

Unit 141 Meeting – March 21, 2023

Attendees: April Apfelbaum, Jay Apfelbaum, Randee Braslow, Mark Cohen, John Dickenson, Joan Goldstein, John Nothdurft, Andy Rosenberg, Cathy Strauss

Regrets: Ellen Berkowitz, Becky Levinson

Jay Apfelbaum called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm at his residence. As an introductory exercise for the new board, each member briefly shared his/her background outside of the bridge community.

April Apfelbaum circulated board member contact information for verification. Jay Apfelbaum distributed a packet containing confidential financial information prepared by Ellen Berkowitz, and open sectional contracts with Bala Golf Club, King of Prussia Bridge Club (KOPBC) and Game Friendly in Cherry Hill NJ. The packet included the four recommendations made by the Committee on Player Retention (Ellen Berkowitz, Joan Goldstein, Elaine Weintraub): Club Mentoring Program, Newcomer Game Framework, Club 99er Sectionals, and a New Member Welcome Program.

The members elected the following officers:

- President - John Dickenson
- Vice President – Cathy Strauss
- Secretary – Joan Goldstein
- Treasurer – Ellen Berkowitz

As new president, John Dickenson will contact Ellen Berkowitz to replace Jay's name with his on the Unit's bank account

The board members discussed and appointed representatives to multiple committees:

- April Apfelbaum will coordinate Tournaments and STAC's, working with Elaine Weintraub
- John Nothdurft will coordinate NAP's and GNT's
- Website and Electronic Communications Committee: Ellen Berkowitz, Joan Goldstein, John Nothdurft, Cathy Strauss. John Nothdurft will take the lead to brainstorm how to modernize the website and strengthen electronic communications. He will consult with Jim Patton from Unit 112. In the short term, John Dickenson will manage the current Unit 141 website on BridgeWebs
- John Dickenson, as Electronic Contact, will receive the "In/Out" reports which facilitate electronic communications for the unit. These reports track incoming and outgoing unit members, as well as ongoing changes to members' contact information.
- Hospitality Committee: Randee Braslow
- New Member Welcoming Committee: April Apfelbaum, Randee Braslow, Mark Cohen, Andy Rosenberg

Scheduled Tournaments:

The upcoming open sectional will be held at KOPBC. Fortunately, the club was able to secure extra room from the building landlord and can accommodate 34 tables. Pre-registration is solid. We still need to find another qualified tournament director. The Apfelbaums and other unit members are providing extra tables and chairs. Although we have tables stored at Bala Golf Club, there would be an additional expense to have them transported to KOPBC.

The fall tournament will be at game Game Friendly in Cherry Hill. We have not set the dates.

We hope to have the March 2024 sectional at Bala. Bala is more affordable in off-season (no golf) because the kitchen is closed and we can use outside catering.

Joan and Bill Goldstein are coordinating a newcomer tournament at KOPBC on May 17 and 18, just after the ACBL is relaxing COVID vaccine requirements for regionals and sectionals, leaving the choice to districts and units who are running these events. The board voted to keep the vaccination requirement in place for sectionals until further notice.

Many sectionals have raised entry fees from \$15 to \$18. The upcoming sectional has been pre-paid, but we will consider the fee increase in the future

Jay will continue to manage venue contracts.

The board discussed re-instating the annual meeting, possibly on the Sunday of STAC week. No decision was made.

The board members want to continue meeting in person at least for a few more months. We have a zoom account if needed.

Next meeting: Monday, May 8th at the Penrose Diner at 5:30 pm, concluding at the Apfelbaum residence.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:20 pm.