

WBL Board Meeting

27 January 2010

The meeting was held at Ellen Cherniavsky's home.

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

President Don Berman called the meeting to order at 7:48 PM.

Secretary's Report

The Board approved the minutes without objection.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Fred King reported that as of 31 December our total funds were: Checking \$2855.33; Money Market \$20,019.85; CD \$20,018.74. The checking account balance appears low because no Unit Game funds were counted. Fred is following up on the Bulletin ads: he sent bills to the advertisers in December, but only one of the five has paid. Fred is working to recoup \$1150 which should have been paid out of the District 6 account, but which was taken from WBL funds [this was to Donna Rogall for TableTalk]. Fred is still trying to get through 2009, and has not drawn up a budget yet.

The Treasurer's report was approved without objection.

President's Report

President Don Berman reported that Nadine Wood, who currently holds the position, will not run for ACBL representative. Margot Hennings, who has declared her candidacy, will be invited to address a future Board meeting. Elections are not until August.

Membership now stands at 1740, which represents an increase.

Review of Ohr Kodesh Experience

The only problem continues to be the parking: there have been a number of complaints.

An issue is that we do not now have a key to close up with, and if the janitor stays past 9:35 PM the charge is \$30/hr. President Don Berman volunteered to get a key.

Donna Rogall suggested that hospitality be offered earlier, to accommodate people who would otherwise bring food to the game but cannot because of Ohr Kodesh restrictions.

January Sectional

Brooms were not available, creating a problem with cleanup. The person with the key to the closet goes home at 3:00: we must insure all cleaning supplies are out before then. A checklist is needed. Otherwise the tournament was very successful.

Unit Game

Chris Miller was not present, but sent a spreadsheet by email.

Bridge in Schools

Guest Ajit Thyagarajan met with Shawn Stringer, Ellen Rosenthal (former chair) and Mark Rosen (who has been teaching at Tilden Middle School for seven years). Ellen, Mark and Shawn have agreed to help out. Mark has sent out notices to principals; we have two schools and two more have expressed interest: Poolesville and Ridgefield. Ajit presented a list of eight issues which need to be addressed in order to develop a successful program. A job description for school coordinator is needed.

WBL Bulletin

Treasurer Fred King asked the Bulletin committee to get quotes from printers. We have no written contract with Todd Allan, which currently does it. Donna is inquiring into an \$85 charge for "file intervention", which has been added to each issue this year. The mail preparation charges have gone up (from about \$300 originally (8+ years ago) to \$500 for each of our last 2 issues).

In addition, Donna Rogall will talk to Charlie Williams, our account representative.

March Sectional

Nadine Wood requested more help, especially for Friday afternoons. Steve Schatzow volunteered to bring bagels for Saturday and Sunday.

Kitty Gottfried reported on tournament problems, which included people joining the line for food when it was supposed to be reserved for students. There was a problem with the coffeepot, and no announcement over loudspeaker. Kitty suggested that the daily bulletin include a list of responsibilities, such as caddy master, so people will know whom to complain to.

Bridge and Bowling

There have been few signups.

Next Meeting

The next WBL Board meeting will take place February 17, 2010 at Linda Marshall's house. The meeting was adjourned at 9:47 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Ellen Cherniavsky,
Secretary

**WBL Board Meeting
24 February 2010**

The meeting was held at Linda Marshall's home.

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

President Don Berman called the meeting to order at 7:46 PM.

Secretary's Report

The Board approved the minutes subject to the modification that Steve Schatzow volunteered to bring bagels for Saturday and Sunday for the March Sectional.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Fred King has purchased QuickBooksPro. He reported that as of 31 December 2009 our total funds were down about \$8000 from 1 Jan 2009. He is investigating this and hopes to have more details by the next meeting. He added that we have made money on the dealing machine.

The Treasurer's report was approved without objection.

President's Report

President Don Berman noted that we need to think about the WBL Board elections in May. All current members of the Board are planning to run.

March Sectional

Tournament Chair Nadine Wood has rented the Argyle Center in addition to the space at the Senior Center. Twenty four tables of the Compact KO can be accommodated at the Argyle Center, but we and all our equipment (e.g. bidding boxes) must be out of there by 2pm. It was suggested that hospitality be limited to sodas and water there. For the tournament, someone is needed to keep the bathrooms clean, and Nadine needs more help with the hospitality. Street parking should be monitored so that people don't block driveways or park across the street from the Center.

The Newport Mills school has been rented on Saturday and Sunday for the May sectional. The Friday morning session will be held at the synagogue. It was suggested that we look into renting the school for the Friday evening game. Don Berman will look into places and times for the Friday game.

Donna Rogall noted that March 8 will be the last appearance in TableTalk of the ad for the May sectional.

Jim Geist reported that the new Silver Spring Civic Center building will not open until June or July. The Great Hall will hold 50-60 tables. Rental rates are yet to be determined.

Don Berman said that the Kensington Armory was a good alternative, at a reasonable cost, though the downstairs location of the kitchen is a drawback.

Carole Banks stated that the Seventh Day Adventist church near her home has adequate space, however holding a card game there might be an issue. The location is farther out than desired.

Unit Game

Chris Miller reported that one of the Unit Championship sanctions was lost due to the game being cancelled on account of the snow. The sanction could be offered to the clubs, in addition to the two sanctions we have available.

A continuing issue is that we do not now have a key to close up with at Ohr Kodesh, and must pay an extra \$60 for the janitor to remain.

Bridge in Schools

Ajit Thyagarajan was not present.

WBL Bulletin

Donna Rogall noted that since 2000 the printing cost has risen from \$910 to \$995 and since 2001 the mail processing fee has risen from \$300 to \$500. The periodical per piece rate is 12.5 cents. Charlie Williams used to get us a 20 percent discount, but this is no longer available. Charlie Williams has offered a quote, good for a year, of about \$1500, our current price. Donna added that Don Berman got quotes from two other printing companies that were \$400+ higher than Todd Allan's quote.

Fred King reported that the post office has been moved from Burtonsville to Gaithersburg, and that the periodical rate is cheaper than bulk mail: 15 cents as opposed to 25 cents. He suggested we stop running ads that advertisers have not paid for, but no action was taken.

Donna mentioned that the next Bulletin needs an advertisement for the July regional. Fred commented that our contract with the hotel specifies that they can't sell rooms for less than the rate quoted to us, but that they have already done that with respect to an AAA rate for the weekend. Fred's view is that we no longer have an obligation to meet our room block requirements.

Nadine needs a volunteer chair and an information chair.

Snow Policy

There was a lengthy discussion of what the snow policy should be. Clyde Kruskal agreed to send out suggested wording for the Board to review.

Budget for 2010

Treasurer Fred King will prepare a budget to be presented at the next meeting under a set of assumptions about the future table count. He noted that the NVBA has raised their Unit Game rate to \$9. Nadine Wood said that the dates for sectionals in 2011 are Jan 6-9, May 12-15, Aug 11-14 and Oct 13-26.

Bridgemates

Ellen Cherniavsky got a quote and a demo Bridgemate from the company. In the interim, Doug Grove prepared a statement for the MABC, and Fred King agreed to be a member of the MABC committee that will evaluate Wireless Electronic Scoring Technology. The Board will await the results from this committee, which is to meet both in Reno and New Orleans, where the competing technologies, Bridgemate and BridgePad, will be employed.

Next Meeting

The next WBL Board meeting will take place March 31, 2010 at Nadine Wood's house. The meeting was adjourned at 9:37 PM.

Respectfully submitted, Ellen Cherniavsky, Secretary

WBL Board Meeting

5 April 2010

The meeting was held at Nadine Wood's home.

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

President Don Berman called the meeting to order at 8:02 PM.

Secretary's Report

The Board approved the minutes without objection.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Fred King circulated a profit and loss statement. He noted that advertisers in the WBL Bulletin have not paid their bills, despite having been sent invoices. The Treasurer's report was approved without objection.

President's Report

President Don Berman said that Jim Allen will emcee the Annual Meeting. Since this will be held at Ohr Kodesh, we must provide kosher food. Ron Zucker will check into prices for sandwiches at nearby establishments. He was authorized to commit to up to \$12 per sandwich.

May Sectional

Friday events will be held at Ohr Kodesh. The Newport Mills School will be the site for Saturday and Sunday.

Tournament Chair Nadine Wood will be away. Richard Ferrin volunteered to coordinate the hospitality for Sunday of the sectional. Ron Zucker volunteered for Saturday.

Jim Geist proposed mandating gloves for food handlers. Nadine Wood said she would quit if this motion was passed, as she is allergic to the latex. The motion was defeated by five to one with three abstentions.

It was noted that if we can hold events at the new Silver Spring Armory we can cut back on food as there are many restaurants in the area.

It was also noted that WBL sectionals have a higher ratio of directors to players than NVBA sectionals.

Unit Game

Chris Miller was not present but sent a report by email.

We need to talk to Jerry Kiewe of Ohr Kodesh about Thursdays in May. In September all four Thursdays are unavailable. Carole Banks will check on the availability of the Seventh Day Adventist church for September.

Bridge in Schools

Ajit Thyagarajan has received notes from Ellen Rosenthal. He needs help from people who have time during weekdays. A call for volunteers will be placed in the Bulletin. Don Berman, Webmaster, will create a website for Bridge in Schools where people can register.

WBL Bulletin

Donna Rogall said that Todd Allan will print the next issue of the Bulletin. A new printer will be needed around the beginning of May. Mailing costs will go up. The cost to print is about \$1450 while the cost to mail is \$395 not including postage. Discussion ensued on whether to eliminate mailing the Bulletin and instead circulate it via email, while making a number of printed copies available at the Unit Game. It was decided that this question should be on the ballot for the annual meeting. A straw vote on eliminating the mailing of printed copies was passed six to one with two abstentions.

Wireless Electronic Scoring Devices

Fred King reported that due to transmission problems, BridgePads will probably not be recommended by the MABC committee which is evaluating wireless scoring devices. BridgeMates will probably be preferred.

New Locations for Sectionals

The August sectional has to be held at another location than the Schweinhaut Center. The facilities manager there was not happy with the cleanliness of the site while the event was in progress, and refuses to deal with certain WBL representatives in the future. In any case, the Schweinhaut Center is booked for August. Don Berman will look into the availability of the Kensington Armory.

The large room in the new Silver Spring civic building is smaller than the one at Ohr Kodesh. There is two tier pricing, and a concern about whether we will be able to obtain the lower tier price. Saturday evenings may be a problem.

Joint NVBA-WBL Board Meeting

NVBA President Bob Boyd suggested we hold a joint meeting. The Board felt that any issues requiring a joint meeting could be taken care of more informally at the regional in July.

Mentor Committee Party

Gene Fisher has generously offered to host this again on Saturday May 1st. Lately there have not been many people signing up for this program; it is time to poll the mentees again. A budget of \$100 for the party was approved unanimously.

Next Meeting

The next WBL Board meeting will take place April 28, 2010 at Richard Ferrin's house. The board thanked Nadine for her hospitality. Whereupon the meeting was adjourned at 11:05 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Ellen Cherniavsky,
Secretary

WBL Board Meeting

28 April 2010

The meeting was held at Richard Ferrin's home.

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

President Don Berman called the meeting to order at 7:35 PM.

Secretary's Report

The Board approved the minutes without objection.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Fred King was not present. He circulated a revised profit and loss statement for 2009 by email. [Also by email, Fred noted that four out of five advertisers in the WBL Bulletin have paid their bills.] The Treasurer's report was approved without objection.

President's Report

President Don Berman deferred discussion of rules for allowing conventions to the New Business portion of the meeting.

May Sectional

There was some discussion of whether David Solomon, a caddy, might be able to pick up the food that will be ordered on Saturday and Sunday. Also discussed was whether a refrigerator will be available at the site, the Newport Mills School.

The August sectional will be held at the Kensington Armory. Clyde Kruskal volunteered to take the coffee pots there, to aid Hospitality Chair Kitty Gottfried. Bulletin Editor Donna Rogall passed around a flyer for the sectional which met with no objections.

Unit Game

Chris Miller was not present but sent a report by email.

Bridge in Schools

Ajit Thyagarajan was not present. Ron Zucker called for volunteers on his behalf.

WBL Bulletin

Donna Rogall had received a quote by email from Burgundy Press, which is not much more than we were paying Todd Allan. It was noted that the NVBA has plan by which members can opt out of receiving printed copies of their bulletin. Also, the NVBA only publishes four issues per year.

A call for Machlin nominees will appear in the next WBL Bulletin.

Locations for May 20 Game

While the Friday events will be held at Ohr Kodesh, that site will be unavailable to us on Thursday, May 20. Alternative sites were considered, but it was decided that despite the expense, Christ the King Church would be the best place to hold the Thursday evening game. President Don Berman will see to the arrangements.

Agenda for Annual Meeting

Don Berman has a list of the Ace of Clubs award winners, which he will read while the vote is being tallied.

Bridge for Wounded Warriors

Don Berman will contact Bob Boyd, president of the NVBA, to discuss how the WBL might participate in this effort.

Mentor Committee Party

This is scheduled to take place Saturday May 1st.

Conventions Allowed in WBL Events

President Don Berman led a discussion of what conventions should be allowed in WBL events. In our club games, e.g. the Unit Game, we can allow Mid-Chart conventions irrespective of board limits [for sectionals and above the ACBL forbids the use of Multi Two Diamonds in rounds of fewer than six boards]. It was generally agreed that Mid-Chart irrespective of board limits should be used in Flight A/X. A motion was made to allow Mid-Chart respective of board limits in B/C/D starting in August. This was passed with six in favor, two abstentions. For Novice and NLM, only the General Convention Chart will be permitted.

It was noted that no pre-alert is required for conventions such as 1N-2D showing one major and 1m-P-2H showing a two or three way bid, if an accepted defense is available. Secretary Ellen Cherniavsky volunteered to send a suggested defense for 1N-2D showing one major; Ron Zucker similarly for the 1m-P-2H sequence.

Next Meeting

The next WBL Board meeting will take place June 2, 2010 at Don Berman's house [assuming he is re-elected]. The board thanked Richard for his hospitality. Whereupon the meeting was adjourned at 8:58 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Ellen Cherniavsky,
Secretary

WBL Board Meeting

2 June 2010

The meeting was held at Don Berman's home.

In attendance: Carole Banks, Don Berman, Ellen Cherniavsky, Richard Ferrin, Jim Geist, Fred King, Clyde Kruskal, Linda Marshall, Hank Meyer, non-voting members Kitty Gottfried and Donna Rogall.

President Don Berman called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM.

Secretary's Report

The Board approved the minutes without objection.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Fred King circulated a first quarter profit and loss statement by email. He noted that while the loss was apparently \$850, the true loss was more like \$3500 after taking into account the facts that we will only be getting two more checks from the ACBL in compensation for membership dues, and only one of the six Bulletins was paid for in the first quarter. This loss is on an income of \$48,000.

We are losing money on the sectionals. One large expense is food, which cost \$10,262; the second largest is director fees at \$9,664. Fred is going to compare expenses with the NVBA, which makes money on sectionals while breaking even on their Unit Game.

Carole Banks observed for the record that the improvements Fred has made to the financial report have rendered it much more helpful.

The Treasurer's report was approved without objection.

President's Report

Don Berman apologized to Fred King for not calling on him to give a Treasurer's report at the Annual Meeting.

May Sectional

Attendance amounted to about 370 tables, which includes 22 at Mark Lavine's game, down from 400. Concern was expressed about cigarette butts being left outside the playing area. It is imperative that we leave county facilities in orderly condition.

Unit Game

Chris Miller was not present but sent a report by email.

Bridge in Schools

Ajit Thyagarajan was not present, but Jim Geist reported in his place that Ajit has had no success in finding volunteers to take the lead on the program.

WBL Bulletin Printing

Quotes have been received as follows:

	<u>Print</u>	<u>Mail</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Comment</u>
Burgundy Press	\$1228.20	\$370.80	\$1659.00	exact estimate
Lewis Creative Tech	\$810.00	\$280.00	\$1090.00	
Spectrum	\$1235.60	\$317.36	\$1552.96	too low. Covers bleeds but not spoilage.
ZanCan Press	no quote received			

We receive the mailing rate for periodicals because we mail from the Gaithersburg office. We can submit a request for a periodical mailing rate out of the Richmond office; Fred will do the paperwork. We could also have Lewis ship the copies by UPS at a cost of \$40-\$50 to us and have someone take them to the Shady Grove Post Office (it might be necessary to pay someone to do that). Donna Rogall noted that if we use an out-of-town printer we may incur greater mailing costs. Fred volunteered to get an estimate of how much extra the cost would be. One concern with out of town mailing from Richmond is the added time it would take to receive the bulletin. Another concern is the printing turnaround time using George Lewis, the Richmond printer. So far, we've only printed one TableTALK issue with them and it arrived over one week later than usual. Donna brought up another option: to print the bulletin in Richmond, but have the mail processing done here, avoiding the necessity of a WBL member being involved in taking the magazines to the post office. Bulk mailing was also discussed and rejected as a good option due to cost and mailing time.

WBL Bulletin

In the next Bulletin, recipients will be given the choice of opting out of receiving a hard copy by mail. Instead they can receive an email notifying them when a link to the most recently published edition is available. Linda and Don both volunteered to handle the opting out mailing list issues.

Suggested Defenses to Mid-Chart Conventions

Ellen Cherniavsky proposed that a committee be formed to recommend how to eliminate pre-alerts for two Mid-Chart conventions: 1N-2D showing a one-suited major, and 1minor-P-2hearts showing a 2- or 3-way bid, including an invitational no trump hand. The committee would develop written defenses which would be available to the opponents. The motion was passed with five in favor, four against. The committee will consist of Hank Meyer, Chair; Ellen Cherniavsky; Clyde Kruskal; Donna Rogall.

Wounded Warriors

Don Berman volunteered to take charge of this item. We had received an email from Bob Boyd, president of the NVBA, suggesting that we could help wounded soldiers at Walter Reed by teaching them bridge and sponsoring regular games there.

New Locations for Sectionals

Don Berman, Millard Nachtwey and Nadine Wood will be negotiating with the Silver Spring Civic Center. They were authorized to spend up to \$6000 in rent. [We are expecting a quote from the Civic Center June 7. It will include Friday evening. However, depending on the price we may need to consider dropping the Friday evening game to fit within our budget.] It was noted that the NVBA spends \$4000 per sectional for rent including Thursday.

July Regional

Volunteers are needed. Adrienne Kuehnemann is the Volunteer Chair. Fred requested that if we get a room for under the published bridge rate, we notify him. This will assist in nullifying possible penalties for not filling our block of rooms.

August Sectional

This will be held at the Kensington Armory. Don Berman is checking into parking.

Arrangements for Temporary Unit Game Relocation for September

Don Berman is investigating whether the game can be held at Ohr Kodesh the first Thursday in September; the Kensington Armory has been rented for the other four Thursdays.

New non-NLM Sectional

Shawn Stringer submitted a proposal for holding a non-NLM sectional in this area. Fred King moved to approve the proposal, which was seconded and passed unanimously.

Next Meeting

The next WBL Board meeting will take place August 4, 2010 at Hank Meyer's house. On September 15th, Richard Ferrin will host the meeting, at which the candidates for District Six representative to the ACBL Board of Directors will make presentations. The candidates are Mike Cappelletti and Margot Hennings.

The board thanked Don for his hospitality. Whereupon the meeting was adjourned at 9:58 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Ellen Cherniavsky,
Secretary

WBL Board Meeting

4 August 2010

The meeting was held at Hank Meyer's home.

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

President Don Berman called the meeting to order at 7:17 PM.

Secretary's Report

The Board approved the minutes without objection.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Fred King circulated a first six months profit and loss statement. While we are making money on the Unit Game, the sectionals show a loss of about \$5,000. The biggest expense is director fees, closely followed by refreshments and hospitality. Ted Ying noted that in the past we have had an extra director at some of the sessions at the sectionals. Fred plans to do a financial analysis of the last seven or eight sectionals as compared with the NVBA and other units.

President's Report

Don Berman stated that the winner of the Machlin award has not been selected yet, and this award is usually given at either the August or October sectional (there will not be an October sectional this year due to Worlds in Philadelphia). He suggested that the award be deferred until the Holiday party, however the committee decided to meet in time for the award to be made in August.

August Sectional

The sectional will be held at the Kensington Armory. There will be outdoor street parking, but the churchgoers will compete for it on Sunday.

Nadine needs a cart for the coffee, as the kitchen is below the game site. She also needs help (in addition to Dana) loading supplies for Friday, and needs a truck for Saturday. Fred King and Jim Geist volunteered to help.

Unit Game

Bridgemates

Chris Miller said that attendees have had no reaction to the use of Bridgemates at our local game, but Kitty Gottfried (Hospitality Chair) objected to reducing the number of caddies, citing problems with clean-up. Fred King reported that at the Nationals in New Orleans, the system crashed twice, once very badly causing a near disaster. Fred is on the MABC committee to decide

about the implementation of wireless electronic scoring devices; no decision has been made in the wake of what happened in New Orleans.

Chris Miller stated that Bridgemates will save 2-3 directors; Don Berman noted this would lead to fewer scoring errors and earlier postings. Ted Ying mentioned technical issues, including that scoring corrections are now done by email and there would be no way to verify them.

Slow Play

Ted Ying remarked that Bridgemates make it easy for the directors to identify pairs/tables where slow play is occurring.

Don Berman said that slow players usually show up the second round.

Chris Miller added that he issues 1-2 late plays a week.

Ted concluded that he issues lots of warnings, that the players game the system, and that players blame directors for their pace of play. At the same time, the number one complaint is how slow the game is.

Bridge in Schools

Ajit Thyagarajan was not present.

WBL Bulletin

With the new printer, the process takes 15 working days, or about 3 weeks, compared with 7 working days or about 1 ½ weeks.

Suggested Defenses to Mid-Chart Conventions

The committee, consisting of Hank Meyer, Chair; Ellen Cherniavsky; Clyde Kruskal, and Donna Rogall, proposed that a sign be posted by the selling desk with a message conveying:

At this club, many players use the following two mid-chart conventions without pre-alerting.

1. Over your 1NT opening – 2 diamonds shows 1 Major
2. 1 of a minor – Pass – 2 Hearts shows one of the following:
 - a. Strong Jump Shift in Hearts, or
 - b. Invitation in NoTrump, or
 - c. Mixed Raise of Opener's Minor (between a single raise and a limit raise)

Defenses are available at the supply table for you to review in advance.

The defenses, which were provided to the Board in Advance, consisted of a complex defense, and a simplified defense.

Hank Meyer noted that the rules would change at sectionals, where the ACBL would require pre-alerts. He said he had submitted an inquiry to the ACBL about the wisdom of submitting an approved defense to these conventions, but had received no reply.

Ellen Cherniavsky made a motion to adopt the committee's proposal.

Subsequently there was a debate about having written defenses available at the table. Fred King submitted an amendment that would allow partnerships to bring written defenses to the table. The amendment was passed 5-4. Then a vote was taken on the motion to adopt the committee's proposal with the amendment. This failed 3-5. So the pre-existing policy remains in place: these agreements must be pre-alerted.

Jim Geist expressed his thanks to the committee.

Location for Future Sectionals

Don will check the availability of the Church for the Holiday party on December 16.

The Silver Spring Civic Center is too expensive. The Kensington Armory is not available on all the dates we need it. Don and Ellen visited the Margaret Schweinhaut Senior Center, but the facilities manager was on personal leave; she is willing to have a meeting after Labor Day. A big problem is the need to have a place for Friday.

Next Meeting

The next WBL Board meeting will take place September 15, 2010 at Richard Ferrin's house. Ron Zucker will host on October 20th. The board thanked Hank for his hospitality. Whereupon the meeting was adjourned at 10:35 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Ellen Cherniavsky,
Secretary

WBL Board Meeting

15 September 2010

The meeting was held at Richard Ferrin's home.

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

President Don Berman called the meeting to order at 7:37 PM.

Secretary's Report

The Board approved the minutes without objection.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Fred King was absent.

President's Report

The three nominees to the C&E Committee have accepted.

The Holiday Party will be held at the Kensington Town Center. Don Berman noted that for all events at Kensington, we have to be out by 11pm, and the facility manager will be there to check.

Copies of the club brochure have run out. It was last printed in July 2009. The Board agreed [without a vote] that it should be reprinted. Alice Wegman has agreed to coordinate updating the information.

Because of site availability problems the January sectional has been rescheduled for January 13-16. Flyers will have to be printed. In the past this has been done by volunteers at their own expense. The Board agreed [without a vote] that printing costs should be included in our budget.

Unit Game

Chief Director Chris Miller passed out a spreadsheet summarizing table counts, income and expenses for the Unit Game. Attendance was down last month. He attributed this to the holidays in September and change in location.

The Bridgemates are now working very well, and provide data on the contract as well as the time the round was finished [the time the score for the second board was entered]. Chris noted that Fred King reported that the MABC has decided to purchase Bridgemates for rental to Units for sectionals. Club owners Bob Boyd of the NVBA and Mark Lavine are also considering buying Bridgemates for their games.

Bridge in Schools

Ajit Thyagarajan was not present, but Jim Geist reported that the committee has decided to pursue the Atlanta model pioneered by Patty Tucker, and try to get bridge not into particular schools but into community centers or club games such as Mark Lavine's. A long term goal would be to add bridge to the curriculum in schools.

WBL Bulletin

Donna Rogall was absent.

Nomination of James Summers to the ACBL Charity Foundation

James Summers has self-nominated to the organization. A motion was made and seconded to support his bid. It was passed with nine in favor, one abstention. Don Berman will write a letter on his behalf.

Printing of Annual Unit Game and Special Events Schedules, Life Master List

In previous years this has been done by volunteers at their own expense. President Don Berman suggested that we should budget for this. A motion was made and seconded, and passed with nine in favor, one abstention.

Non-LM Sectional

Shawn Stringer was absent. The sectional is scheduled to be held 16-17 October at the Newport Mills middle school.

Sectionals for 2011 and Beyond

The Kensington Town Center has been reserved for 2011 sectionals in January, August, and October. There are no prospective sites for a May sectional.

A motion was made to go forward and reserve the Kensington Town Center for all four sectionals in 2012. This was seconded and passed unanimously.

The Schweinhaut Center facility manager has committed to increasing involvement with seniors in the community. This has led her to reserve times on Friday and Saturday afternoons for events other than bridge. As a result, we can play at the Schweinhaut Center only on Friday night, Saturday night and all day Sunday, rendering this location infeasible for sectionals.

Next Meeting

The next WBL Board meeting will take place October 27th, 2010 at Ron Zucker's house. The board thanked Richard for his hospitality. Whereupon the meeting was adjourned at 9:14 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Ellen Cherniavsky,
Secretary

WBL Board Meeting

27 October 2010

The meeting was held at Fred King's home.

In attendance: Carole Banks, Don Berman, Ellen Cherniavsky, Richard Ferrin, Jim Geist, Linda Marshall, Ron Zucker, non-voting members Donna Rogall and Nadine Wood, and guest Shawn Stringer.

President Don Berman called the meeting to order at 6:56 PM.

Secretary's Report

The Board approved the minutes without objection.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Fred King reported that he and Nadine are still trying to figure out the money for the regional. He is also trying to evaluate results from the last eight sectionals. While we appear to have lost \$2700 on the four sectionals this year, last year we broke even. The money market fund has gone down significantly, but there are revenues from the Unit Game that have not been received. Fred hopes to have a complete assessment of our financial status for the next meeting.

Last year we contributed \$175 to St Elizabeth's for a plaque honoring Steve Czecha. A donation of \$200 for this year was unanimously approved. The bridge club at St Elizabeth's meets the third Monday of the month, with Bob Boyd directing (free of charge). WBL members are urged to consider volunteering to play.

President's Report

President Don Berman congratulated guest Shawn Stringer on the Non-Life Master sectional she ran on 16-17 October. Then he turned the meeting over to her to report the results. Drawing 145 tables and netting \$1308, the sectional was very successful. Shawn handed out a spreadsheet summarizing final cash flow. The profit would have been greater but the Newport Middle School site charged \$50/hour rather than the originally quoted price of \$29/hour. Hospitality went extremely smoothly. Ready-made sandwiches, cans of soda and bags of chips were provided. Cleanup took a minimal amount of time. The prizes and gift baskets, as well as a booklet "Hand Evaluation Concepts for the Advancing Intermediate/Novice Bridge Player" (available on the WBL website at <http://www.districtsix.org/WBL/Novice/NLMBookPDF-2.pdf>) were very popular.

After Shawn left, Fred King recommended that she be awarded free plays. The Board voted to give her 10 free plays for her own use exclusively, and 10 for her to award to volunteers of her choice. The motion was passed with seven in favor, one abstention.

Bridge in Schools

Ajit Thyagarajan was not present. Jim Geist reported a need for committee members to recruit players and primary instructors, and find sites for a January start.

New Sites

Jim Geist will reconnect with the Silver Spring Civic Center. Carole Banks will check with another site.

Next Printing of Bridge Brochure

Alice Wegman is in charge of revising the brochure, which contains current listings for club games, and will be printed early next year. Carole Banks will coordinate with Alice.

Unit Game

Chief Director Chris Miller sent by e-mail a spreadsheet summarizing table counts, income and expenses for the Unit Game.

President Don Berman reported that the NVBA recently raised their Unit game fees (now \$9.00 and \$10.00) game, and would like us to keep in lockstep. Ron Zucker objected to making our Unit game more of a cash cow than it already is. The Board postponed a decision pending our Treasurer's report on our finances. [Treasurer Fred King later checked with Margot Hennings, who said the NVBA was hoping we would increase our sectional fees in conjunction with them.]

Don Berman reminded the Board that Ohr Kodesh will be unavailable on the Jewish holidays (June 9, September 29, October 6, 13, 20) and that the Kensington Town Center is not available June 9.

WBL Bulletin

Donna Rogall asked whether we would hold Bridge and Bowling this year. Don Berman volunteered to see if the bowling alley could be reserved for the traditional date, the Saturday before the Super Bowl. Donna will include a blurb about the Unit Knockouts in the Bulletin.

Since the Bulletin is now being printed in Virginia, sales tax only needs to be paid for the 2.5% of issues mailed to Virginia addresses. Don Berman needs to send a letter to George Lewis, our publisher, to obtain the exemption for the other 97.5% [actual mailing is done by Spectrum in Maryland]. Whether getting this exemption can be done retroactively needs to be investigated.

Fred King noted that the NVBA plans to stop publishing a paper copy of their bulletin; access to the contents is provided online.

Annual Game and Special Events Schedules

We currently have no site for June 9. Don Berman will check with the Church. The proposed schedule was approved unanimously, with the stipulation that any NLM sectional will not include a Thursday (Shawn Stringer, the organizer of the recent successful NLM sectional felt very strongly about this).

Printing of Life Master List

Standings as of around 1 October will be printed, and will include points earned online.

Review of WBL Trophy Race Conditions of Contest for 2011

The Board had agreed to review the changes to the Trophy Races Conditions of Contest after three years had passed. Richard Ferrin opined that the aims of our changes three years ago had not been achieved. He suggested we go back to the simple format that was in place at that time. It was decided that for races lower than the Lovenberg, the methods of calculating the winners should revert to the simple method: i.e. total points accumulated (unanimous). Discussion about how to calculate winners for the Lovenberg was deferred to the next meeting. An amendment was proposed that the NLM sectional not count for the Cohen race. The motion was defeated when the vote was four in favor, four against.

TA Test Fee Payment

Payment of \$50 each from the WBL for Arthur Weiss and Bryan Geer to take the TA director test was approved unanimously.

Request from Leslie Schaefer for Partial Reimbursement for Buying Bidding Boxes

Secretary Ellen Cherniavsky agreed to review the minutes to find out what we've agreed to pay Leslie. [So far, no record of any discussion has been found, although various Board members have some recollection of an agreement being reached at the April 2010 meeting.]

Bridgemates

Fred King reported that the MABC will buy 320 Bridgемate II's at \$95 apiece and eight servers at \$200 apiece. The MABC is buying the Bridgemates for use at their regionals, but would be willing to rent them out for sectionals. However this would not meet our Unit's preference for wireless scoring technology at our Unit games, nor that of two of Unit 147's clubs (Laurel, Mark Lavine). Ellen Cherniavsky provided some quotes from Joe Steele [Partner, Bridgемate US, LLC] at \$124 apiece for 80-119 Bridgemates and \$288 per server. Chris Miller has determined that we would need only one server for the Unit game; the clubs would need their own server. Joe Steele has been reluctant to deal with more than one entity purchasing Bridgemates and requiring technical assistance. A committee has been formed consisting of Fred King (chair), Ron Zucker,

and Richard Ferrin, to negotiate with Joe Steele on buying Bridgemates for the Unit Game, Laurel and Mark Lavine's games.

Mentor/Mentee Game

Laurel has been authorized to use a sanction to run a club game for mentors/mentees. The motion passed with six in favor, one against, one abstention.

Use of Unit Club Championship Sanctions

Ellen Cherniavsky, Club Relations Committee Chair, was tasked with finding out if any clubs were interested in using our extra sanctions. [In 2009, clubs run by Rose Berman, Roz Dixon, Porter Kier, and Mark Lavine were able to host split events; in 2010 for some reason only Rose Berman and Mark Lavine were offered the use of a sanction].

Next Meeting

The next WBL Board meeting will take place November 17th, 2010 at Ron Zucker's house. The Board thanked Fred for his hospitality. Whereupon the meeting was adjourned at 9:42 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Ellen Cherniavsky,
Secretary

WBL Board Meeting

17 November 2010

The meeting was held at Ron Zucker's home.

In attendance: Carole Banks, Don Berman, Ellen Cherniavsky, Jim Geist, Fred King, Clyde Kruskal, Linda Marshall, Ron Zucker, non-voting members Chris Miller, Kitty Gottfried, Donna Rogall.

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 reported an analysis of sectional finances. Net loss was \$7,000 in 2010. Part of this is due to the increase in rent, part because the number of tables fell; Chris Miller added that the drop in attendance accounted for half of the loss. There was a thunderstorm in August that resulted in no power and cancellation of the game. The Board authorized Fred King to share our information with the NVBA and other entities in an effort to explore how we can return to profitability with the sectionals.

Fred supplied a nine months profit and loss statement. The Mid-Atlantic Finance Committee accepted the report from the regional, so the WBL will get the \$1250 host allocation, and will be reimbursed for the excess expenses incurred for the regional.

Don Berman noted that next year the NVBA will not print their bulletin; Fred King said that next year our bulletin will cost \$13,000 with income of \$2,000.

At sectionals, no more Saturday lunches will be provided; the afternoon session will start a half hour later to allow people to go out for lunch.

President Don Berman thanked Fred for his report.

President's Report

No President's report.

Unit Game

Chief Director Chris Miller stated that for regular Thursday games two directors plus one for setup and breakdown are needed, with the Bridgemates. Over the year this would amount to a savings of \$1700. Kitty Gottfried, Hospitality Chair, said she will need at least one caddy [\$40/caddy] and a free play to a bridge player to clean up.

Linda Marshall and Chris Miller will work on how the money from charity games should be directed.

Shawn Stringer is trying to get a date for another NLM sectional.

There are still problems with the locations of the June 9 game, which cannot be held at Ohr Kodesh because of a Jewish holiday.

For next year's Christmas party, Don Berman will contact Christ the King church. Don will also print a special events schedule.

The WBL has sanctions for 24 unit championships, two of which it will not be using. It was decided to save these two for use by other clubs, as has been done for the past two years. Ellen Cherniavsky, Club Liaison Chair, had polled club owners and ascertained their continuing interest in holding these events. A motion to continue this practice subject to availability was passed with seven in favor, one abstention.

Bridge in Schools

Ajit Thyagarajan was not present. Jim Geist reported a need for money to pay for bridge teachers having fingerprints taken. The members of the Bridge in Schools Committee are: Ajit Thyagarajan, Jim Geist, Steve Schatzow, Beta Nahapetian, Ellen Rosenthal (consultant), Teresa Kaplan, Lesley Jessell (consultant), Barb Doran.

Lovenberg

The Board decided to return to the previous conditions of contest which prevailed: total points accumulated in WBL games. There will be some fine tuning involving excluding some games. The motion was passed with six in favor, one opposed, one abstention.

Purchase of Bridgemates

Fred King has established that a combined purchase with the WBL and other clubs is acceptable to the vendor. Chris Miller observed that the WBL would only need 60. Carrying cases cost \$65 each, servers \$260, the units \$124 apiece for 80-119, \$120 apiece for an order of 120 or more. Fred was authorized to buy 60 and report at the next meeting. The motion was approved with seven in favor, one abstention.

Consideration of Increased Entry Fees

The NVBA has already increased fees for their Unit Game. A proposal to increase our sectional entry fees to \$10 was defeated with two in favor, five opposed, one abstention.

WBL Bulletin

The next deadline is 11 January. It was decided not to raise the rates for advertisers.

Next Printing of Bridge Brochure

Alice Wegman is working on the brochure, which will be printed in January.
Carole

Request from Leslie Schafer for Partial Reimbursement for Buying Bidding Boxes

Fred King has sent a check for \$100 to Leslie. It was decided to reimburse teachers who buy bidding boxes for their classes 50% of the cost up to \$100 per year, with a cap of \$500 on total expenditure per year. This policy will be advertised in the bulletin or in a President's letter. The motion was passed with five in favor, two opposed, one abstention.

Proposal for Calendar Year Team Contest

Jim Geist handed out a proposal. He was tasked with finding out how much interest there was, and the Board agreed to vote on the idea in December of January.

Bridge and Bowling

Don Berman has signed up the bowling alley. Dinner will be at Sullivan's.

Holiday Party

Kitty will coordinate, Millard will help. We have an 11pm curfew at Kensington. To meet that curfew it will be necessary to give players a free play to clean up. Don Berman and Ron Zucker will help. \$30-40 cash will be given to the caretaker, \$50 to Caesar as a Christmas bonus, and about a \$10 gift of candy to Hannah.

Next Meeting

The next WBL Board meeting will take place December 22, 2010 at Clyde Kruskal's house. The Board thanked Ron for his hospitality. Whereupon the meeting was adjourned at 10:44 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Ellen Cherniavsky,
Secretary

WBL Board Meeting

22 December 2010

The meeting was held at Clyde Kruskal's home.

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

President Don Berman called the meeting to order at 7:45 PM.

Secretary's Report

The Board approved the minutes without objection.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Fred King circulated the first draft of the budget for 2011. Under the budget, the net loss would be \$3,025, which would be acceptable given the amount of reserves. Under the budget, sectionals would be projected to break even (assuming a decrease in costs from eliminating the Saturday lunches). The Unit Game would be projected to net \$9,000. The highest expenditure would continue to be publication of the Bulletin, at \$13,625. Administrative income consists mainly of allocation of dues from the ACBL, and is balanced by \$8,000 in expenditures.

President Don Berman thanked Fred for his report.

President's Report

No President's report.

Unit Game

No Unit Game report (due to Chris Miller's absence). Don Berman noted that for the Unit Game on May 12, June 9, and December 15, Ohr Kodesh is either unavailable or there is a food issue (i.e., a meal is scheduled to be served). The Kensington Armory also is unavailable for those dates. It was the sense of the Board that the WBL try to book Christ the King church for those three dates.

Trophy Races

President Don Berman noted the current standings in the Lovenberg, Cohen, Tubbs, and Woolridge trophy races.

It was noted that the current trophy race rules provide that to be eligible, the contestant must be good standing during the entire award year. The Board then discussed at length what "good standing" means for purposes of the trophy races. One view expressed was that the Board is free to define "good standing" and that any person found guilty and punished by a Conduct & Ethics ("C&E") Committee, regardless of the punishment, should be considered not to be in good standing for purposes of the trophy

racers. Another view expressed was that while the Board is always free to define what constitutes “good standing,” the Board should take into account any definitions the ACBL may have in its disciplinary regulations of the term “good standing.” The Board then consulted the ACBL Code of Disciplinary Regulations (“CDR”), which does define “good standing.” The CDR definition is as follows:

An ACBL member shall be deemed to be in “good standing” when such member's dues, if dues *are* required, are current and such member is not currently:

1. expelled,
2. serving a term of suspension,
3. serving indefinite probation,
4. serving a probation the initial term of which was twenty- four or more months or
5. serving a term of probation following a suspension, the initial term of which was in excess of ninety days.

A member who is not in good standing as defined herein shall not be entitled to serve in any elected or appointed position in ACBL.

The Board then considered whether the 5th proviso in the ACBL definition would or would not apply to a person who had been suspended at some point in the past for a different violation, but was currently on probation for an unrelated offense for a period less than 24 months. There were views expressed both ways on this question.

A motion was then made and seconded that the Board interprets the definition of “good standing” for purposes of the trophy race rules to mean that the person is not on probation, or any more severe punishment by a C&E Committee. The motion was passed with five in favor and three opposed. The Board agreed to put this interpretation in the Board Policies as a clarification of the Trophy Race rules.

Bridge in Schools

Ron Zucker suggested having a two-day tutorial for bridge teachers, to run during the time of the next regional tournament. Jim Geist stated that this idea has been circulated to others in the bridge teaching community and was well-received.

Jim Geist stated that a 15-week schedule has been mapped out for students to learn bridge, with lessons to be held 10:30-11:45 AM Saturday and/or Sunday. The Board needs to help get the program up and running. The Board agreed to front the money from WBL funds, with the assumption that the ACBL’s Bridge in Schools fund will reimburse.

Bridge and Bowling

President Don Berman and Linda Marshall agreed to coordinate this year’s event.

Purchase of Bridgemates

According to Treasurer Fred King, Mark Lavine proposed that he would purchase extra Bridgemate units and that the WBL rent back the units at 50 cents apiece, as needed. Fred also proposed that the WBL purchase 30 units itself, in a joint order with Roz Dixon. The total order, with Mark Lavine, Roz Dixon, and the WBO, would be 150 units at \$118 apiece, plus 8 servers at \$260 each and 8 storage cases at \$45 each. The terms of the deal with the vendor would allow the WBL to buy any extras it needs within the next 2 years at a discounted price. In addition, the WBL and the NVBA would share Bridgemate units with the NVBA at sectionals, as needed.

Fred will purchase the Bridgemate units as soon as all of the relevant parties agree.

WBL Bulletin

The next deadline is 11 January.

Next Printing of Bridge Brochure

The printing of the updated bridge brochure is on target for early 2011.

Proposal for Calendar Year Team Contest

Jim Geist stated that there was insufficient response to go forward with the team contest proposal that he had suggested in the November meeting.

Food at Sectionals

President Don Berman noted that the January sectional flyer refers to a party for new life masters and a panel show for Saturday, and asked whether these plans would be inconsistent with the plans to discontinue Saturday lunches at the sectionals. Don also noted that the April-May sectional will be at the Newport Mill Middle School, where there are few nearby dining options. Others suggested that there were sufficient dining options in the Wheaton area. It was the sense of the Board that the second Saturday session should start at 4:00 PM to give people sufficient time to go out for lunch.

Barry Bragin suggested that a restaurant guide should be compiled for sectionals. Don Berman agreed to prepare the restaurant guide.

ACBL Radio Ads

President Don Berman noted that ACBL has made available canned radio ads, which units can use to promote the game locally.

Next Meeting

The next WBL Board meeting will take place January 19, 2011 at a location yet to be determined. The Board thanked Clyde for his hospitality. Whereupon the meeting was adjourned at 9:44 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard Ferrin,
(on behalf of Ellen Cherniavsky, Secretary)