

Nassau – Suffolk Bridge Association

Minutes for the meeting of

May 12, 2015

The meeting was called to order at 7:25 pm by President Steve Lucas.

Attending:

John Abrenica, Dori Cohen, Howie Cohen, Lesley Decker-Lucas, Susan Denenholz, Ray Elias, Shelley Fishman, Rob Gordon, Phil Grella, Jon Kirshner, Mark Krinsky, Mark Leibowitz, Steve Lucas, Carol Mathews, Laura O'Reilly, Jack Sage, Susan Scholer, David Schwartz

Absent:

Joe Byrnes, Susan Calabro, Alan Kudisch, Carole Kugler, Lee Launer (participating by phone), Liz Murphy, Diana Schuld, Susan Toporovsky, Christine Woodring, Silvana Zangri

Guests:

Mike Stanley, Debra Thaw

Opening Remarks / Minutes:

Steve welcomed everyone present. The minutes for the meeting of February 23, 2015 were approved.

Financial Report:

Treasurer Dave Schwartz circulated a financial statement for the Spring Regional showing a loss of \$3,626, and a table count of 868 (down from 913 the prior spring).

Bylaws Committee Report:

Shelley Fishman circulated a written summary of the committee's proposed changes to the bylaws. No one objected to 1) eliminating the bylaw provision that the treasurer must be bonded, or 2) allowing for email delivery of proposed bylaw amendments. Possible changes to the annual membership meeting provisions were discussed.

Nominating Committee Selection:

A vote was taken to select the Nominating Committee, and the following people were elected: Steve Lucas, Chairman; Lesley Decker Lucas; Diana Schuld; Jack Sage; Silvana Zangri; Carol Mathews, alternate; Phil Grella, alternate. No one objected to having this year's Nominating Committee follow the "1-2-2-2" rule, as will be incorporated in the new bylaws, meaning that current board members whose current year of service is an odd number will be up for re-nomination this year. To make this approach clear, Steve circulated a list showing all board members' service tenure.

Tournament Report:

Lee Launer, participating by phone, indicated that despite the attendance decline, the Spring Regional received many positive unsolicited comments. The free coffee and food were particularly well received. Very few people showed up for the new Fast Pairs events on Wed. and Thurs. evenings, and these were cancelled. A chart of attendance by day and by game type showed that the biggest declines were in the I/N and side games, across all days, and the Sunday team game. The possibility of cutting back future Regionals by a day, or a day and a half, was discussed, and the Tournament Committee will make a recommendation as to when and how to implement this.

Phil Grella's report on the Stacs indicated that our last week-long event netted a profit of \$2100. The schedule for this year and next was reviewed, and proper seeding of Stacs was discussed.

Phil indicated that 9 A teams and 5 B teams have registered for this year's DKO. Assignments are out, and the first matches are due to be completed by June 8.

Education Report:

Jack Sage indicated that he and Chris will be cutting back their extensive Youth Bridge workload, with Silvana Zangri and Rich Morici taking on much of it.

Carol Mathews reiterated the need for volunteers to start up and run bridge courses in Adult Ed programs, particularly in schools located near bridge clubs.

Islander / Website:

Thanks to Ray and Lesley's work, we now have an email contact list covering 1660 of our members (out of 2350), and methods for building that list further were discussed. Several members cited a need for improving both the format and the content of the Islander and website.

Unit Party:

Debra Thaw indicated that 68 people, including 14 new life masters, had signed up so far to attend the upcoming Unit Party at Sagamore.

National and District Report:

Al Levy, who was not present, submitted a written National and District report, the highlights of which were as follows: 1) despite extensive protests, the New York Times is sticking with its decision to drop its bridge column, and 2) ACBL CEO Bob Hartman has been visiting the bridge clubs, including Sagamore, that raised the most money in last year's "Longest Day" charity drive, as part of a PR trip. Al's report included a reminder that January, April, May, and September are special-game months for various charitable purposes.

New Business:

Shelley Fishman asked if future Board meetings could start a half-hour earlier (dinner at 6:30, meeting at 7). Since no objection was raised, this will be done.

Tuesday, August 25 was set as the date for the next regular board meeting, at Sagamore. (It is anticipated that a special meeting to review bylaw changes will be held before then, with date, time, and place to be announced.)

The meeting was adjourned at 9:35 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Denenholz