

Nassau-Suffolk Bridge Association

Board Meeting on August 8, 2017

Attending:

Board members: Peter Barboesch, Mark Blanchard, Joe Byrnes, Lesley Decker, Bill Dinner, Ray Elias, Rob Gordon, Phil Grella, Mark Inhaber, Jon Kirschner, Alan Kudisch, Debra Lamountain, Lee Launer, Mark Leibowitz, Al Levy, Carol Mathews, Dina Schechter, Susan Scholer, Diana Schuld, David Schwartz, Debra Thaw and Susan Toporovsky.

Guests:

Alan Hyman and Eliot Diamond

The meeting was called to order at 7:15 by President Joe Byrnes. Joe welcomed our guests, new nominees to the board Eliot Diamond and Alan Hyman.

Joe told us that our Spring Regional did not go well. However, our annual Awards Dinner went well and Joe thanked chairwomen Debra Thaw and Susan Scholer.

The minutes for the April 17, 2017 meeting were accepted: Motion by Jon Kirschner, seconded by Peter Barboesch.

Financial Report: David Schwartz, Treasurer:

As Joe pointed out in his opening remarks, David reported that the Spring Regional had a horrible attendance and we were headed for a major financial loss. However, because of the terrible conditions at the hotel on Friday and Saturday we were able to negotiate a settlement with a reduction in cost. We were also let off the hook for our September tournament. Because we avoided a significant loss on the tournament, we are in reasonable financial shape. Since we will not be going back to this hotel the deposit for the 2018 tournaments was applied to our settlement. Tournament chairman Lee Launer told us that David had done a fabulous job in negotiating this settlement.

Tournament Report: Lee Launer, Tournament Chair:

We will be having a STaC Week from September 6 through September 10. Our annual Fall Regional has been cancelled. Lee explained that we did not want to rush to have a September tournament at a different venue. When we next have a tournament, we want to make it perfect so that we bring our players back to our tournaments. We will be having future tournaments at the Chateau Briand. This venue has good parking, good food, and available space. The tournaments will be held from Monday through Thursday as this facility cannot accommodate weekend events. Lee told us that this is a good opportunity to make money on the tournament and thanked Silvana Zangri for her help in obtaining these premises.

Al Levy told us that the GNYBA is running side game series not at the tournament site. These games can be held at a local club as part of the Regional. The unit would rent the local club. The board thought it was something we might think about for a future tournament but not as part of our first tournament as the new venue.

It was also brought up during this report that we need to reinstate our Marketing Committee. Alan Kudisch and Allen Greenbaum expressed an interest in serving on this committee. There was a discussion on how to bring people back to our tournaments. This would be something Marketing Committee would handle.

Our next Regionals will be Monday, May 7, 2018 through Thursday, May 10, 2018 and Monday, September 24, 2018 through Thursday, September 27, 2018. The Tournament Committee will meet to consider events at these tournaments. Joe suggested considering starting times of 10:30 AM and 3:00 PM for our tournament events.

Nominating Committee Report: Lesley Decker chairman

Four new members were added to the board: Laura Orticelle, Drew Tarhan, Eliot Diamond and Alan Hyman. According to our bylaws new board members serve for one year. After that, members are elected for two-year terms.

Slate of officers:

President: Joe Byrnes

Vice-President: Ray Elias

Treasurer: David Schwartz

Secretary: Anita Goldman

Tournament Chair: Lee Launer

Education Report: Carol Mathews, Chair

Carol reported that we have lost the funding from Dr. Khatib. We need to find a way to raise money for LIBfY. She proposed that clubs run charity games.

The fall school programs are about to start. We need volunteers to work at our schools. If anyone knows of someone interested please have them email or call Carol.

District Report: Al Levy

The ACBL has a new CEO. Robert Hartman has resigned. Al feels that the new CEO can make a difference.

Attendance at tournaments is down. On line bridge participation has been going up.

The STOP card will be removed from bid boxes at tournaments starting January 1, 2018. Club owners will make the decision at their clubs.

Islander: Lesley Decker

Mark Shaiman is working on the fall Islander. It will be on line within the next few weeks.

Pro-Am Charity Game: Lesley Decker

Because we are not having a fall Regional, the Life Master/Non-Life Master pair game will not be happening. Lesley proposed a team game, with two LM and

two non-LM players. The board agreed that this was a good idea. This game will be held as part of our STAC at Sagamore Bridge Club on September 6, 2017 at 7:00 PM. We will attempt to make this event as fair as possible. Random picking of teams was suggested

Jon Kirschner questioned having the game at Sagamore when other clubs might be available and should be considered. A motion was made by Alan Greenbaum that if a club wants to host this event it must agree to close at least one day during our tournament. Seconded by Debra Thaw. Defeated.

StaC's and KO's report: Phil Grella, Chair

Phil told us the remaining dates for 2017 and 2018 are set. We have made more than \$4,500 on our STaC games so far this year. The Knockouts are progressing well.

Player of the Year:

Joe thanked **Mark Blanchard** for doing a great job on our Player of the Year.

New Business:

Al Levy made a motion that the board recognize Sagamore Bridge and Silvana Zangri for its Longest Day contribution this year. More than \$200,000! He asked that we recognize Ruth Stober for her contribution. Passed.

Correction Question:

Jon Kirschner brought up the fact that amendments to the bylaws from 4-17-2010 were not properly listed on our bylaws. There had previously been questions as to whether or not the amendments had to be registered with the State of New York, and even if the amendments had been approved by the board. Rob Gordon said he would look into the matter.

Our next board meeting will be Monday, Oct. 2 at Sagamore.

A motion was made by Dina Schechter to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Lee Launer. Passed. Meeting adjourned at 8:49 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Scholer

(for Anita Goldman, Secretary)