

WBL Board Meeting

January 28, 2009

The meeting was held at Linda Marshall's home.

In attendance: Don Berman, Ellen Cherniavsky, Richard Ferrin, Jim Geist, Fred King, Clyde Kruskal, Linda Marshall, Steve Robinson, Ellen Rosenthal and non-voting members Chris Miller, Donna Rogall, and Nadine Wood.

Fred King called the meeting to order at 8:02 PM.

Secretary's Report

The Board approved the minutes, without objection.

Treasurer's Report

Steve Robinson reported a balance of \$11,663.89 in the WBL's checking account as of December 31, 2008, and a current balance of \$14,176.28. The building fund now has \$225.03. The WBL has \$38,624.71 in an investment account. The WBL started 2008 with approximately \$15,000 in its checking account, so the net result for the year is approximately minus \$4,000. The Board approved the treasurer's report, without objection.

Bulletin

Donna Rogall recommended an increase of ad rates. Current rates are \$75 for a full page ad, \$50 for a half page ad, \$30 for a quarter page ad, and \$20 for an eighth page ad. These are the rates per issue. She proposed increasing rates to \$125, \$75, \$50, and \$25 for full, half, quarter, and eighth page ads respectively. Under this proposal, the sixth appearance of an ad in a year would be free. A motion was made to adopt the increases as suggested by Donna, such motion passing unanimously.

Don Berman suggested publicizing the fact that advertisers may advertise in the WBL Directory as well. Fred King suggested that the Bulletin Committee meet regarding the issue of the number of pages in the Bulletin, and recommend keeping the number of pages the same or increase the number of pages. The Bulletin Committee consists of Don Berman (chair), Nadine Wood, Steve Robinson, Richard Ferrin, and Donna Rogall.

Donna noted that the next Bulletin deadline is March 16. February 5 is the deadline for District Six TableTalk. Donna asked if there should be any change to the WBL's May tournament advertisement, and whether there would be a Spring youth tournament. Ellen Rosenthal replied that she discussed the idea of a Spring youth tournament with the teachers, but the teachers said the students were not yet ready. She said that Mark Rosen though we might be able to put together a youth tournament by the time of the May sectional. Jim Geist suggested offering free plays as a prize. Ellen Rosenthal will take the lead on trying to organize a May tournament.

Donna also noted that she needs biographies for all persons wishing to run for seats on the WBL Board in May.

Unit Game

Fred King welcomed Chris Miller to the meeting, as the Chief Director and Club Manager.

Fred reported that the Church wants to raise the rent from \$250 to \$300. Steve Robinson told Fred, however, that we are only paying \$225 now. Players have raised the same issues as in the past about the condition of the restrooms, poor lighting, and mold in the new players' room.

Fred King said that Barbara Doran heard that Silver Spring will be building a new facility similar to the old Silver Spring Armory. We should investigate the possibility of reserving that space as a playing area. Nadine Wood said that according to a community official, a new community center was last on the agenda for Silver Spring. However, further research is warranted. Jim Geist agreed to investigate further.

Regarding the increase in rent, Fred asked if we need to consider raising entry fees. Lynn Jones said that they would pay for higher rates for the GNTs. If the WBL agrees to the Church's request for increase in rent, we need to request improved conditions in exchange. Fred asked if the WBL has a written contract with the Church. He will ask Dick Wegman.

Fred King reported that attendance at the Unit Game has declined, especially the B/C/D game. Jim Geist said that the Geers are building attendance for the newcomer game.

Fred noted that Gloria Shulstadt's daughter has proposed serving dinner at a Unit Game in memory of her late mother. Steve Robinson said that she thinks she can spend up to \$500 on this. Nadine Wood suggested that a dinner would be infeasible but suggested that she be encouraged to make a donation to the Summer NABC, and perhaps make a donation of a small snack for the Unit Game one week. Steve Robinson will talk to Ms. Shulstadt's daughter.

January Sectional

Nadine Wood reported attendance at the January sectional of 449.5 tables. In 2008, the total table count was 1694.5, which is the best since 2000.

Nadine expressed concern about losing her helpers for the sectionals. In January, the Sunday game started late and ended late, so the cleanup was late. When Gloria the maid and her sister comes, the cleanup is good. Last time, the sister and one other person were the only ones to do the cleanup. The cleanup was insufficient in several respects. Betty from the Schweinhaut Center complained about the bathrooms, and the rubber mats in the kitchen. Nadine said she needs help inspecting the area after cleanup at the end of the tournament. Donna Rogall agreed to contact Gloria the maid and get her in touch with Nadine.

Fred King expressed the need for more volunteers. Nadine said that for the next tournament, she may not be in town for the shopping days for the tournament. She will get dry goods and frozen goods a week before, but somebody needs to purchase bread, pastries, and lunch meats. Don Berman will get a list from Nadine and shop for these last-minute items.

Richard Ferrin will assist Friday night, Jim Geist will assist Saturday morning (and find a second to assist). Jim will also assist Sunday evening.

Fred raised the issue of complaints about the lunch line at the sectionals. He heard a suggestion to reverse the direction of the line to prevent food spillage on the carpets. Nadine commented that the lineup for getting soft drinks was a bottleneck. Richard Ferrin suggested having only one line for salads instead of the two lines now used (on both sides of the table). Perhaps this can be accomplished by putting the table against the wall. Clyde Kruskal suggested putting cold drinks on the opposite side of the hall, with the salads. Clyde and Jim Geist will be in charge of setting up a new arrangement for the food line.

Nadine reported the following dates for WBL sectionals in 2010: January 7-10, March 25-28, May 13-16, and October 7-10.

Bridge in Schools

Ellen Rosenthal reported that three private schools seemed to be interested in programs, but insufficient student interest was generated. One school, St Catherine LaBourre, will start a program. Bullis school may start a program. Clarksburg public school is interested. Another school in Frederick is interested; we sent them literature in the mail. The Frederick school is interested in a program during school hours.

Ellen also reported a decrease in the number of volunteers for the program. Prince George's county has started a program, which may have promise for next year.

Mentoring Program

Linda Marshall noted that there were a few dropout mentees, and a few new mentees, so the overall number of mentees in the program remained steady.

Bridge and Bowling

Linda Marshall reported that 18 have signed up so far for bowling, 25 signed up for bridge. Don Berman arranged for practice time with the alley. We will have six lanes.

WBL Contribution to the NABC

Fred King noted that one idea floated to raise money was for the WBL to raise the per-person card fee by \$1 for one sectional. NVBA raised money through a variety of methods, including a silent auction, raffles, etc., all of which appear to have involved a lot of work. He noted that \$36,000 is left over in the NABC budget from the 2002 Washington NABC.

Richard Ferrin moved to increase the card fee per player by \$1 for all sessions in the May sectional, and to match the amount raised from that with a grant from the WBL's investment fund. With the money raised, one game at the NABC would be named to honor the WBL's contribution. The motion passed unanimously.

Fred King said that the ACBL negotiated a parking rate at the hotel garage of \$25 per day. The logistics have not yet been worked out. The ACBL is cutting the estimated table count to 12,800 tables, which means the budget now is based on 13,000 tables, and a corresponding reduction in the ACBL contribution of \$10,500 (which gives us \$10.50 per table).

Lovenberg Conditions of Contest

Jim Geist sent an e-mail confirming the wording of the new rule.

Online Partnership Desk

Fred King said that few people use the online partnership desk, and moved that the WBL drop it for 2009. The motion passed unanimously.

Dealing Machine Upgrade

Fred King proposed that we ask Lee Jensen's opinion as to whether the WBL should order a new machine. Ellen Cherniavsky will ask Lee to inspect the old machine and make a recommendation. Steve Robinson recommended that the WBL purchase a new one, because the old one is about due to break. Ellen Cherniavsky suggested an upgrade. The cost for the upgraded new machine would be \$3,250 (with a \$1,000 discount). Don Berman added that the Australian company that made the machine the WBL currently uses will no longer support that model.

The motion was made for the WBL to purchase a new dealing machine now. The motion failed 5-3. However, Ellen Cherniavsky will ask Lee Jensen's opinion and the issue will be revisited at the next Board meeting.

Elections

Fred King said that the nominating rules currently require 25 signatures on a petition, but that nominations from the floor would be accepted. He questioned whether this made sense, but noted that it is part of the WBL Constitution. Fred appointed a nominating committee, consisting of Steve Robinson, Clyde Kruskal, Linda Marshall, and Jim Allen to review the nominating procedures and make recommendations.

Next Meeting

The next WBL Board meeting will take place March 4 at Richard Ferrin's house. The Board thanked Linda Marshall for her hospitality. Whereupon, the meeting adjourned at 10:40 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard Ferrin,
Secretary

WBL Board Meeting

March 4, 2009

The meeting was held at Richard Ferrin's home.

In attendance: Carole Banks, Don Berman, Richard Ferrin, Jim Geist, Fred King, Clyde Kruskal, Steve Robinson, Ellen Rosenthal and non-voting members Barry Bragin, Kitty Gottfried, Donna Rogall, and Nadine Wood. Bryan Geer also attended the meeting.

Fred King called the meeting to order at 8:15 PM.

Secretary's Report

The Board approved the minutes, without objection.

Treasurer's Report

Steve Robinson reported a balance of \$16,919.92 in the WBL's checking account, and a balance of approximately \$38,000 in an investment account. The Board approved the treasurer's report, without objection.

Bulletin

Donna Rogall reported that the Bulletin Committee met and determined that the Bulletin should continue to print 32 pages per issue, but that Donna should come to the Committee for approval of an increase for a particular issue on an as-needed basis. She stated that while it appeared earlier that 32 pages would not be enough, one advertiser decided not to advertise, and so that pushed the regular page count back to 32 pages.

The next deadline for the Bulletin is March 16. Donna needs bios for persons intending to run for the Board. The cover will feature the May Sectional and the Annual Meeting.

Donna noted that the May sectional will feature a one-day bridge class taught by Shawn Stringer and Lois Geer. Carole Banks asked whether there would be a youth tournament at the sectional. Ellen Rosenthal stated that Mark Rosen would help out, but he doesn't want to run it. Ellen would help with a tournament, but she needs help too. Fred King suggested that Barbara Shaw can get trophies. Carole Banks suggested that Mark Lavine may be willing to help with the youth tournament. Ellen Rosenthal will ask Mark. Barry Bragin questioned whether it would be appropriate to hold the youth tournament on the same weekend as the sectional. Barry expressed concern that the students might be overwhelmed, in addition to the space problems. He noted that the students would need extra attention. Nadine Wood suggested that the people currently working at the sectional might be able to help with the youth tournament if it is held on another weekend, perhaps the previous Saturday. Fred King said he would speak with Mark Lavine about the matter.

Unit Game

Steve Robinson relayed a suggestion by Chris Miller that all games be sold for \$8 per person, except tournaments. Some now are \$7, some are \$9. There are more \$7 games now. Changing the fee to \$8 for all non-tournament games would work out about even, perhaps yield a little more. Fred King said that the Board would take this under consideration.

Fred reported that the Church accepted the WBL's offer of \$260 per month for rent.

Bryan Geer reported that the newcomer game is ready to "graduate" some more players to the non-life-master game. He again noted that the newcomer game is running about 6 tables on average. They do a lesson from 7:30 to 8:00, followed by 12 boards of supervised play from 8:00-10:00.

He noted that the room for the newcomer game is moldy, with a strong odor. Maybe if the carpet were replaced it would solve the problem. Richard Ferrin suggested that the Board get an estimate for carpet replacement. Carole Banks asked if it were possible to move the newcomer game upstairs. Jim Geist said that that would be too disruptive. Fred King then appointed a committee to meet with the Church, consisting of himself, Bryan Geer, and Jim Geist, to address the conditions in the room for the newcomers' game.

Fred noted continued complaints with lighting in the main room. He said that Manny doesn't always replace the bulbs. He asked if the lighting problems were worse in particular places in the room. Don Berman replied that the lighting problem seemed to be generalized, and not worse in any particular part of the room.

Last Sectional

Nadine reported that there were 456 tables at the sectional, plus 12 tables for the GNT 0-5000 semifinals and finals. We had 89 tables on Saturday morning, resulting in a shortage of space on Saturday. The Swiss on Sunday was smaller because of the bracketed KO on Saturday, but still we got 56 tables, which was good, much better than the last time that we ran a bracketed KO on Saturday. Also, the threat of snow affected attendance on Sunday.

The lunch line went faster, partly because the salads were pre-dressed, and the drink table was moved away from the hot foods. For the next tournament, Nadine will leave midday Saturday so that she can attend her daughter's graduation.

Nadine reported that the cleanup girls arrived late, but the good news is that we had everything out early, because we had more people helping. The cleanup crew worked hard, and swept the stage this time.

Fred King commented that we need more help after the last Saturday game. Caddies should help. He suggested increasing the caddie pay from \$25 to \$30 (same pay as the Mid-Atlantic), but ask the caddies to perform some light cleanup. Kitty Gottfried said that she needs help washing dishes Saturday and Sunday. Carole Banks agreed that we need more help. We should hire someone to help, rather than relying on the same

volunteers every time. Nadine replied that it would suffice to procure services of an extra caddy. Hiring an outside service would be too expensive. Nadine suggested raising Alan Crank's pay for Saturday and Sunday, since he helps so much in the kitchen. Jim said that we need to check with the caddies to see how many could help with other duties.

Fred asked whether we would have enough work to keep one extra person busy, or whether we should instead add a little extra work for the existing caddies. Nadine replied that we need an additional caddy. She suggested giving them all a raise.

Fred then moved to raise the base caddy pay to \$30 per session (both for sectionals and for the Unit Game) and to authorize Nadine and Kitty to hire as many caddies as they need. The raise would be conditional upon the understanding that caddies would be expected to perform additional duties as needed. Richard Ferrin seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Kitty noted that one person complained about caddies' behavior at the Sunday Swiss. This person stated that the caddies seemed to be confused and/or surly. Fred stated that only one caddy seemed to be having a problem moving the boards correctly, and the problem was limited to the Sunday Swiss.

Bridge in Schools

Ellen Rosenthal reported new programs at Clarksburg, Frederick, and at St. Catherine's in Wheaton. She said that Patty Tucker is discussing Bridge in Schools with the units. I sent out all of her information to the teachers. Patty is going to have a group discussion at Houston regarding teaching. Ellen recommended that we pay to have our volunteer teachers attend workshops. We need more teachers, and people to spread the word to the students.

Fred King asked if there is anything the Board can do to recognize volunteers at the end of the year. Ellen suggested a volunteer party, plus some free plays. Richard Ferrin agreed to host a volunteer party.

Summer Nationals

Fred King said that we are looking for people who can volunteer space in front of their houses for parking, in lieu of the \$25 per day charge at the Marriott. The idea would be to carpool to the game. He asked that a call for volunteers for this effort be publicized in the Bulletin. Don Berman volunteered to provide parking spaces at the Laurel Bridge Club. Fred stated that he is working on getting parking space at University of District of Columbia's Van Ness Campus. ACBL will give us \$4000 to defray expense of hiring a shuttle bus from the remote parking site.

Bridge and Bowling

Fred King reported that this year's event featured 26 bowlers, and 12 tables of bridge. Clyde Kruskal expressed concern about allowing pre-formed teams to participate in the bridge event, since the rest of the teams were formed of non-regular partnerships with an attempt to balance the skill level.

Online Partnership

Fred King reported that the online partnership program has been canceled. The WBL has fully paid the NVBA to defray past costs of this program.

Dealing Machine

Fred King stated that the Board is awaiting an evaluation from Lee Jensen.

Election

Fred King reported that Jim Allen has agreed to run the election again this year.

Barometer Pairs

Nadine Wood raised the issue of whether the Friday night sectional games should discontinue Barometer Pairs. It costs more to run the game (because of the additional boards that must be duplicated), the game is difficult on the directing staff, and the game doesn't seem to have attracted increased attendance. Steve Robinson agreed, saying the Barometer Pairs is a waste of money. Fred King replied that the point was to add something different for Friday night. Steve Robinson suggested having two IMP Pairs, and two strata-flighted games for the four sectionals' Friday night games. Nadine noted that the Friday night games are already scheduled through 2009. Fred noted that the NVBA holds a triple-nickel Swiss on Friday night.

Recorder System

Barry Bragin stated that the directors should announce at every event who is the recorder, and note that the recorder is available for handling player memos. Barry stated that the ACBL recorder form is bad, and that he would construct an alternative form. The forms should be made available on a table at the game.

Fred King moved to adopt Barry Bragin's suggestion. The motion passed unanimously, with Clyde Kruskal abstaining.

Barry also suggested that the WBL needs an alternate recorder, so that a backup is available when the recorder is unavailable.

Next Meeting

The next WBL Board meeting will take place April 1 at Carole Bank's house. The Board thanked Richard Ferrin for his hospitality. Whereupon, the meeting adjourned at 10:44 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard Ferrin,
Secretary

WBL Board Meeting

April 1, 2009

The meeting was held at Carole Bank's home.

In attendance: Carole Banks, Richard Ferrin, Jim Geist, Fred King, Linda Marshall, Steve Robinson, Ellen Rosenthal and non-voting members Barry Bragin, Chris Miller, Donna Rogall, and Nadine Wood.

Fred King called the meeting to order at 8:00 PM.

Secretary's Report

Ellen Rosenthal suggested amendment to the minutes to note the new school program in Frederick. The Board approved the minutes as amended, without objection.

Treasurer's Report

Steve Robinson reported a balance of \$13,495.13 in the WBL's checking account, and a balance of \$38,634.53 in an investment account. The building fund currently has \$261.42. In response to a question, Steve stated that he is currently working on the annual report. The Board approved the treasurer's report, without objection.

Bulletin

Donna Rogall reported that the Bulletin deadline is April 29 for the May/June issue. She has received nothing yet from Margot Hennings on the NABC parking situation.

Unit Game

Chris Miller reported that the year-to-date attendance is almost exactly the same as last year. The margins have been eroded by higher rent and caddy fees. Chris passed out a spreadsheet summarizing the data.

Fred King said that we should start announcing at the beginning of every game that Barry Bragin is the recorder. We need to appoint an assistant recorder, to server in Barry's absence. Ron Zucker has agreed to serve in that capacity.

Annual Meeting

Steve Robinson noted that the Annual Meeting will take place May 7. The card fee will be \$1 extra, with the extra going to the NABC fund. Nadine Wood said that she and her assistants would begin cooking on Wednesday, May 6. Nadine needs help shopping for food. Fred King suggested paying David Solomon to help. Nadine replied that Kitty Gottfried, Millard Nachtwey, Barbara Shaw, and perhaps Barbara Doran will help. It would also be helpful if Ron Zucker, Tibor Roberts, and Bruce Goldstein could help Wednesday night, given their exceptional skills. Carole Banks agreed to contact them and seek their assistance. Nadine added that she will need helpers on Thursday too, although she cautioned that we do not need food contributions.

Carole Banks asked if Nadine needs additional caddy help for the annual meeting. Nadine replied that she does not need additional caddy help.

Fred King noted that Jim Allen will run the Annual Meeting.

Sectional

Nadine Wood noted that the next WBL sectional will take place May 14-17. She will be available through Saturday morning, but will be unavailable Saturday afternoon or evening. Carole Banks suggested that for the lunches during the weekend, the salads should be pre-dressed in order to avoid a slowdown in the line while people are choosing salad dressings.

Fred King offered to help Nadine on Friday night. Nadine said that Don Berman agreed to help Friday morning. She will also ask Don if Ron Susi can help. Jim Geist and Carole Banks volunteered to help Saturday morning. Fred King and Jim Geist volunteered to help Sunday evening. Nadine noted that we need somebody to be in charge on Sunday. The Board then discussed a plan of action in that regard.

Fred said that Mark Lavine asked if his club could get the sectional sanction for the Thursday morning game, since the Unit does not run its own sectional game on Thursday morning. It was pointed out that Jim Allen's Washington Bridge Center club had made a similar arrangement with the WBL when it was still in existence. Chris Miller replied that this would not require obtaining a separate sanction, but only requires listing that site on the existing tournament sanction.

Nadine Wood said that we could do this for the October sectional, but it is too late to do it for the May sectional. Also, the Board should insist that Mark run more NAP or GNT events in return. District Six depends on support from clubs for STACs, NAPs, and GNTs.

Fred reported that Mark Lavine does not like to close on Friday for the sectional. He would like to have a split Friday sectional. Fred told Mark that that was a bad idea. There would be additional costs for tournament directors, etc. The WBL has a policy to compensate clubs with free plays if the club closes on the day of a sectional.

Fred moved to allow Mark Lavine run a Thursday morning (11:15 AM) sectional session on a trial basis, starting with the October sectional. When telling Mark of the Board's decision, Fred will strongly suggest that Mark run more NAP and GNT events. Carole Banks seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Youth Tourmanent

Fred King stated that Mark Lavine has agreed to run this event on May 9. He asked how many tables were expected. Ellen Rosenthal estimated perhaps 5 tables. We will need a mentor at each table.

Fred said that Mark Lavine wants us to contribute \$100 toward his rent for this event. We will check on a sanction. He will take care of securing a director. Chris Miller said that the game can be a section under Mark's regular club sanction.

In response to a question, Fred reported that the event is open to participants age 19 and under. Ellen Rosenthal has checked with Barbara Shaw on obtaining trophies. Fred King will attend and monitor the event.

Mentoring Program

Linda Marshall said that she would like to do a social event at Gene Fisher's house during the weekend of May 30 or 31. Will the WBL chip in for drinks?

Linda reported that we are reaching a 6-month point for the mentoring program. The original signup was for 6 months. Maybe we need to poll the mentees and ask them if they have contacted their mentor with questions, and ask them how the program is going. Linda added that we need a few more mentors.

Nationals

According to Fred King, Margot Hennings asked what kind of articles could be put in the Bulletin or TableTalk to stir interest.

Fred reported that remote parking at University of the District of Columbia will cost \$8. The ACBL cut the estimated table count to 13,000, which results in a decrease of the budget by \$10,500. Nadine Wood noted, however, that ACBL will supply the additional funds if attendance exceeds the estimated table count.

Chris Miller said that he would make announcements at the Unit Game for volunteers at the NABC.

Dealing Machine

Ellen Cherniavsky said that Lee Jensen inspected the machine, and predicted that the current machine should last awhile, with proper maintenance. Fred King said that this suggests that the WBL does not need to spend money to upgrade the machine at this time.

Unit Game Parking

Fred King reported that the Church priest was upset because somebody blocked his space. The priest threatened to "shut down" the game. Barry Bragin suggested that the lower level should be off limits for everybody except people who are bringing in supplies. If we have people patrol the area, people will figure it out after a couple of weeks and stop parking there. About five spaces need to be reserved. The rest can be first come, first serve.

Jim Geist, Ellen Cherniavsky and Fred King will arrive early to direct traffic.

Slow Play

Fred King asked if slow play was a problem at the unit game. Chris Miller replied that most people have said no when responding to questionnaires, but they do complain on the floor. Various suggestions were made by board members, with a consensus arrived that the policy is ambiguous now but will have to continue to be ambiguous.

Next Meeting

The next WBL Board meeting will take place May 13, 2009¹ at the new President's house. The Board thanked Carole Banks for her hospitality. Whereupon, the meeting adjourned at 10:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard Ferrin,
Secretary

¹ May 27 was originally proposed as the date for the next meeting, but between the April meeting and the date of drafting of these minutes, the Board agreed by consensus to change the meeting to May 13.

WBL Board Meeting

May 13, 2009

The meeting was held at Don Berman's home.

In attendance: Carole Banks, Don Berman, Ellen Cherniavsky, Richard Ferrin, Jim Geist, Fred King, Linda Marshall, Ron Zucker; non-voting members Chris Miller, Donna Rogall, and Ted Ying.

Don Berman called the meeting to order at 7:35 PM. Don opened by suggesting that we circulate proposed policy changes for general consumption before the Board votes on it. He noted that the Secretary keeps an official copy of the bylaws and policies, and it would help to have before and after versions.

Secretary's Report

The Board approved the minutes without objection.

Treasurer's Report

Steve Robinson, the former treasurer, was not in attendance. Fred King reported a balance of \$6,188 in the WBL's checking account, however there is a balance of about \$5,400 in accounts receivable. The investment account has a balance of \$38,634.53. The building fund currently has \$261.42. Written copies of the annual report were available at the Annual Meeting. Fred King requested approval to buy Quickbooks in order to draw up the quarterly report and budget. He estimated that the version he needs would cost less than \$100. His request was approved unanimously.

Bulletin

Donna Rogall said that the call for Machlin nominations will be going in the next Bulletin. A committee will be appointed to choose the winner.

Bridge at Schools

A party is to be held for Bridge at Schools and other deserving volunteers. Tentative date is June 7. Richard Ferrin offered to host. The Board approved \$15 per person for refreshments.

Unit Game

Chris Miller passed out a spreadsheet summarizing the data on attendance, which is up about two tables per session. There has been a slight mishap with the new cards that were ordered from a supplier that is going out of business: they didn't work with the billing machine. Other cards will have to be ordered.

Ted Ying asked Ellen Cherniavsky, Club Liaison, to poll Kier Porter and Roz Dixon about the Unit Championship they ran using our sanction. Ellen agreed to do this.

We need to find volunteers to monitor parking at the Unit Game. Ron Zucker volunteered to chair the Parking Committee.

Ted Ying noted that Mike Lawrence offers to give a free lecture to any club, his fee being donated to charity. He will pay his own travel expenses. This is in support of his new book. Ted will check with Nadine as to whether it would be appropriate to have him lecture at a sectional, as the Unit Game is probably not a good forum.

Sectional

Nadine Wood was not present. However, Fred noted that she is set on volunteers.

Membership Growth

Carole Banks reported that this is back on track. Alice Wegman and she will work on a club brochure, for which the ACBL will reimburse about 75% of the cost. Ellen Cherniavsky will send Carole her spreadsheet with club information, which includes the email addresses of most of the club managers.

Youth Tournament

Fred King stated that the tournament did not go well.

Mentoring Program

Linda Marshall reported that the program is getting a few new people every month. A mentor-mentee party is planned for May 29. It will be potluck. About 30 people are expected. A budget of \$100 was approved for utensils and soda.

Nationals

Fred noted that volunteers are needed. So is fund raising, as there are no corporate sponsors. Proceeds from a \$1 surcharge at the May sectional will be matched by the WBL. The hope is that \$3200 will be raised.

Barb Doran, Entertainment Committee Chair, announced that part of the entertainment will be a panel in Hollywood Squares format with experts such as Eric Rodwell. She solicited questions for the panel. These should be bridge questions, hopefully with potentially amusing answers.

Committee Assignments

Assignments were reviewed. Some committees were combined. The results are posted on the WBL website. Don Berman has written software to enable updating the data base that underlies the website. He demonstrated it and gave each board member a copy.

Next Meeting

The next WBL Board meeting will take place July 1, 2009 at Ron Zucker's house. The Board thanked Don Berman for his hospitality. Whereupon, the meeting adjourned at 11:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Ellen Cherniavsky,
Secretary

WBL Board Meeting

8 July, 2009

The meeting was held at Ron Zucker's home.

In attendance: Carole Banks, Don Berman, Ellen Cherniavsky, Richard Ferrin, Jim Geist, Hank Meyer, Fred King, Linda Marshall, Ron Zucker; non-voting members Barry Bragin and Donna Rogall.

Don Berman called the meeting to order at 7:31 PM.

Secretary's Report

The Board approved the minutes without objection.

Treasurer's Report

Fred King reported a balance of \$11,973 in the WBL's checking account, and a month's receipts from the Unit Game on hold. The investment account has a balance of \$38,654.29. His goal for the next meeting is to have a statement for the first six months of the year. Fred will check on why Don Berman has not received any statements from the Bank of America. Fred suggested increasing the allowance for hosting the Board Meeting from \$100 to \$125, noting that it has been eight years since there was any increase. Jim Geist and Ellen Cherniavsky argued that it should be more and after some discussion an increase to \$150 was approved with eight for, one opposed and one abstention.

The Treasurer's report was approved without objection.

Bulletin

The Jul/Aug edition is at the printer's and on the website. The schedule for the January section was approved unanimously. It will include IMP Pairs on Friday, hopefully a joint game with the ABA on Saturday, and bracketed Swiss on Sunday. Discussion of events for the other three sectionals was deferred to the next meeting.

Unit Game

Chris Miller and Ted Ying were not present. The schedule needs to be changed so that there is a NAP qualifier July 16, a STaC August 27, and a Unit Championship September 24. The change was approved unanimously.

Ron Zucker reported a lack of volunteers to help monitor parking. The Board approved a full free play for future volunteers.

The Geers have bought a window air conditioning unit and a dehumidifier for the room where the 0-20 game is held, at a cost of approximately \$500. This expenditure was approved unanimously. So far only the air conditioning has been run. Brian Geer will bring the tools necessary for the dehumidifier this coming Thursday.

Brian Geer has joined the Round Robin Committee. He has organized a league of 0-100 teams. Linda Marshall stepped down from the Committee.

Membership Growth

Carole Banks reported that the updated brochures for the clubs, which she and Alice Wegman worked on, are expected to be finalized and printed the week of July 13th. Total cost to the WBL will be about \$100, since the ACBL will reimburse about 75% of the cost. Carole asked for volunteers in addition to the club managers to help in distributing the brochures. Ellen Cherniavsky and Linda Marshall will help.

Nationals

The parking rate has been reduced from \$25/day to \$15/day. People who can volunteer parking slots near their home for out of town guests are still needed.

Machlin Selection Committee

Millard Nachtwey will chair the committee.

Tax Status of WBL

Linda Marshall has explored this question, and concludes that the WBL would not be eligible for 501(c)(3) status. Section 501(c)(3) status would mean a property tax exemption and that donors towards buying a new building would get tax deductions. We now have 501(c)(4) status. A separate 501(c)(3) charitable organization could be formed for tax purposes to conduct WBL's youth-related activities (such as Bridge in Schools). If the 501(c)(3) organization purchases the building, any rent the 501(c)(4) organization paid would be taxable to the 501(c)(3) organization.

Alternative sites to the church are being explored, including the Kensington Armory and Ohr Kodesh.

Next Meeting

The next WBL Board meeting will take place August 26, 2009 at Clyde Kruskal's house. The Board thanked Ron Zucker for his hospitality. Whereupon, the meeting adjourned at 9:24 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Ellen Cherniavsky,
Secretary

WBL Board Meeting

26 August 2009

The meeting was held at Fred King's home.

In attendance: Don Berman, Ellen Cherniavsky, Richard Ferrin, Jim Geist, Fred King, Linda Marshall, Ron Zucker; non-voting member Nadine Wood, and guest Gene Fisher.

Don Berman called the meeting to order at 7:34 PM.

Secretary's Report

The Board approved the minutes without objection.

Possible Building Purchase

Gene Fisher was invited to address the Board on the subject of a possible building purchase. As a preface to Gene's remarks, President Don Berman stated that he had five criteria for a site: 1) Location playable (adequate air conditioning, restrooms, lighting) 2) Large enough for expansion 3) Affordable 4) Adequate parking 5) Convenient location, near metro preferable.

Gene said that there were two decisions that the Board had to make, which were independent. First is whether the WBL should seek tax-exempt status as a charitable organization. (The WBL is currently tax-exempt, but not as a charitable organization.) If it was, or a sister organization was created that was, donations, included money willed, would be tax deductible for the donors. Gene Fisher and Mark Kotlarsky would undertake the paperwork for free. The only expense would be the \$750 fee collected by the Internal Revenue Service.

The second question is whether to buy or lease a building. One advantage of doing so would be that the WBL would become better known in the community. A problem is the upfront money. The site Jim Allen and Gene had investigated, near Routes 28 and 270, is not viable because the developers won't furnish the up-front money. Gene estimated that \$1m would be needed, and said that Jim Allen was convinced this would be easily done through bonds with five percent interest.

The Board thanked Gene for his time and efforts on behalf of the WBL.

The Board discussed the two possibilities. Ron Zucker thought it doubtful that the \$750 cost would be recouped through donations. Linda Marshall thought providing recreational activity for adults might not qualify for status as a charitable organization. The Board decided not to pursue this. The Board also decided unanimously that purchasing a building was not feasible at this time.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Fred King reported that net cash flow is about -\$320. Rent for the sectionals has been prepaid. We are not making much money on the sectionals. Overall cash flow is about \$32,000 a year, with the net from the Unit Game about \$8600, total income \$16,000, \$6,000 to directors and caddies, \$4,000 to the ACBL. The bulletin is very costly: at least \$2,500 per bulletin. We may consider having a quarterly bulletin rather than six issues a year.

Fred is not as far along with the financial statement as he had hoped due to software problems.

The Treasurer's report was approved without objection.

Nationals

Attendance was 1100 tables more than budgeted. We will get money for the extra tables. There were fewer tables than in 2002, by about 500. More local people attended; certainly the reduced parking rate and additional parking helped. The ACBL wants to put us on a six year cycle.

The company that made the T-shirts sent the wrong color. They will be reimbursed for their cost of \$1500.

Eighty players from Leslie Schaefer's game attended the Nationals. It was suggested that money be appropriated for bidding boxes for her game, however the Board took no action.

October Sectional

Jim Geist volunteered to help on Saturday, and Clyde Kruskal Saturday morning. Nadine needs help during lunch. Ron Zucker volunteered to cook chili.

Nadine was awarded two gift certificates worth \$75 with the gratitude of the Board.

Nadine talked to the Senior Center about possibly holding the sectional there on Friday. Normally they have activities there until 3:30. We may be able to go there at 2 pm on Fridays, starting in March. Nadine will follow up.

Unit Game

Chris Miller reported that the printer is in a shaky state and the computer's days are numbered.

Mark Lavine's game is not included in the trophy races. Don Berman will check the minutes and wording on the web site.

Mentor Program

No report.

Brochure Distribution

Ellen Cherniavsky said that the brochures had been distributed to club owners.

Bridge in Schools

Elaine Conway is helping with this program. No report is available at this time. Ellen Rosenthal continues as adviser.

Future Location(s) of All WBL Events

[As background, Christ the King Church sent a certified letter to Fred King on 17 July 2009 stating that as of 1 January 2010 the rent would go up to \$350. We are now paying \$260, which is up from the \$225 paid for the last two years. Coincidentally, on 17 July Don Berman and Ellen Cherniavsky met with Jerry Kiewe, the executive director at Ohr Kodesh, to discuss the possibility of having our Unit Game in their Social Hall, which has been renovated since the last time we held the Unit Game there. Subsequently, on 13 August, Don Berman, Ellen Cherniavsky, Fred King and Millard Nachtwey met with Mr. Kiewe; Millard concluded that the space would accommodate the number of tables we usually have, including the Geer's game. All agreed that the lighting is better than at the church. According to Ellen Cherniavsky, the women's bathroom has three times the number of stalls as at the church, and is considerably more pleasant. Mr. Kiewe expressed willingness to accept rent in line with what we are now paying. One issue is where to store our tables, since Ohr Kodesh is currently using almost all its storage space. The suggested solution is to build a shed close to the existing one; Ohr Kodesh would split the cost, estimated at about \$1000, with us.]

Fred King moved that the Unit Game move to Ohr Kodesh as of the second Thursday in January, which would be after our sectional.

Ellen Cherniavsky moved that we should pay half the cost of the shed that will be used to store the tables, and up to \$300 per week in rent. Jim Geist seconded. The motion was approved unanimously. Don Berman, President, and Clyde Kruskal, Chair of the Unit Game Committee, were authorized to conduct negotiations with Ohr Kodesh on behalf of the WBL.

Fred King will draft a letter to the church.

Machlin Selection Committee

Ellen Cherniavsky volunteered to continue on the committee. Jim Geist said he would forward emails.

Next Meeting

The next WBL Board meeting will take place October 7, 2009 at Hank Meyer's house. The Board thanked Fred King for his hospitality. Whereupon, the meeting adjourned at 10:20 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Ellen Cherniavsky,
Secretary

WBL Board Meeting

7 October 2009

The meeting was held at Hank Meyer's home.

In attendance: Carole Banks, Don Berman, Ellen Cherniavsky, Richard Ferrin, Jim Geist, Fred King, Clyde Kruskal, Linda Marshall, Hank Meyer, Ron Zucker; non-voting members Chris Miller, Donna Rogall, Nadine Wood.

President Don Berman called the meeting to order at 7:29 PM.

Secretary's Report

The Board approved the minutes without objection.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Fred King reported that there is \$8043.75 in the checking account, down \$4238.08 from the start of the year. However there is a check yet to be deposited. The money market account has about \$38,000 and is earning .05% interest. Fred suggested that we allocate \$30,000 to CDs, split among six, 12 and 18 month CDs. Carole Banks made a motion to put \$15,000 each into one six-month and one twelve-month CD. Jim Geist proposed an amendment with the money going to a six-month, nine-month and twelve-month CDs. The amendment failed by a vote of five to four; Carole's motion passed with nine votes.

There has been a problem with the dual check signing required by the Constitution. Two of the three potential signers were out of town when money was needed for the mailing account. Fred King suggested an amendment to the Constitution which would allow for a single signer when the amount was below a threshold limit. This would be voted on at the Annual Meeting. Fred will propose the wording.

The Treasurer's report was approved without objection.

October Sectional

Nadine Wood, Tournament Chair, reported that the October sectional was disappointing in attendance, down about 80 tables from 450. There was no obvious explanation, however there had been no August sectional, and the B-C-D players were missing. There are still problems with the food lines, especially with people taking food onto carpeted areas.

The January sectional will be held at the Church, which plans to charge us the same rent (as for October). The Church's Board of Directors will have a meeting soon where they will discuss the other dates in 2010 that we requested.

Nadine talked to the Senior Center about holding the Friday games at the March sectional there. Start time could be as early as 2:00. Nadine proposed starting times of 2:00 and 6:30. Ron Zucker objected that 6:30 was too early for working people; Chris

Miller said he could not direct at that starting time. After some discussion, Nadine decided that the starting times will be 2:30 and 7:00. It was noted that this is the purview of the tournament chair. It was agreed that the advertising for the May sectional that circulates before March will assume a return to the senior center for the Friday during the May sectional also, even though either we or the center may decide to go back to somewhere such as the church where we can hold 3 sessions.

Unit Game

Don Berman expects to receive an email draft contract from the Ohr Kodesh representative, Jerry Kiewe, soon. Chris Miller noted that he will have to register a change of address for the club, and phone number; he was supplied with this information. Chris also said that after we settle into Ohr Kodesh, it may be possible to cut back to two directors.

Chris Miller raised the question of where we will hold the game on the Thursday before Thanksgiving, when the Church will be renovating the social room. No decision was reached.,but it is likely to be at Ohr Kodesh

Chris Miller stated that the computer needs to be replaced. Richard Ferrin moved that up to \$500 be authorized for a new computer; this motion was passed unanimously.

The Unit Game schedule for 2010 has not yet been finalized. There will be a meeting Saturday October 17 at Millard Nachtwey's to do this. Communication with the Board about this issue will be handled through email.

Ron Zucker will no longer be able to handle parking. Don Berman volunteered for this Thursday.

There was a discussion of what to do with the lamps, air conditioner and humidifier which have been purchased for games at the Church. It was decided that the lamps should be donated to the Church. We will keep the other equipment.

Brochure Distribution

Carole Banks, Chair of the Membership Growth Committee, reported that the brochures have been distributed, however Mark Lavine does not seem to have picked up his share. Carole will look into this. Reimbursement from the ACBL was received and Fred King will request the NVBA for their contribution.

Bridge in Schools

No one seems to be interested in helping conduct this program. Ellen Rosenthal can devote very little time to it.

WBL Bulletin

Linda Marshall will continue to be in charge of Bridge and Bowling; Don Berman will make arrangements with the bowling alley.

Donna Rogall mentioned that there is a problem with the camera used to take pictures of winners of WBL events. She was asked to submit an estimate of how much it would cost to replace the camera.

There is a question about how much money is in the mailing account used to send out the Bulletin and the system to replenish it. Don Berman will follow up.

Machlin Selection Committee

Many members did not hear the announcement at the sectional, therefore, there will be a reannouncement of the recipient of the Sportsmanship Award, Rose Berman.

Purchase of Bidding Boxes for Leslie Shaefer

It was suggested that when the WBL replaces bidding boxes, these could be donated to Leslie Shaefer, or other teachers holding novice games. Action on this item was deferred until after the Board has seen a cost estimate.

Trophy Race Rules

It was decided that this issue will not be revisited until the current rules have been in effect for three years.

Payment of Tournament Assistant Test Fee

It was agreed that this fee would be paid for Hank Meyer, and Ted Ying, as it was for Chris Miller. This will not be a general policy, but will be decided on a case-by-case basis.

Friday Night Sectional Game

Richard Ferrin noted that attendance at this event has been very poor. The decision to run a stratiflighted game was unwise in retrospect.

Next Meeting

The next WBL Board meeting will take place November 11, 2009 at Clyde Kruskal's house. The Board thanked Hank Meyer for his hospitality. Whereupon, the meeting adjourned at 9:32 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Ellen Cherniavsky,
Secretary

WBL Board Meeting

11 November 2009

The meeting was held at Clyde Kruskal's home.

In attendance: Carole Banks, Don Berman, Ellen Cherniavsky, Richard Ferrin, Jim Geist, Fred King, Clyde Kruskal, Linda Marshall, Ron Zucker; non-voting members Barry Bragin, Donna Rogall; guests Barbara Doran, Mark Rosen.

President Don Berman called the meeting to order at 7:51 PM.

Secretary's Report

The Board approved the minutes without objection.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Fred King ascertained that our Wachovia accounts were earning near zero interest and incurred fees of \$60 per year. He therefore withdrew the money (about \$38,000) and got quotes from three other banks. Because we have a checking account at the Bank of America, they offer the best terms. Fred will split the money between a 1.2% certificate of deposit and a money market account paying 1%.

Fred also investigated the status of our account with the post office, which is used for sending out the Bulletin. This information is unavailable online, but a contact has been established. The Bulletin costs about \$2500 per issue to mail.

The Treasurer's report was approved without objection.

Bridge in Schools

Guest Mark Rosen was invited to speak next. Mark has been teaching at Tilden for the last seven years. He stated that there are plenty of volunteers willing to teach, but coordinators haven't been effective in getting schools to participate; efforts to involve schools need to start in March or April for the following fall. Mark believes middle schools are the best place to try to develop bridge players. Mark is willing to spearhead a search for a coordinator, and will develop a clear job description. He will talk to the principal at his school and try to contact other principals.

President's Report

President Don Berman received an email draft agreement from the Ohr Kodesh representative, Jerry Kiewe. We will be holding the Unit Game there on 19 November, and thereafter starting in January 2010. The regular rental rate will be set at \$300 per use, which includes the cost of setting up and taking down the tables; this rate will remain in effect through June 30, 2010. A new shed will not be purchased to store the tables; they will be placed in the storage room adjacent to the Social Hall.

Because of the prohibition on bringing in non-kosher food, there may be no Holiday Party next year at the synagogue. Traditionally people have brought pot-luck to the party, rather than the food being supplied by the Hospitality Committee.

After the January sectional the Church will charge \$95 per hour for the use of the Social Hall.

Carole Banks has looked into a Seventh Day Adventist church where we might be able to hold sectionals. There may be a religious objection to holding card games there. Nadine Wood, tournament chair, is working on the possibility of holding sectional Fridays at the Senior Center.

Bridge and Bowling has been set up for Super Bowl Saturday in Laurel.

Don Berman will be on vacation and asked for volunteers to fill in on getting Unit Game results on the web site. Ron Zucker volunteered.

Unit Game

Chris Miller was not present, but sent a spreadsheet via email. Up to now \$8000 has been earned on the Unit Game, very little money has been made on the sectionals. A new computer has been purchased for less than the \$500 authorized by the Board.

The Unit Game schedule for 2010 was finalized after some discussion of how many B-A-M team games to hold: zero, one or two. The vote in favor of two was overwhelming.

Guest Barbara Doran stated that she needs partners for the guaranteed partner program. Carole Banks suggested that she compile a roster of volunteers for the entire year, as people might be willing to volunteer one week a year, but not every month. Barbara will act on this suggestion.

Carole Banks said that not enough publicity was given to the joint game with the ABA, and suggested that memorabilia such as pencils engraved with the name and date of the event be distributed to every table. She was asked to provide a cost estimate, and directed to Adrienne Kuehneman.

WBL Bulletin

Donna Rogall submitted an estimate of less than \$60 to replace the camera used to take pictures of winners of WBL events and was authorized to do so.

Donna will compile bills due for ads in the Bulletin.

Printing of Life Master List

This list includes points won on-line. There was some discussion of whether this was appropriate, and Don Berman will undertake to find out if it is possible to separate out those points. Richard Ferrin moved to eliminate the listing of points won for the year. This lost three to four with two abstentions.

Next Meeting

The next WBL Board meeting will take place December 16, 2009 at Carole Bank's house. The Board thanked Clyde Kruskal for his hospitality. Whereupon, the meeting adjourned at 9:32 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Ellen Cherniavsky,
Secretary

WBL Board Meeting

16 December 2009

The meeting was held at Carole Banks' home.

In attendance: Carole Banks, Don Berman, Ellen Cherniavsky, Richard Ferrin, Jim Geist, Fred King, Clyde Kruskal, Linda Marshall, Hank Meyer, Ron Zucker; non-voting members Barry Bragin, Kitty Gottfried, Chris Miller, Donna Rogall, Nadine Wood; guest Ajit Thyagarajan.

President Don Berman called the meeting to order at 7:39 PM.

Secretary's Report

The Board approved the minutes without objection.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Fred King reported that at the start of December our total funds were: Checking \$7501.04; Money Market \$20,007.32; CD \$20,000.00 for a total of \$47,508.36. This compares to the figures at the beginning of the year, which were Checking: \$12,282.00 and Money Market \$38,624.71 for a total of \$50,906.71 or a decrease of about \$3400 over the first 11 months of the year. The Unit Game has been making a positive cash flow of about \$800-900 a month. In addition we receive about \$5200 a year from ACBL dues. The cost of writing, editing, printing, sorting and mailing the Bulletin is about \$15,000 a year, offset by advertising revenue of about \$2000 a year. Out of a gross income of over \$60,000 from the sectionals, the net was just over \$1000, so sectionals basically break even.

The Treasurer's report was approved without objection.

Review of Ohr Kodesh Experience

A number of issues were noted. A coat rack is needed, and the selling table should be located outside the playing room. Additional trash bins would be helpful to reduce the clean-up burden. A list of things to buy will be made the next time we play there. The microphone should not be live at all times and players should be cautioned that the tables against the wall are in a natural echo chamber. The space for the lesson was cramped, and it was decided that the lesson will be held in the main room, and the divider removed; the games will share a common refreshment table. The temperature will be adjusted through remote programming so that it does not get too cold late in the evening. Kitty Gottfried, in charge of hospitality, noted that it is expensive to supply kosher refreshments; Ron Zucker volunteered to go shopping with her.

Holiday Party

Nadine Wood reported that food is being cooked as people usually don't bring portions sufficient for the entire membership.

January Sectional and Life Master Presentation

Nadine asked for and got volunteers. Emails will follow identifying the new Life Masters whose names will appear on the cakes.

Unit Game

Chris Miller reported that the main game is fractionally down in attendance while the teaching game is up.

Bridge in Schools

Guest Ajit Thyagarajan has agreed to be the new chair of this committee. He will follow up on Mark Rosen's work. Ajit observed that bridge has a marketing problem, and suggested that a social networking page on Facebook could be useful, and Twitter might be an avenue as well.

Joint WBL/ABA Game

Carole Banks reported that this game is scheduled for 11:00am on January 9, 2010 at the sectional. Flyers have gone out. President Don Berman will deliver a welcome address, and there will be a cake. Mementos in the form of regular-size pencils bearing the name of the event will be put on every table. Both types of masterpoints will be awarded.

At this point the question of whether to donate to Leslie Schaefer's game bidding boxes that the WBL is replacing was brought up. Don Berman agreed to do more research into the matter, as we usually only need to replace inserts; the bidding boxes themselves are relatively sturdy.

WBL Bulletin

Donna Rogall reported receiving a used camera, which Donna estimated at being worth \$30, and requested that that amount plus \$12 for a new battery be authorized. This was passed with seven in favor, one opposed, two abstentions.

Printing of WBL/NBVA Directory

Don Berman will take care of this. Last year we printed 900 copies and ran out by August. Email addresses will not be published.

Next Meeting

The next WBL Board meeting will take place January 27, 2010 at Ellen Cherniavsky's house. The Board thanked Carole Banks for her hospitality. Whereupon, the meeting adjourned at 9:12 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Ellen Cherniavsky,
Secretary