

WBL Board Minutes

June 23, 2021

Attendance: Board members attending: Linda Marshall, Hadi Abushakra, Herb Schulken, Bob Bell, Chuck Dearolf, Alex Gretsinger, Clyde Kruskal, Lloyd Rawley, and Mary Tenenbaum. Carole Banks was absent. Three WBL members who are considering running for positions on the Board—Greg Christian, Lena Maman, and Alex Stille-- also attended.

Minutes: The Board approved the minutes of the May meeting.

Unit Game: Attendance at the Thursday game has dropped to between 50 and 55 total tables. We haven't had enough tables for a Thursday 0-20 game since late April. Monday attendance is also down: there has been no limited game since early April, and the open game has had only six tables for the last three weeks. Several Board members noted that attendance at small club games appears to have dropped throughout the ACBL. Clyde reiterated his suggestion that we try to make the unit game friendlier by asking people to provide more information about themselves in their BBO profiles or adding a zoom connection to enable players to see each other. Mary suggested that an audio connection might facilitate more conversation than occurs via written chat. Linda promised to ask Chris Miller about the feasibility of audio.

Treasurer's Report: Herb reported that our accounting is now on an accrual basis. He said that we will probably lose about \$200 in June, but that he is expecting to receive a \$650 check from Ron Spieker for our share of the revenue from Jay Whipple's East Coast 99er game. Herb said that current attendance at our online games won't cover our fixed costs. He confirmed that we continue to pay David Solomon and Alan Crank. Herb also reported that he is now paying \$35 per month for much improved Quick Books service. Herb said that he will be sending another \$500 to the Capital Food Bank; Alex Stille pointed out that there are bridge players who volunteer at the Food Bank. Herb reported that Education Foundation contributions should now be sent to him rather than to Rose Berman; he is completing the paper work associated with this change.

Future Plans: The Board discussed resumption of face-to-face unit games and tournaments. Linda said that Mark Lavine expects to resume his face-to-face club games at approximately his customary times and locations starting in early July and hopes to be fully back to normal in September. She also reported that Georgette Weiss of the Northern Virginia Bridge Association (NVBA) expects that their Thursday Unit game will probably resume face-to-face play in mid-September, when Beth El Temple plans to resume renting space to outside groups. Mary spoke with Margot Hennings, who hopes to get approval from the ACBL for an October NVBA sectional. Margot would like to make NVBA and WBL Thursday night sectional events fully online in the future and doubts that ACBL would approve events that combined simultaneous online and face-to-face play. The Schweinhaut Senior Center has been slowly reopening (limited to Saturday at the moment) and is planning to open somewhat more fully in August. Montgomery County recreation centers are also slowly becoming somewhat more accessible. District 6 is not holding any regionals until 2022, but District 4 plans to hold a regional in Lancaster in October.

Clyde has been unable to get in touch with Ohr Kodesh to find out about their plans and requirements for reopening, but promised to keep trying. Hadi asked whether there were reasonable alternatives to

Ohr Kodesh for the unit game. The Kensington Armory, Silver Spring Civic Center, and Christ the King church were all briefly discussed. All had significant disadvantages (e.g. higher rental costs, lack of table storage capacity, irregular availability, maintenance issues) compared with Ohr Kodesh.

The Board agreed not to hold a sectional until 2022. Mary pointed out that we would need to reserve dates with ACBL and the Schweinhaut Center soon. In addition, planning for the initial sectional needs to take into account staff availability (e.g., Chris Miller to serve as chief director, Alan Crank and David Solomon's availability to work, availability of other local directors), Covid precautions (e.g., additional space between tables, curtailing or eliminating food and beverage service), and scheduling implications (longer food breaks, revised starting times). The Board agreed that in view of various new and unpredictable complications associated with resumption of face-to-face bridge, it was important to plan carefully and would be useful to be able to draw on lessons from the experiences of others who resumed face-to-face bridge earlier.

ACBL Board Election. The ACBL is holding elections this year for its smaller, reconstituted Board of Directors. All Board members are entitled to vote for the district's ACBL Board representative. Two candidates, Margot Hennings and Dian Petrov, are vying to represent our district. The Board agreed to vote online. We will try to arrange a zoom meeting with each candidate.

Cheer and Sympathy. Roz Dixon, a longtime local tournament director, died recently. The Board sent flowers to her family. Eileen Inglesby-Houghton, the membership secretary and cheer and sympathy chair, represented the WBL at the memorial service in Roz's honor.

The next meeting will be July 28, 2021.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Bell