

NASSAU-SUFFOLK BRIDGE ASSOCIATION, INC.

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING OF JULY 17, 2018

Board Members Attending: Mark Blanchard, Bella Chiusano, Lesley Decker-Lucas, Elliot Diamond, Bill Dinner, Ray Elias, Allen Greenbaum, Lewis Grossman, Jon Kirshner, Mark Krinsky, 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

Board Members Absent: Rob Gordon, Alan Hyman, and Mark Inhaber.

Guests Attending: Joseph Byrnes, Phil Grella, Lisa Hadar, and Les Toporovsky

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m. by President Joe Byrnes

Acceptance of Minutes:

Minutes of the meeting of April 16, 2018 were accepted, pending two minor revisions.

Nominating Committee Report:

Lesley Decker-Lucas reported on the results of the Nominating Committee deliberations for the 2018-2019 year: Lisa Hadar and Les Toporovsky are first-time nominees proposed for the Board, along with previous members Joe Byrnes, Diana Schuld, Phil Grella, and Silvana Morici. The membership will vote for these nominees at the Annual Election Meeting, scheduled for Sunday September 23rd, at 6:30pm, at the Sagamore Bridge Club, immediately preceding the Life Master/Non-Life Master game. Three members have resigned from the Board: Peter Barbeosch, Laura Orticelle, and Anita Goldman. Two members are rotating off the Board: Rob Gordon and Jon Kirshner.

The Nominating Committee also proposed the following officers: Ray Elias, President; Lee Launer, Vice President; Debra Lamountain, Secretary; David Schwartz, Treasurer; and Bella Chiusano, Tournament Chairperson. These nominees will be voted on by the new Board of Directors at the next regularly scheduled Board meeting in October.

Financial Report: David Schwarz, Treasurer:

Dave reports cash and deposits at June 30, 2018 totaling \$54,583, compared to \$54,744 as at June 30, 2017. The Unit has two sources of income: net income from STaC events and reimbursement from the ACBL based on dues it collects from Unit members.

Tournament expenses projected for the upcoming Fall Regional are \$5,500 per day, a decrease from the amount incurred at the Spring Regional. The Board intentionally provided for an extra director at the Spring Regional, along with other tournament overhead items, to insure a smooth running first event at Chateau Briand. See Tournament discussion below.

The Islander:

Lesley advised that the next edition of The Islander will be out within three weeks.

Tournament Report: Lee Launer, Tournament Chair:

Lee advised that everything went well at the Regional; he is hopeful that attendance will increase at future Regionals. He suggested that we eliminate novice games, due to very low attendance. He also suggested reducing the number of caddies, directors by two or three, and the number of

tables we rent. He further suggested that we plan a bracketed round robin Swiss event, giving less experienced players a chance to enjoy a Swiss team event without having to compete against the top players in the Open Swiss. We need to be aware of the Chateau Briand's Thursday night curfew in planning our events. Lee thought we might increase our card fee from \$20 to \$22, but the Board rejected this idea.

Charity Committee:

With respect to the \$15,000 the ACBL has allocated to Unit 242 to disburse to worthy, recognized (by the IRS) charitable organizations, the Committee (Jon Kirshner, Diana Schuld, Alan Hyman, and Silvana Morici) has chosen the Long Island Community Foundation, an organization that makes grants to Nassau- and Suffolk-based non-profit organizations, to receive the entire amount, to be disbursed among several organizations. See attached memo from the Committee. The resolution, as presented in the Memo, was approved unanimously by the Board.

Marketing: Alan Kudisch

Alan advised of the things to be done before the tournament, i.e., distribute flyers and approach restaurants in the area for discounts during the tournament. There are some changes to be made to the new flyer. Mark Blanchard agreed to deliver flyers to all out of town tournaments he attends.

Education: Carol Mathews

Carol advised that our goal for recruiting teachers was fulfilled last year. If anyone is interested in teaching this coming year, please contact Carol. Our website has a link to email Carol or Jim Schneider to learn more about the program.

Website: Ray Elias

Ray advised that pictures of some of the students who participated in our 2017-2018 program, are on the website. Everything is up to date with respect to upcoming events. Please contact Ray with any suggestions for additional items for the website.

Islander: Lesley Decker-Lucas

It is anticipated that the next edition of the Islander is will be published within three weeks. Mark Shaiman, Editor of the Islander, is recovering nicely from recent surgery, and will return to his duties shortly. Lesley reminded us to send interesting hands, bidding and other questions, and any other news to her for inclusion in the Islander.

Life Master/Non-Life Master Event: Lesley Decker-Lucas

The format for our September 23rd event will be the same as last time, a Bracketed Swiss Team game. The game will start at 6:30, with only snacks being served.

STaCs and Knock Outs: Phil Grella

Phil advised there were only enough teams entering the Knockouts to fill one flight. The competition has already begun.

With respect to STaC's, which generate \$7,000 - \$8,000 annually for the Unit, Phil suggests we apply to run two additional Weekend StaC's in the future. The approval must come from the ACBL. Diana suggested that Club Directors be asked to set Bridge Mates to "Tournament Mode" during these events to speed up play.

The schedule for STaCs is as follows:

2018 – July 20-22, Oct. 15-22, Dec. 14-16

2019 – Feb. 1-3, Mar. 11-17, May 17-19, June 3-9, July 5-7, Nov. 11-17, Dec. 13-15

2020 – Scheduled and approved: Mar. 9-15, June 8-14, Oct. 19-25.

Approval pending: Feb. 7-9, May 15-17, July 31-Aug. 1, Aug. 28-30, Nov. 20-22, and Dec. 18-20.

Player Of The Year: Mark Blanchard

All tournament results, including those of recent StaC's, are up to date.

New Business:

Alan Kudisch reported an incident at the Sagamore Bridge Club. Two players, one considerably more experienced than the other, had a verbal disagreement that became very loud and disrespectful, clearly in violation of the Club's "Zero Tolerance" policy in several respects. Alan noted there are no official guidelines regarding these types of incidents, and Al Levy confirmed that the ACBL has no guidelines over such matters occurring at the club level. A suggestion was made that Al raise the issue at the next available ACBL Board of Directors Meeting, and propose an amendment to the ACBL rules which would allow units (not just clubs) to discipline a player. Alan Kudisch made such a motion, seconded by Diana Schuld, and passed by the Board.

Al Levy advised that the recently hired ACBL CEO has been dismissed, and a new candidate for a CEO or Executive Director position is being sought.

Old Business:

Bill Dinner continues to investigate the appropriate way to send and receive answers to a survey to be sent to all those playing at our Regional Tournament. He has been in contact with the ACBL, Fast Results, and Common Game officials to seek advice.

Our next board meeting will be on Tuesday, October 2, 2018 at 7:00 p.m. at Smithtown Bridge Studio, food to be served at 6:30.

There being no further business, a motion was made by Bella Chiusano to adjourn the meeting and was seconded by Mark Krinsky. The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Submitted by Bella Chiusano

Nassau-Suffolk Bridge Association
Unit 242 of the American Contract Bridge League

TO: Members of the Board of Directors

FROM: Jon Kirshner – Chair
Alan Hyman
Silvana Zangri
Diana Schuld

DATE: July 17, 2018

RE: Recommendation of Charity Committee 2018

The ACBL has given our district the ability to determine how \$30,000 is to be distributed to deserving organizations that are registered with the IRS as a 501(c)(3) entity. Our unit has been allocated \$15,000 for this effort.

Our committee has determined that the **Long Island Community Foundation** meets our criteria in a unique fashion. The LICF is a public charity that enables Nassau and Suffolk nonprofit organizations to apply for grants three times a year through their competitive grant making process. David Okorn, Executive Director of LICF, is willing to accept our grant and work with our committee to distribute these monies to the types of organizations that meet with our basic criteria and goals. While there are many areas of interest qualifying for grants, a few stand out that meet our criteria:

- Health
- Mental Health
- Hunger
- Youth Development

While this appears to be no different than how we distributed directly in the past, **the LICF has agreed to match our grant(s) with the funds that they have at their discretion to the areas/grantees that meet our criteria and have been approved by the LICF for the current grant cycle or future grant cycles. It is through these efforts that we will be able to double the impact of our ACBL grant allocation of \$15,000.**

The committee thanks the Board for their support and the ACBL for their forward thinking in helping the communities surrounded by their Units.

Our committee offers the following resolution to our Board:

Resolved:

- A. The Board authorizes the ACBL Charity group to make a \$15,000 donation to the Long Island Community Fund, in accordance with all requirements of the ACBL.
- B. The NSBA Charity Committee is authorized to interface with the LICF during the grant making process in order to assist the LICF to designate which approved grantees can/will receive the funds granted to LICF from our Unit/ACBL.
- C. Jon Kirshner is appointed by the Board to coordinate this effort with the current members of this committee.
- D. Unit 155 will be advised Unit 242 has designated only 1 grantee, so that they will have the flexibility to designate up to 6 grantees in accordance with the criteria set forth by the ACBL.

Respectfully submitted,
NSBA Charity Committee 2018