBL continues to maintain a strong financial foundation.
- Herb reported a loss of about \$400 in February due to game cancellations (re : low attendance). He anticipates a loss of about \$500 for March, although commission checks from ACBL's Support Your Club and the East Coast 99er games should offset recent losses.

Communications Committee Report

Linda reported sending out a few email blasts since the last meeting. She continues to update the website as needed and suggested that Hadi write a new President's Letter.

WBL Website Security Certificate

Hadi invited Joe Hertz, NVBA Board Member and Systems Administrator, to evaluate the technical glitch affecting the WBL website.

- Joe reported that the issue is not website certification – instead, it is the Domain Name System (DNS). He recommended that the Board pay a small fee (around \$25 per year) to host the WBL website elsewhere (e.g. easydns.com). This would allow the webpage to forward to bridgewebs smoothly and eliminate Don Berman’s old web hosting packages. Don Berman used to be the WBL webmaster.
- The upgrade would provide the Board with domain-specific email addresses, e.g. webmaster@washingtonbridgeleague.org or treasurer@washingtonbridgeleague.org
- Joe will work with Linda, who currently serves as Webmaster, as he begins correcting the issue. Herb will provide compensation to Joe for his services.

WBL Quarterly Electronic Newsletter

Hadi asked Joe to speak on NVBA’s process in creating their quarterly electronic newsletter. Joe told the Board that he is not the right person to speak on the topic, as he is only involved at the end of the process. He suggested Lucy McCoy as the better point-of-contact for information on the newsletter.

Update on the Longest Day

Hadi briefed the Board on his recent discussion with Kevin O’Brien, NVBA Board Member.

In recent years, the NVBA has hosted a team called Bridge Heroes that handles raffles, auctions, and other fundraising efforts. The NVBA will host a Longest Day unit game on Thursday, June 23, and the Bridge Heroes team will be in attendance.

The Board agreed to participate in this year’s Longest Day initiative and will invite Bridge Heroes to the unit game on June 16 at Ohr Kodesh Congregation.

Update on the Baltimore Regional’s Entry Fees

Hadi informed the Board that District 6 is considering raising its entry fees for the Baltimore Regional, based on a projected loss of \$10-30K. The Board discussed the pros and cons of increasing unit game entry fees at the first in-person unit game. Some members suggested waiting to see how in-person attendance shapes up before making a decision on the matter. Others discussed the inevitability of increased fees, given inflation and the financial risks involved in running a game at this time.

Marty Bley and Ron Kral's Proposal

Earlier in the week, Hadi forwarded an email from Marty Bley, which outlined a proposal to mail a letter to all District 6 members announcing the resumption of face-to-face bridge at the NVBA and WBL unit games, and the upcoming NVBA and WBL sectionals and the Baltimore regional. Marty and Ron believe that it is in District Six, NVBA and WBL's interests to send this letter by snail mail to District 6 members because many of them do not get email or allow emails to be sent to them." Marty and Ron have costed out this initiative at \$3000 and have proposed that WBL bear \$750 out of that total amount.

The Board was undecided on whether to contribute to the NVBA letter proposal and asked Hadi to reach out to Marty Bley for more information.

WBL's Next Sectional

The Board agreed to hold a sectional on September 29, 30, October 1, 2. Hadi will confirm these dates with Lucy McCoy and follow-up with the Board.

Ohr Kodesh Congregation's VaxPass

Hadi will ask Jerry Kiewe for clarification on how and when bridge players should expect to receive a VaxPass after submitting the online application.

Streamlining Committee Assignments

Alex Stille reported that he intends to reach out to all committee chairs in the coming weeks to discuss their respective assignments. He will look at the purpose of each committee and its communication network. He will also examine overlaps, if any, among committees, and whether or not the committees hold meetings and have charters that serve as a framework for their duties and responsibilities.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 26 at 7:30pm.