

NASSAU-SUFFOLK BRIDGE ASSOCIATION, INC.

MINUTES OF THE BOARD MEETING OF OCTOBER 28, 2019

Board Members in Attendance:

Mark Blanchard, Young Cha, Bella Chiusano, Bill Dinner, Ray Elias, Allen Greenbaum, Phil Grella, Mark Inhaber, Jon Kirshner, Mark Krinsky, Debra LaMountain, Lee Launer (via telephone), Mark Leibowitz, Carol Mathews, Silvana Morici, Ray Presti, Carol Reiss, Dina Schechter, Dave Schwartz, Drew Tarhan, and Debra Thaw

Board Members Absent:

Joe Byrnes, Lesley Decker-Lucas, Elliot Diamond, Lou Grossman, Alan Kudisch, Al Levy, and Diana Schuld

Guests:

Cathy Kirshner, David Moss, and Sue Scholer

The meeting was called to order at 7pm.

Acceptance of the Minutes:

Minutes of the meeting on July 29, 2019 were accepted.

Welcome:

Ray welcomed and congratulated first-time Board members Young Cha, Carol Reiss, and Ray Presti, and newly elected District 24 Director David Moss.

Election of Officers:

The Board of Directors unanimously elected the following officers:

President: Ray Elias

Vice President: Lee Launer

Secretary: Debra LaMountain

Treasurer: David Schwartz

Tournament Director: Bella Chiusano

Regional Tournament:

Ray thanked Lesley, Bella, and the entire Tournament Committee for their hard work, which resulted in a successful Fall Regional Tournament. In addition to good comments from the participants, the tournament was a success financially, with overall revenues equaling expenses. It is clear from the analysis presented, that the increase to \$22.50 per session introduced in the spring was essential to maintain financial stability.

After a brief discussion outlining the reasons to want to continue holding Regional tournaments versus reasons not to hold these tournaments, it was unanimously concluded that we should make every attempt to continue holding these events.

Plans have been made to hold the 2020 Spring Regional at Heritage House at Bethpage State Park. We have made no commitment past this regional. The Committee will investigate valet parking services and shuttles if necessary.

In an attempt to attract greater attendance, the Committee will investigate a "Horizontal Game," an event played over two days (with one session each day), and a "Freaky Full Knockouts in a Day" game, an event introduced at a recent Danbury Regional. The Committee will report to the Board at the next meeting.

Financial Report:

David Schwartz reported that as at September 30, 2019, the end of our fiscal year, we have increased our fund balance over September 30, 2018. Our financial model, which provides approximately \$10,000 per year to subsidize our Regional tournaments and our Awards Dinner, remains intact.

Volunteers Needed:

Ray called for volunteers to provide continuing, albeit not full-time, attention to the following three areas:

1. Email Monitor and Responder: Carol Reiss volunteered.
2. Website Monitor: Drew Tarhan volunteered.
3. Calendar Creator and Monitor: Silvana Morici volunteered.

Frank Allison Double Knockout Tournament:

Due to the inability of participating teams to agree to timely playing dates, the 2018 competition was not completed until July 2019. There was no 2019 competition.

A 2020 competition has been proposed, with two possible schedules. One schedule would provide matches starting in January, and the other schedule would provide matches starting in May. Each schedule would have the Tournament ending on November 22. After much discussion, it was decided by a show of hands, to begin the Knockouts in January. There will be specific play-by dates for each round, with penalties for failure to play any match by these dates. Each round covers 37 calendar days, increased for holidays and other bridge event days.

Awards Dinner:

The attendance was particularly low at the 2019 Awards Dinner. Various explanations were offered. It was suggested that dinner be held during a StaC period in hopes of increasing participation. Mark, Bill, Debra, and Sue will meet to figure out ways to promote the event, and set a 2020 date.

StaC Week:

Sue Scholer reported that the remaining StaC's for 2019 are November 11th to 17th, and December 20th to 22nd. Sue also discussed moving the 2020 June StaC Week to August, when participation has been greater.

NAP and GNT:

The Grand National Teams final is scheduled for February. A team need not win a local qualifying event in order to participate.

Player of the Year:

Mark Blanchard reported Player of the Year statistics were up to date. Remaining tournaments to consider are the November and December StaC events.

Old Business:

Carol Mathews thanked Dina, Mark Krinsky, and Debra for their continuing efforts in the Youth Bridge program. She also made a plea for more teacher volunteers, especially in the Huntington area.

New Business:

In response to a question about the timeliness of posting a link on our website to tournament results, Ray explained the reason for the lag time inputting our Regional results to our website in response to Phil's question. David Moss noted that an individual's results can be obtained immediately through ACBL Live.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:56.