

Minutes

WBL Board Meeting

February 25, 2004

In attendance: Dick Wegman, Fred King, Barbara Doran, Steve Robinson, Barbara Shaw, Ben Laden, Steve Forsythe, Barbara Summers, Ron Zucker, and non-voting members Michael Carroad, Donna Rogall and Nadine Wood.

The meeting was called to order at 7:34 P.M. by President Dick Wegman.

The minutes were approved as amended.

Treasurer Steve Robinson reported that we have \$7,762.91 in our checking account including \$2,000.00 that is Regional money. Lee Jensen still needs to provide Pat Siler, District 6 treasurer, with the final forms for the regional and we will receive an \$1125.00 refund. Kathy Hilbers will speak to Lee about submitting the final forms. We also should receive a \$100.00 deposit refund from Montgomery County fairgrounds. The report was approved.

Dick Wegman told us that Don Berman has had bypass surgery in a hospital in New Jersey and is doing well.

Ron Zucker reported that there has been a delay of the directory. It should be to the printer by Friday. It may be ready for Saturday of the March sectional.

The prize discussion has been tabled until the fall board meeting. If a petition is signed, the subject may be on the agenda for the annual meeting in May.

Donna Rogall's survey results will continue to run in the next bulletin. Three more pages should complete the report.

The January Sectional had 329 tables. The food was great and well received. The parking is limited and we need to park on the street. Michael Carroad thought we should receive a refund for the cost of the custodian on Saturday who wasn't there. Charity and Jeff Roman will host a seminar at the March Sectional on how to get and keep a good partnership. Please send to Nadine Wood any special announcements for the Sectionals. The easels were purchased for use at the Unit game and Sectionals. We are still searching for a new site for our sectionals. The 4H on Connecticut was contacted but they never got back to us. Nadine Wood and Michael Carroad were appointed by Dick Wegman as our liaisons with the Silver Spring Convention Center Committee. Dick Wegman will talk to Shirley Watson, the Manager of the Kensington Armory. We will have the August Sectional at the school. Ben Laden said that the ACBL needs our schedule for the March Tournament. Kathy Hilbers is going to resign as the co-tournament Chair after the March Sectional. Nadine will get the next tournament schedule to Donna. Barbara Shaw will be in charge of the trophies, which will be presented during the Saturday session of the March sectional.

Dick reported that the publicity committee has been working with the Sunrise retirement Community. We will host an Open House with a mini-lesson. They are interested in providing transportation to our Unit Game and sectionals for any people interested in attending. He also reported that the brochure is almost ready for distribution. We have not figured out how to distribute 1000-1500 brochures around the area. Katherine Kiley found someone to print the two-color brochure.

Steve Forsythe will host an Instant Bridge game during the March sectional on March 6th at the Washington Bridge Center. The cost is \$20.00 in advance or \$25.00 at the door, and a free lunch will be included. Students will be charged \$10.00 and \$15.00 respectively.

We will present an Appreciation Day for the ABA at the October Sectional.

Nadine Wood reported that the 2005 Regional hosted by the WBL and the 2006 Regional hosted by the NVBA will be held at the Hilton in Alexandria since we have already signed contracts with them. However, beginning with the Regional in 2007 we will be hosting it at the new Marriott Hotel in Rockville and 2008 the NVBA will be hosting it in Reston. We are trying to get out of the contract but there is a substantial penalty.

The recreation center in Damascus may be interested in having us but the location is so far away. Ron Starr works with the Montgomery County Recreation Department to develop bridge in the county.

Dick Wegman contacted the ACBL to find out who is in charge of suspending a game. Jim Miller from the ACBL said that the Director has the right to cancel a game. Michael Carroad tried to contact the Tournament Office in Memphis and got no response. He thinks that it is the sponsoring organization's responsibility. In advance it is the Unit Game sponsors, who are Ron Zucker and Ben Laden.

The STAC in August for the Bridgeatschools! was discussed. Michael Carroad reported that Baltimore is unhappy and thinks that it will affect the participation in their tournament. It is a Georgia Unit 114 STAC, and not a National STAC. Nadine reported that Bridgeatschools! no longer has any employees. But they are still trying to get it growing. Steve Forsythe moved that we allow our local clubs to have the STAC if they want to. Barbara Summers seconded the motion. The motion passed with 6 in favor and 2 abstaining.

It was suggested that we send an e-mail congratulating participants on their qualification to participate in the NAP-GNT District finals and invite them to compete.

The WBL will subsidize Barbara Summers for the \$100.00 she paid to the ACBL for Larry Galvin's late fees.

Dick Wegman appointed Barbara Doran, Steve Robinson, Steve Forsythe, Barbara Ames and Dave Ruderman to the Building Fund Committee. It is not feasible for there to be a tax-deductible fund since we would primarily have to be an educational organization and we are not. We would have to use the building only for education purposes. Barbara Doran reported that they have met once and have a mission statement. They have emailed each other several times also. Barbara Shaw suggested that the committee talk to Eva Klivington, who is in commercial real estate for assistance in finding a foreclosed building for purchase. Steve Forsythe suggested that we may find a place with a \$50,000 lease with an option to buy.

Dick thanked Ron Zucker for hosting the meeting. The March 31st meeting will be at Barbara Summers. The April 21 meeting will be at Barbara Doran's.

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Shaw, Recording Secretary

Minutes

WBL Board Meeting

March 31, 2004

In attendance: Dick Wegman, Barbara Shaw, Steve Robinson, Don Berman, Steve Forsythe, Barbara Summers, Barbara Doran, and non-voting members Michael Carroad, Donna Rogall, Charity Sack, and Nadine Wood.

The meeting was called to order by President Dick Wegman at 7:58 P.M.

The Minutes were approved.

Treasurer, Steve Robinson, reported that we have \$8789.03 in our checking account and just under \$20,000.00 in our money market.

Old Business:

The directory will be ready for the May membership meeting.

Donna Rogall said that the results of survey questions 14 - 16 will be published in the next bulletin if she has room. She also suggested that we put the advertising for the WBC Sectionally rated Club Tournament in the Club section of the bulletin. The board agreed. Charity Sack said that she would talk to Jim Allen about purchasing advertising for his tournament in the bulletin. The WBC Sectionally rated Club Tournament will be held May 21st - May 23rd.

The next WBL Sectional will be held the end of July. Nadine Wood suggested that we change the start times to 11:00 A.M. and 3:30 P.M. on Friday and Saturday. Her reasoning being that the morning games are always small and the evening games even smaller. The afternoon games are large especially on Saturday afternoon. She thought it would be better to have two large sessions. Steve Robinson moved and Barbara Doran seconded that we change the start times on Friday and Saturday to 11:00 and 3:30. The motion passed with 5 in favor and 2 abstaining. Donna will print the new start times in the bulletin. Friday night will be the roast for Mark Shaw who became a Grand Life Master at the Reno Nationals. We had 345 tables at the March Sectional. Dick Wegman will check into the Kensington Armory as a possible site for future sectionals. Nadine Wood and Michael Carroad will check into the Silver Spring Convention Center also. The December refund is credited to the July Sectional. Steve Robinson will check with Montgomery County Schools to find out why we were charged \$427.00 for the July Sectional when it should be free. Perhaps it can be used as a deposit for the October Sectional. Steve Forsythe said that the Instant Bridge Program was a huge success. He had 33 people attend on March 6th. He had only 6 tables in January. We collected \$635.00 in registration fees. Our expenses were \$1555.00. But our net cost was only \$170.00 since we receive an advertising reimbursement from the ACBL. Some people came on Thursday night who could not attend on Saturday. He suggests that we do it again at the October Sectional. He also reported that we have 5 tables at the Thursday night novice game and 20 or so people have joined the ACBL as a result.

Michael Carroad asked if we would change the strata for the 0-200 game to 0-300. He said that the game does not exist anymore since most of the members have started playing in the B game. Steve Robinson moved and Barbara Doran seconded that we change the strata of the Novice game to 0-300. The motion passed with 7 in favor.

Publicity Chairperson, Charity Sack, said that she needed volunteers for the Bedford Game on April 10th.

New Business:

Dick Wegman announced that Michael Chelst wants to give financial support to the WBL. He is going to contribute \$2000.00. Dick suggested that we name the team game at the July Sectional the Fidelity Trophy Team Game. Barbara Shaw will work with Michael Chelst to purchase an appropriate trophies for the event.

We need to select a charity for our annual charity game coming up. Barbara Shaw moved that we select the Susan B. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation this year since we have so many female members of the WBL who have been recently diagnosed with breast cancer. Dick Wegman seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The Alexandria Regional needs volunteers.

Donna Rogall said that she needs biographies and pictures of all people running for the board this year. Barbara Shaw was asked to contact Winston Edwards to get his information.

Dick thanked Barbara Summers for hosting this meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:10 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara A. Shaw, Recording Secretary

Minutes

WBL Board Meeting

April 21, 2004

In Attendance: Dick Wegman, Barbara Shaw, Steve Robinson, Don Berman, Barbara Summers, Steve Forsythe, Barbara Doran, Fred King, Ron Zucker, and non-voting members Michael Carroad, Kitty Gottfried and Donna Rogall.

President Dick Wegman called the meeting to order at 7:33 P.M.

The minutes were approved as corrected.

Treasurer, Steve Robinson, reported that we have \$7358.63 in our checking account. He also presented his first draft of the annual report which is included with these minutes. The reports were approved.

Dick Wegman then discussed the up coming elections. Barbara Doran said that if anyone was nominated from the floor the person must be present and must accept the nomination in order to run. Jim Allen is the election chairman and will get the ballots printed. It was also decided that issues may be brought up and discussed but are for information purposes only and are not binding. Barbara Summers stated that she would like to know the membership's opinion.

Kitty needs help with the annual dinner. Michael Carroad suggested that we hire the caddies to help with set up and clean up. The Friday times have been changed for the July/August Sectional. There will be three sessions beginning at 10:00 A.M. and continuing at 1:30 P.M. and 7:30 P.M. The Roast for Mark Shaw will follow the 7:30 game. Dick Wegman said that he will talk to the people in charge of the Kensington Armory in June about the October Sectional.

Barbara Doran reported on the building fund. Barbara suggested that the committee set up a mission statement to be added to the Robinson charter. She thought that the statement should include a set number of years for the fund to exist at which time the money accumulated would go back into the general fund to be used at the board's discretion. Fred King suggested a minimum of five years. The board agreed unanimously.

Charity Sack reported on the Publicity committee. The Saturday session at the Bedford Senior Center was a success. They had 8 tables of players. Barbara Summers said that there will be a bus to the Holiday Park Senior Center game run by Carol McNeil. This seems to be the most convenient game for those players. Barbara suggested that they all join the ACBL. Michael Carroad said that he had instant membership forms for her. Dick Wegman said that there was a great article in the New York Time about bridge which tried to emphasize that it was a cool game for younger people. It was also reported that four people have used the free plays mailed to them in the form of a postcard by Barbara Summers. Charity said that we are going to try and place articles in the local papers along with interesting bridge hands. The brochures are 99% finished. The ACBL may pick up the cost of each unit since we are using their logo. Kathryn Kylie got a good quote on the printing of 5000.

Ron Zucker reported that the Directory will be going to the printer this weekend and will be ready for the annual membership meeting in May.

Dick Wegman stated that Michael Chelst wanted a more long lasting sponsorship for his \$2000.00 contribution that just a Sunday Swiss. It was suggested that we name this year's Round Robin competition the First Annual Fidelity Trust Round Robin Competition. The board agreed unanimously.

It was also mentioned that one of our members Adrienne Kueneman has gone into the trophy business. Barbara Shaw said that she would work with her to obtain any necessary trophies and name tags for the future.

Dick Wegman said that it was time to nominate a person for the ACBL Goodwill Committee. We have until

September 1, 2004. Barbara Summers moved and Don Berman seconded that we nominate Steve Forsythe. The board agreed unanimously.

Michael Carroad announced that there is a non-life master tournament next weekend to be held at the Washington Bridge Center.

Dick Wegman thanked Barbara Shaw for her three years as Secretary of the WBL. She is retiring from the position. He also thanked Barbara Doran for hosting this meeting.

The next meeting will be May 19, 2004 at Dick Wegman's.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Shaw, Recording Secretary

Minutes

WBL Board Meeting

May 19, 2004

In attendance: Barbara Ames, Don Berman, Richard Ferrin, Steve Forsythe, Fred King, Steven Robinson, Dick Wegman, Ron Zucker, and non-voting members Michael Carroad and Donna Rogall. Alice Wegman also attended the meeting.

President Dick Wegman called the meeting to order at 7:45 PM.

The board approved the minutes.

Treasurer, Steve Robinson, reported that we have \$10,771.77 in our checking account. He noted that the Charity Game on May 13, 2004 raised \$4.80 per person, with 57 tables. The board approved the treasurer's report.

The board discussed the July-August WBL Sectional. The WBL will roast Mark Shaw after the Friday evening game. Fred King suggested that Jeff Roman host the roast. Steve Robinson agreed to discuss the matter with Jeff Roman. The Saturday of the July-August sectional will feature two sessions, at 11:00 AM and 3:30 PM instead of three sessions. The board discussed and agreed also to implement the 11-3:30 two-session schedule for the Saturday of the October sectional. The purpose of the change is to avoid the current problem where the first and third sessions are poorly attended, and hopefully instead there will be two well-attended sessions. Jeff Roman and Charity Sack will hold another workshop on Saturday regarding the art of developing and maintaining partnerships. The July-August Sectional will be the last Sectional for which there is a commitment with the School for the Saturday and Sunday sessions. The WBL is looking for new locations for future sectionals. Dick Wegman is inquiring about returning to the Kensington Armory. The current Mayor of Kensington, who was largely instrumental in terminating the previous WBL arrangement to play there, is expected to step down as Mayor in June 2004. Dick is hopeful that the new Mayor may be willing to consider a return by the WBL for the sectionals. Michael Carroad and Nadine Wood are talking to the people who will be in charge of the Silver Spring Community Center now under construction, as a possible long-term site for WBL sectionals. As for the October 2004 tournament, Donna Rogall noted that the October WBL Sectional is scheduled to be advertised in the District 6 Tabletalk publication, and that July 1 is the deadline for advertisement, so a decision regarding the location of the October tournament needs to be made quickly.

The WBL needs persons to fill in as partners for members who come to the unit game without pre-arranged partners. The NVBA does. Mike Henderson and Michele Cantave live close by, and hopefully would be willing to help. Jason Meyer and Sandy Forsythe also may be willing to help with partnerships. Michael Carroad will follow up with this possibility and discussing the Partnership Desk generally with Charlene Brand.

Steve Robinson received a \$2,000 check from Fidelity, in connection with their sponsorship of the Round Robin.

The board thanked Ron Zucker for doing a great job putting together the WBL Directory. Ron is putting together an errata sheet to correct errors and recent updates. The cutoff for new information in the errata sheet is approximately two weeks from the date of this meeting.

The board reviewed the new player brochure. The board authorized Alice Wegman to choose the paper stock, with an expenditure of up to \$1,000.

Dick Wegman proposed a new list of committee assignments. The WBL needs a new Volunteer Coordinator; Steve Forsythe asked to be relieved of that responsibility. Steve Forsythe will ask Arnie Frankel if he is interested in the position.

Dick Wegman advised that he had made three appointments to the District 6 Appellate Committee: Barbara Doran,

Peter Boyd, and Bob Bell. No board member objected.

ACBL is offering general liability insurance, including Director and Officer (“D&O”) insurance. Steve Robinson noted that the WBL has been paying \$225 per year for the ACBL’s umbrella policy. Michael Carroad noted that the ACBL umbrella policy covers tort liability at unit games and WBL tournaments. Steve Robinson noted that the ACBL offer for general liability insurance and D&O insurance is separate from the ACBL’s umbrella policy. The general liability insurance would cover liability for WBL activities other than tort actions at unit games and tournaments, such as suits against WBL directors and officers. The board agreed that a committee of Barbara Ames, Richard Ferrin, and Steve Robinson would consider the new insurance offer further, and provide a recommendation at the next board meeting.

After 30 years, Michael Carroad is stepping down as manager for the unit game. Ted Ying is willing to take over that position, with the assistance of Tim Crank. Tim would run the technical aspects of the game, and Ted would be the Chief Director. Michael Carroad would transition out by the end of the year. A motion was passed to hire Ted as Chief Director at the rate of \$100 per week.

The board considered general goals and plans for the WBL. The priorities are to find a new location for sectional tournaments, improve the financial position of the WBL, and improve outreach to new members. Ron Zucker will talk to Michael Gill regarding college recruitment. Donna Rogall will contact Ron Starr regarding the Montgomery County schools program. The Leisure World outreach program is working and hopefully will continue and grow. Barbara Ames and Steve Forsythe will circulate an e-mail for further discussion at the next board meeting.

The board elected the following WBL members to the Conduct and Ethics (“C&E”) committee: Gene Fisher, Roger Pies, and Ralph Turner. The board elected Mike Henderson and Clyde Kruskal as alternates.

Frances Burke has numerous “knick-knack” bridge souvenirs with which she is willing to part. Steve Forsythe will inquire further, with the idea of awarding the bridge souvenirs as prizes for the 0-20 game.

The board agreed on the dates and hosts (or hostesses) for the next four board meetings:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Host(ess)</u>
June 16	Donna Rogall
July 21	Richard Ferrin
August 25	Steve Forsythe
September 22	Barbara Ames

Respectfully submitted,

Richard Ferrin, Secretary

Minutes

WBL Board Meeting

June 16, 2004

In attendance: Don Berman, Winston Edwards, Richard Ferrin, Steve Forsythe, Steve Robinson, Dick Wegman, Ron Zucker, and non-voting members Nadine Wood and Donna Rogall.

President Dick Wegman called the meeting to order at 7:57 PM.

The board approved the minutes, without objection.

Treasurer, Steve Robinson, reported that we have \$8285.77 in our checking account as of June 15. The board approved the treasurer's report, without objection.

The board discussed the July-August WBL Sectional. Jeff Roman will be out of town during the sectional, so the WBL needs a fill-in for Jeff to co-host with Charity Sack the Saturday lecture regarding partnerships. Winston Edwards offered to work with Charity on the lecture. Nadine Wood stated that there would be a picnic lunch for the Saturday game, with fried chicken and watermelon. Nadine is also checking on the availability of chairs (other than the schoolroom chairs) for the sectional events.

The board discussed options for locations of upcoming sectionals:

- Dick Wegman asked Nadine Wood if the WBL had cancellation rights with Newport Mill Middle School. Nadine Wood said that she did not know. The period July 15 through early August is the window for reserving the Newport Mill Middle School for tournaments through March 2005.
- Dick reported that the Kensington Armory is no longer a possible site for the sectionals, because the incumbent Mayor has decided to run for re-election after all, and she is opposed to renting the space out to the WBL.
- Nadine reported that progress is much slower than thought on building the new community center in Silver Spring. It will be four to five years until that building will be completed.
- Nadine also noted that the 4-H Club building is a possibility, but the problem is that the management insists on closing the building at midnight. The 4-H Club management also cannot commit to five tournaments per year at this point. Nadine suggested that the board consider contracting with 4-H for one tournament, to give both sides a chance to see how the arrangement works, and then consider additional tournaments.
- Nadine noted the possibility of scheduling sectionals at a hotel, but they are somewhat more expensive. Rates depend on the time of year; the rates would be lower during the periods where the hotels' other business is slow.
- Dick suggested that the WBL should reserve the school for the tournaments, and see if there is any flexibility to cancel in case a better location is found. Dick and Steve Robinson suggested that the WBL take steps to reserve the 4-H Club building for the January 2005 sectional.
- Dick suggested a tournament scheduling meeting for July 26 or 27, to be attended by Dick, Nadine, Ron Zucker, and Ted Ying.

The board discussed the location of the unit game. Dick asked whether all of the Board members were comfortable with the current location at Christ the King church. All of the Board members present stated that they were comfortable with the current location. Dick noted that he had received complaints about the women's restroom and about the lighting. The church says that the women's restroom problem is temporary and is caused by ongoing repairs to the upstairs restroom. Steve Forsythe suggested that the WBL propose fronting money for repairs, and deduct it from the rent.

The board discussed the start time for the Saturday game at the October sectional.

- With regard to the early start times that are being tried for the July-August sectional, Donna Rogall objected to using those same times for the October sectional. Donna reviewed the start times for sectionals throughout

Districts 6 and 7, and noted that a significant number of the sectionals have a late start time for the Saturday events. She stated that already the WBL loses potential attendees on Sunday because of the early start time, and an earlier start time on Saturday might risk losing late risers on Saturday. Steve Forsythe agreed that some people prefer later starts on Saturday. Steve Robinson stated that the WBL should try the earlier two-session schedule for Saturday for two consecutive sectionals, and then consider whether to continue or return to the later schedule. He also stated that the start time is not too early; people show up for the Sunday Swiss even though the start time is 11:00 AM. Steve Forsythe noted that it was important not to change the schedule frequently, because that depresses attendance. Winston Edwards agreed that a two-session Saturday schedule was a good idea. He commented that the question of whether such a move is a "success" cannot be quantified simply by a table count. Perhaps additional measures of success would be appropriate.

- Ron Zucker stated that one of the biggest considerations with the schedule for Saturday is the amount of break time between sessions. He said that two sessions of bridge with short breaks are difficult for all but the most experienced players, and therefore the breaks between session should be of a reasonable length for players to relax and regroup mentally. Steve Forsythe suggested a compromise by extending the break between sessions on Saturday, but eliminating the break in the middle of the Sunday Swiss. Richard Ferrin stated that there should be a 1 ½ hour break between sessions on Saturday. Nadine commented that some people complain about there being too much time sitting around between sessions.
- Ron also addressed the issue of the start time of the second Saturday session, specifically the issue that many of the older members prefer to finish before dark. He stated that a 3:00 PM start time will allow driving home before dark for a July tournament, but by October, a start time at or after 3:30 PM will not allow enough time to get home before dark.
- Steve Forsythe moved to schedule the start times for the Saturday game for October at 11:00 AM and 3:30 PM. The motion was defeated, four to three. Steve Forsythe then moved to schedule the start times for the Saturday game for October at 11:00 AM and 4:00 PM. The motion passed unanimously. Dick moved to schedule the Sunday Swiss game for October to 11:00 AM, with a one-hour break. The motion passed unanimously.
- Nadine stated that the Board should revisit the issue of the Saturday and Sunday start times after the October 2004 tournament. Steve Robinson recommended constructing an e-mail survey of the membership after the October tournament to see what the membership prefers.

The Board discussed the partnership assistance program. The WBL will continue to guarantee partners for the unit game and sectionals. Sandy Forsythe is amenable to filling in as a partner. Mike Carroad was supposed to have called other potential fill-ins and confer with Charlene Brand, but nobody knew whether he had done so. Dick said that Barbara Shaw may be willing to help with arranging partnerships, and also Barbara Summers (after she recovers from her illness). Donna noted that at a recent ACBL workshop on sectionals, they said that partnerships and advertising were the most important factors to higher attendance. Dick said that he will put this issue again on the agenda for the July meeting.

The Board discussed holding a party for volunteers. Steve Forsythe said that the issue is when, and whether to invite families. After discussion between Dick and Steve Forsythe regarding dates, they settled on Sunday, August 29, 3-6 PM at Steve Forsythe's residence. Don Berman moved to approve a budget of \$10 per person for the party, assuming 40 attendees, with a cap of \$500. The motion passed unanimously.

The Board reviewed the promotional brochures. Dick reported that the printing cost \$571, plus \$100-\$200 at Kinko's. Alice Wegman will tabulate the exact cost and submit it to ACBL for partial reimbursement. Dick said that he hopes the out-of-pocket cost for the WBL will be a maximum of \$200. To save space, the promotional brochure does not list clubs that are invitational only. The targets for the brochure will be libraries, chambers of commerce, community centers, hotels, and Federal agencies. Winston commented that the brochure should be made available to human resources personnel at Federal agencies for insertion in packages to persons about to retire. Dick asked everybody to think about possible volunteers to distribute the brochures.

Dick reported that Ralph Turner, Bob Bell, and Roger Pies accepted their appointments to the Conduct and Ethics Committee.

Nadine Wood reported on the District 6 meeting. There will be a race between Margot Hennings and Lynn Rattinger

for Vice President. Kay Afdahl, who is from the southern part of the district, is unopposed for President. There has been a tradition of having one person each from the southern and northern parts of the district for the posts of President and Vice President, so Nadine suggested that the Board members support Margot for Vice President, for balance reasons and because she works hard. Steve Robinson reported that Pat Wilson is unhappy about the August STaC. He pointed out, however, that Baltimore already has a full STaC itself (i.e., receives all the proceeds for a District 6 STaC), the WBL and NVBA each have $\frac{1}{2}$ of a STaC, and other units have no STaC at all, so Pat Wilson's complaints are unjustified. Nadine suggested that if any unit want its own STaC, the STaC should be confined to clubs within its own unit.

The Board discussed a letter written by a WBL member regarding the recent arrest of one of the WBL members for making a violent threat. The letter urged the WBL to suspend or expel the member who was arrested, and noted that member's temper on other occasions. Steve Robinson stated that it would be inappropriate for the WBL to take action against the person arrested, because the arrest concerned an event unconnected to any WBL bridge event. Dick noted that the WBL has Conduct and Ethics rules, and the jurisdiction of the C&E rules are limited to conduct at the games or the environs. The conduct in question here does not fall within that jurisdictional parameter. In addition, there has been no legal determination to date that the member in question is a danger to the community. Ron Zucker stated that the Board should be "less flippant" to the concerns of the member who wrote the letter, because the member who was arrested has sometimes acted inappropriately at the unit game. Dick stated that if the member engaged in a pattern of behavior at the table that warrants discipline, the Board could reconsider the issue. Steve Forsythe commented that there needs to be strict limitations on conduct at the table. The Board agreed to take no further action. The next issue of the Bulletin will note that players can file recorder forms with Don Berman if they have complaints regarding behavior at the game.

The Board considered the issue of IRS Form 1099s for pay to directors. Dick stated that he reviewed the law, which clearly requires the WBL to issue 1099s. The NVBA has been doing it for some time. Dick said that the WBL has no choice but to issue the 1099s, even though the directors do not like it. Steve Robinson suggested redistributing compensation by paying a travel per diem and fee, so that less of the total compensation would be taxable. Dick appointed Steve Robinson and Fred King to look into that possibility.

The Board discussed Donna's request for a raise for her services. Dick appointed Steve Robinson and Fred King to consider this issue further.

The board discussed honoring Michael Carroad's retirement as director of the unit game, to be announced at the unit game on June 17. Ron Zucker will obtain a gift for Michael. Cake will be offered after the first hospitality break.

Steve Robinson was appointed the new Chairman of Electronics Communication.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard Ferrin, Secretary

Minutes**WBL Board Meeting****July 21, 2004**

In attendance: Barbara Ames, Don Berman, Winston Edwards, Richard Ferrin, Fred King, Steve Robinson, Dick Wegman, Ron Zucker, and non-voting members Kitty Gottfried, Donna Rogall, and Ted Ying.

President Dick Wegman called the meeting to order at 7:38 PM.

Following suggested amendments proposed by Dick Wegman, the board approved the minutes, without objection.

Treasurer, Steve Robinson, reported that we have approximately \$12,500 in our checking account, and between \$18,000 and \$19,000 in certificates of deposit. The board approved the treasurer's report, without objection.

Dick Wegman reported on a recent incident at the Washington Bridge Center ("WBC"). Apparently a player who attended a WBC club game on the morning of Saturday, June 26 alleged that he witnessed one player "assaulting" another player. The complaining party filed a report with ACBL headquarters in Memphis, which report was, in turn, forwarded to Don Berman as WBL Recorder. The complaining party lives out of town, and was visiting the Washington area at the time. Fred King stated that he had spoken to Jim Allen (owner of the WBC, who was not present at the time of the incident but who had gathered information after the fact about the incident), as well as persons who had actually attended the June 26 morning game and witnessed the incident. Fred stated that all of the witnesses with whom he spoke recalled that there was shouting involved, but no physical violence. Richard Ferrin reported that he was present at the June 26 morning game, and also reported that the incident involved shouting, but no physical violence. Jim Allen reportedly had spoken with the parties to the argument. Neither party has any history of disruptive behavior at the WBC. Both parties involved have been warned and placed on probation. Fred King will draft a response to Memphis, with permission for Memphis to forward the response to the complaining party. The board agreed that no further measures were necessary.

The board discussed the July-August WBL Sectional. In light of Jeff Roman's absence, Steve Robinson will make the workshop presentation, between the two sessions on Saturday. Kitty Gottfried will make sure that a separate room is available for the workshop. Dick Wegman reported that the school will provide chairs for the sectional.

The board again discussed options for locations of upcoming sectionals.

- According to Dick Wegman, Nadine Wood has not yet held any further discussions with 4H.
- Dick reports that Nadine has, however, spoken with the Newport Middle School about reserving Saturdays and Sundays for the WBL sectionals in October 2004 and January and March 2005. The school reportedly is amenable to an agreement whereby the WBL reserves the right to cancel up to 30 days in advance.
- Barbara Ames reported that another possible sectional location is Summit Hill Farm at Gaithersburg. This site is not available in the winter, but it is available at other times of the year and they have expressed interest in hosting the WBL for sectionals. Richard Ferrin commented that the WBL needs a permanent space, so any space which is unavailable for winter is undesirable.
- Barbara said that another possible space is the site of the "Rescue Squad", which is located on Old Georgetown Road and Battery Lane, or Cedar. The Rescue Squad has not yet provided any details about the dates when the space would be available.
- Barbara said that prospects for a better, permanent space for WBL sectionals would improve greatly if the WBL could budget \$7,000 to \$8,000 for rent. That might be possible if the WBL could sell sponsorships for the July regional. Barbara and Charity Sack will draft a model letter to possible sponsors. Winston Edwards will review the draft.
- Ted Ying commented that sites in northern Montgomery County are undesirable, because the commute time is bad for anybody living outside Montgomery County. Ted said that he would look at potential locations

in Prince George's County or beltway locations for \$2,000 to \$2,500 for five sessions. Dick Wegman noted that any potential location would have to have 6,000 to 7,000 square feet of playing space, plus plenty of parking.

The board considered the location of the unit game.

- Dick Wegman said that he and Barbara Ames spoke with Christ the King Church to improve the lighting and the condition of the facilities, possibly with the assistance of some up-front money by the WBL. A meeting is scheduled for this Saturday, but it may be postponed.
- Dick reported that St. Michael's Church, which is near the old Silver Spring Armory (at the intersection of Wayne and Pershing), may be available. The lighting and space is good, the Church has kitchen facilities, and parking is ample. The downside is that the Church is asking for \$500 per night.
- Ron Zucker asked how much profit the WBL earns on the unit game. Fred King estimated \$1,000 per month. Ted Ying estimated \$400 to \$800 per session, not including rent.
- Ted noted that when the WBL moved from the Silver Spring Armory to Kensington, it lost about seven to nine tables. The WBL lost a similar number of tables after the move to Ohr Kodesh, and again after the move to Christ the King.
- Fred King asked if the St. Michael's location has a facility for Steve Forsythe's newcomer game. Dick said that it may be possible to run that game on the stage of the meeting room where the main game would be.
- Dick proposed setting up a visit by as many WBL board members as possible, perhaps on a Saturday morning. Dick will send invitations to WBL board members and certain other people, such as Millard. He will try to schedule the visit for Saturday, August 7.
- Dick also noted that we need new tables for the unit game. Ted commented that new tables might pose a space problem, because tables made these days are bigger than the old tables.

The board discussed partnerships, including the Partnership Guarantee Program.

- Kitty Gottfried noted that when Charlene has to call up a partnership volunteer at the last minute, she usually has to borrow somebody's cell phone. Is it possible for the unit to purchase a cell phone so that Charlene does not have to borrow a cell phone? Ted Ying commented that another reason for the unit to get a cell phone is so that persons who are stuck in traffic or otherwise are delayed getting to the unit game have somewhere to call and warn of the delay. Dick Wegman said that the idea of a phone number for the unit is a good idea, but expressed concern that a cell phone might disappear. He also asked how much this would all cost. Don Berman volunteered to look into it and report his findings to the board.
- Dick reported that Michael Carroad suggested the following persons as volunteers to fill in as partners for the unit game: Mike Henderson, Jason Meyer, Michele Cantave, and Sandy Forsythe. Ted suggested that the WBL offer them a free play for volunteering for partnership duty, whether or not they actually play on the night that they volunteer. This will encourage volunteers. Ted will provide a further report next month on the Partnership Guarantee Program.

The board considered recommendations to the Mid-Atlantic Bridge Conference ("MABC") for tournament co-chairs for the 2005 July 4th regional. Dick Wegman stated that Nadine is willing to run the regional, with the assistance of Fred King. The last time that the WBL ran the July 4th regional, Kathy Kruskal was co-chair, and he was concerned that Kathy might be expecting to chair or co-chair the next time. Ted Ying predicted that Kathy would not mind if someone else were selected to chair the tournament. A motion was made, and passed unanimously, to recommend Nadine and Fred as co-chairs. Dick agreed to talk to Kathy about the situation.

Steve Robinson noted the continuing difficulty in getting reimbursement from the MABC for the last 4th of July tournament that the WBL ran, because of issues regarding reporting of the financial statement. Steve Robinson suggested that he draft a letter to the MABC explaining that the WBL attempted to obtain a financial statement from the then-tournament co-chair. Steve believed that at this point, the MABC would agree to reimburse upon receipt of

such a letter from the WBL. The board agreed to have Steve write such a letter.

The board deferred further consideration of recommendations regarding liability insurance until the next meeting. The board will also look at workmen's compensation insurance.

The board discussed the upcoming scheduling meeting for the sectionals. Dick Wegman asked if the board was comfortable with holding only four sectionals next year, as they did this year. Fred King noted that the board would not be in a position now to determine whether to have another July-August sectional until the attendance results were in from this year's July-August sectional. Steve Robinson commented that traditionally, cold-weather sectional tournaments have better attendance than summer sectional tournaments. He suggested that the schedulers set five dates, and later delete one of those dates to get the number of sectionals down to four. Ted Ying suggested that the schedulers should identify six slots, and then prioritize those slots. Fred recommended definitely not scheduling a sectional in December. January, March, and October should be definite times for sectionals. The fourth sectional should be in either May or July/August, depending on how the upcoming July/August sectional goes. In addition, the schedule should provide at least a three-week gap between a WBL sectional and any NVBA sectional. Following further discussion, Dick Wegman noted that the majority of board members agreed with Fred's suggestion. Ron Zucker asked about the Washington Bridge Center sectional. Ted Ying said that there was no need to discuss that sectional in the scheduling meeting, because it was not a Washington Bridge League sectional.

Dick Wegman raised the issue of Larry Galvin's club suspension. Mr. Gavin has three sanctioned clubs. He has not been filing the necessary reports and fees, so the ACBL has suspended all three of these clubs. Dick said that Barbara Summers believes that the WBL should do what it can to help Larry bring his clubs back into ACBL compliance. Dick noted that six months ago, Barbara Summers put up the money necessary to bring Larry current on ACBL fees. Now Larry is again delinquent. Ted Ying asked if anybody at these three clubs would could be a liaison with Larry. Dick suggested Barbara Summers. Ted agreed to look into the matter.

Dick Wegman discussed the club brochures, asking if there were any ideas about distribution. Ron Zucker suggested distributing brochures to a support group for spouses of Georgetown Medical School students. Ted Ying suggested distributing brochures to embassies for spouses of diplomats.

The board considered compensation for Donna Rogall's services. Steve Robinson suggested a new compensation package for Donna that would add spouse free plays. Dick said that he was uncomfortable expanding free plays to spouses. Dick asked Steve and Fred King to discuss the matter further and make recommendations to the board. Mindful that Donna's request for a raise has been pending for some months, Winston Edwards suggested that any increase in compensation be retroactive. Dick agreed.

Don Berman raised the issue of computerized images of the flyers for WBL sectionals. He stated that the WBL should post the flyers on the WBL website in PDF format, instead of the bitmap format currently being used. Ted Ying objected that PDF format is unfriendly to the handicapped. Don said that anything is better than bitmap. Donna Rogall commented that PDF is too time-consuming on a page-by-page basis. However, if the WBL were to purchase the full Adobe PDF package, it would be workable. Don estimated that the full Adobe PDF package software costs approximately \$500. He will inquire further with the MABC webmaster. Don also said that he would look into other options for improving the WBL web site.

Kitty Gottfried said that Millard Nachtwey should be mentioned in the list for the annual meeting and holiday party. For some reason he was not mentioned last year.

Ron Zucker reminded the board that the volunteer party will take place August 29 from 3:00 to 6:00 PM. He urged as many board members as possible to attend.

The next WBL board meeting will take place on August 25 at Steve Forsythe's house.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard Ferrin, Secretary

Minutes
WBL Board Meeting
August 25, 2004

The meeting was held at Steve Forsythe's house.

In attendance: Barbara Ames, Don Berman, Winston Edwards, Richard Ferrin, Steve Forsythe, Fred King, Steve Robinson, Barbara Summers, Dick Wegman, Ron Zucker, and non-voting members Kitty Gottfried and Nadine Wood. Ron Starr also attended for a portion of the meeting.

President Dick Wegman called the meeting to order at 7:27 PM.

Secretary's Report

Following suggested amendments, the board approved the minutes, without objection.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer, Steve Robinson, reported that we have \$14,084.21 in our checking account. The rent for the October sectional is already paid. The Mid-Atlantic Bridge Conference reimbursed the WBL \$1125 for the 2003 July 4th Regional (with a \$75 penalty for not submitting the budget on time). Dick Wegman commented that the WBL should improve the formatting of the annual report. Barbara Ames said that she and Steve Robinson would provide a report at the next Board meeting regarding the formatting. The board approved the treasurer's report, without objection.

Bridge In Schools

Ron Starr, who runs the WBL high school bridge program, reported on the status of the program. The program is targeting the following schools: BCC, Whitman, Blair, Churchill, Walter Johnson, Richard Montgomery, and Eleanor Roosevelt. Ron identified the following ideas to promote the program (see attachment):

- Contact the schools to see if they will include a bridge club on their web page.
- Send a notice to the web page for parents of the schools attendees to let them know that we would like to start a bridge program, noting the many advantages of learning a new skill, offering to supply a teaching, and providing other necessary information and needs.
- Learn all of the sign-up days and nights for school clubs, and make sure we have a representative with all of the information.
- Send notices and bridge information to as many students as possible about their school's program.
- Make sure we have teachers for all schools and organize the schedules.

Ron noted that BCC includes the bridge club on its web page. Ron also happens to have a long list of e-mail addresses for high school kids through work (he is a pediatric dentist).

Barbara Summers and Steve Forsythe stated that they may volunteer to teach. Ron stated that each school needs a teacher sponsor and a teacher.

Fred King suggested that there should be an inter-school competition, with trophies. Ron stated that he has looked into this, and the ACBL is willing to cooperate, supplying t-shirts, etc. Ron suggested a competition in April.

Steve Forsythe commented that on Saturday, October 2, during the October WBL sectional, there will be an "Instant Bridge Player Program" from 10 AM to 4 PM, to introduce bridge to players who have never before played. Winston Edwards offered to help out with the October 2 event.

With regard to the Bridge at Schools program, Winston said that the program should also target middle schools,

because kids in that age range have more free time, as there are not as many other extracurricular events against which bridge would compete.

Dick Wegman appointed Winston Edwards, Barbara Summers, and Steve Robinson to serve as an advisory committee for the Bridge at Schools program. Ron stated that he had a total of four persons lined up to teach. Dick stated that it is important to have one person to coordinate the entire program, and Ron Starr offered to assume that role.

July-August Sectional

Dick Wegman reported that the scheduling experiment for the Saturday of the sectional was a success. (The previous three-game schedule of morning, afternoon, and evening was replaced by a two-game schedule with start times of 10:30 AM and 3:30 PM.) In the last sectional, the three-session format attracted 98 tables, whereas the two-session format fetched 108 tables. Dick said that his informal polling of participants suggested that most people were pleased with the new format. Dick also reported that the Saturday workshop was well attended

Nadine Wood noted that the lunch served between sessions on Saturday resulted in long lines, because unlike the Sunday Swiss, the lunch on Saturday could not be staggered between two groups of players. She said that the October sectional should work out better, because the start time for the second game will be 4:00 PM instead of 3:30 PM, giving more time for everybody to be served.

Dick reported that overall attendance at the WBL sectionals is slowly improving, as noted below:

<u>2002</u>	<u>2003</u>	<u>2004</u>
Jan. 315	Jan. 366	Jan. 325
Mar. 364	Mar. 280	Mar. 340
May 371	May 255	Aug. 359
Oct. 278	Oct. 310	
Nov. 371	Dec. 252	

Minutes
WBL Board Meeting
September 22, 2004

The meeting was held at Barbara Ames' house.

In attendance: Barbara Ames, Don Berman, Winston Edwards, Steve Forsythe, Fred King, Steve Robinson, Barbara Summers, and Dick Wegman. Richard Ferrin and Ron Zucker were unable to attend because of a vehicle breakdown while en route to the meeting.

President Dick Wegman called the meeting to order at 7:43 PM.

Secretary's Report

Without objection, the board approved the minutes, without change.

Treasurer's Report

Steve Robinson reported that we have \$8,353.82 in our checking account. The rent for the next four tournaments is paid. Steve reported that the monthly treasurers' report will be expanded to include other investments, prepaid items, and fixed assets. Steve met with Barbara Ames and Fred King to discuss the expanded reporting. Steve stated that the treasurers' report will show comparative income statements -- current year and prior year. The board approved the treasurer's report, without objection.

Bridge In Schools

Ron Starr has programs started or under discussion at seven local schools. About 50 students have signed up or shown interest. Richard Grossman is the teacher and sponsor at Blair High School. September 23, 2004 is the first day of the after-school bridge activity at Blair.

BCC will have an Activity Fair on September 24, 2004.

Walt Whitman School will have an event at 7:00 or 7:30 PM on October 5, 2004. They need someone from bridge to attend and to promote bridge as an activity. Winston Edwards or Steve Forsythe or Dick Wegman will cover this event.

Walter Johnson High School has a teacher and a sponsor.

Richard Montgomery High School has a sponsor, but needs a bridge teacher.

St. Andrew's High School has a sponsor (David Brown), and there are 15 students interested.

Eleanor Roosevelt High School has a sponsor and teacher (Brad Tash). The program begins this week.

Dick will ask Ron Starr for the list of students and teachers. Steve Robinson will add that list to his e-mail distribution list.

October Sectional

Jim Allen will chair a Panel Discussion. Jeff Roman, Beth Palmer, and Steve Robinson will be panelists. The Panel Discussion will take place in the main room between sessions Saturday, while people eat.

Steve and Sandy Forsythe will run a "Learn to Play Bridge" lesson on October 2, 2004.

January Sectional

The WBL plans to hold the January 2005 sectional at the Newport Mill Middle School. The rent has now been paid.

Sectional Start Times

The Board discussed starting the second session at 3:30 PM instead of 4:00 PM, in order to give players time to do something else in the evening after the last session of bridge, while maintaining at least 1 1/2 hours for a dinner break. Dick Wegman will discuss this with Nadine Wood before making any schedule changes.

ABA/WBL

The ABA's Washington Bridge Unit met on Sunday, as reported by Cassandra Smith. Only one third of the members wanted mixed ABA/WBL teams. Support was minimal for a joint event. Winston will talk to the ABA and find out

why the ABA is concerned about overflow at their March sectional if the WBL were to be included. Let's keep the idea open for the future. Now the WBL has scheduled a sectional in March on the same date as the ABA's sectional, but perhaps some the organizations could work out some type of collaboration in the future. Winston Edwards noted that in his view, the ABA is more of a social organization, whereas the WBL is more competitive. It was pointed out that the WBL is about five times the size of the Washington Bridge Unit of the ABA.

Insurance

Dick Wegman moved that the WBL authorize Steve Robinson to pay up to \$800 per year for Directors' and Officers' Insurance, general liability insurance, and insurance to cover the Church premises. The motion passed.

WBL Directory

The Board thanks Barbara Rothkin for doing a great job on the Addendum. The Addendum is being distributed at the Unit Game.

Brochure Distribution

Steve Robinson will distribute an e-mail regarding where brochures have been distributed. Steve Forsythe will then act as coordinator if there are more sites to cover. Steve Forsythe has the brochure supply, and anybody who wants more brochures to distribute should send him an e-mail.

Volunteer Party

The WBL thanked Steve and Sandy Forsythe for hosting the Volunteer Party. The party was successful, although Steve Forsythe stated that he would have liked to have more potentially involved volunteers. Steve said that primarily the "old guard" turned out for the party.

St. Michael's Church

The Board reached a consensus that parking is a major obstacle to the use of St. Michael's as a site for the unit game, with additional minor concerns regarding storage space and the rental price. Winston Edwards investigated the parking situation. He reported that the municipal lot has 130-138 parking spaces, and that street parking would be available. There is an additional closed lot, next to a building across Wayne Avenue. However, both lots are likely to be closed at least temporarily by the planned demolition of the adjacent building. Winston suggested that the idea of a move to St. Michael's be tabled for a least one year.

Upgraded WBL Equipment

Ron Zucker was to have reported on the possibility of upgraded equipment, including fresh cards, better tables, and perhaps improvements to the Unit Game site. Further discussion was tabled until Ron can report to the Board.

Partnership Guarantee and Cell Phone

Barbara Doran has agreed to be the "last-minute fill-in" coordinator. She will call people from the volunteer list when someone shows up at the Unit Game and needs a partner. Don Berman will get a cell phone for \$20 per month on his plan, with the cell phone to be used by the WBL for this purpose. Don will purchase the service on October 24, 2004, when Don's own service contract is renewed.

Conduct and Ethics Policy

The ACBL has made some revisions to its disciplinary code and regulations. The WBL has developed its own set of guidelines available to the C&E Committee, complainants, and defendants. Fred King reviewed the WBL's rules, and agree that the WBL's C&E rules are consistent with the ACBL's guidelines. However, the ACBL Recorder Regulations require the WBL's Recorder to send all recorder slips to ACBL headquarters in Memphis. The Board agreed to withhold any recorder slips it deems to be frivolous, and not send any such frivolous slips to Memphis.

Free Play Policies

Fred King is reviewing the cost and use of the WBL's free play policies. The Board appointed a committee to review the WBL's policies and report back to the Board in November or December. The committee members appointed were: Fred King (Chair), Ted Ying, Nadine Wood, Steve Robinson, and Ron Zucker.

WBL Bulletin

Fred King noted that the Board would save a significant sum by decreasing the number of WBL Bulletins by one Bulletin per year if the WBL can retain the favorable nonprofit postal rates. Steve Robinson will check into the

periodical postal rate reduction. The potential savings of cutting one Bulletin per year is up to \$2,000 per year. The plan is to decrease the number of Bulletins from six issues per year from five, as long as it does not result in a significant increase in postage costs. The decrease in number of Bulletins would be consistent with the decrease in number of WBL sectionals.

The meeting adjourned at 9:40 PM. The next WBL board meeting will take place October 20 at Ron Zucker's house. Barbara Summers will host on November 10. The Board thanked Barbara Ames for hosting the meeting.

The Secretary thanks Barbara Ames for taking notes in the Secretary's absence.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard Ferrin, Secretary

Minutes
WBL Board Meeting
October 21, 2004

The meeting was held at Barbara Ames' house.

In attendance: Barbara Ames, Don Berman, Winston Edwards, Steve Forsythe, Fred King, Steve Robinson, Barbara Summers, and Dick Wegman. Richard Ferrin and Ron Zucker were unable to attend because of a vehicle breakdown while en route to the meeting.

President Dick Wegman called the meeting to order at 7:43 PM.

Secretary's Report

Without objection, the board approved the minutes, without change.

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Steve Robinson reported that we have \$8,353.82 in our checking account. The rent for the next four tournaments is paid. Steve reported that the monthly treasurers' report will be expanded to include other investments, prepaid items, and fixed assets. Steve met with Barbara Ames and Fred King to discuss the expanded reporting. Steve stated that the treasurers' report will show comparative income statements -- current year and prior year. The board approved the treasurer's report, without objection.

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The Secretary thanks Barbara Ames for taking notes in the Secretary's absence.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard Ferrin, Secretary

Minutes

WBL Board Meeting

October 21, 2004

The meeting was held at Ron Zucker's house.

In attendance: Barbara Ames, Don Berman, Richard Ferrin, Fred King, Steve Robinson, Barbara Summers, Dick Wegman, Ron Zucker, and non-voting members Donna Rogall and Nadine Wood.

President Dick Wegman called the meeting to order at 7:57 PM.

Secretary's Report

Without objection, the board approved the minutes, as amended.

Treasurer's Report

Steve Robinson reported that the WBL has \$8,891.26 in its checking account. The WBL also just received a \$1900 check from the MABC as reimbursement from the 2003 Fourth of July regional, and a \$484 check from the ACBL as reimbursement for brochures. Dick Wegman stated that Steve and Barbara Ames will work on a new format for financial reports.

October Sectional

Dick Wegman reported that the October 2004 WBL sectional drew 303 tables, which is a significant drop from August 2004. Historically, the October tournament draws a lower table count than most of the other tournaments. However, the seasonal cycle cannot entirely explain the dropoff, because the NVBA September sectional drew 371 tables.

Nadine Wood noted that the attendance for Friday was good, but the Saturday attendance was very bad. Table attendance for the B/C game decreased significantly. Dick stated that according to Millard Nachtwey, the novice table count decreased significantly. Perhaps some of the novices were siphoned off by the event for beginner players held the same Saturday at the Washington Bridge Center. Donna Rogall noted that the Saturday morning game at WBL sectionals died last October.

Nadine suggested that the Board consider moving the October tournament to August. Ron Zucker stated that the problem with rescheduling the October 2005 sectional to August is the tight timing between the Summer Nationals (which are scheduled later than usual in 2005) and the Hunt Valley regional. Nadine suggested scheduling the sectional two weeks after Hunt Valley, which is the week before Labor Day. She considered the possibility of rescheduling the October tournament to December, but December is a bad time to schedule a tournament because it conflicts with too many other events.

Dick stated that holding a sectional in October was not the problem, and moving the tournament will not solve the attendance problem. Richard Ferrin stated that the biggest problem continues to be the poor playing site for the WBL sectionals. Steve Robinson commented that the hospitality does not seem to make much of a difference in attendance. Richard Ferrin suggested that continued variation of events may spark more interest, such as hosting an IMP pairs event at the sectional. Steve Robinson and Nadine Wood disagreed, stating that most people prefer vanilla pair events.

Fred King moved to switch the October 2005 WBL sectional to August 25-28, 2005. The motion passed unanimously.

Alternative Locations

Nadine Wood reported that she and Bill Cole went to the Forest Glen Senior Center, as a possible new sectional location. Parking is plentiful, more than 150 spaces. The facility has more space than Christ the King or the Newport Mill Middle School, it has a stage, and has a large kitchen with professional equipment. The contact at Forest Glen quoted \$90 per hour for rent, although it is unclear how the time of use would be counted. The space is unavailable Thursday or Friday. There are several problems, however, primarily stemming from peculiar rules at the facility. The Montgomery County Recreation Department is in charge of the facility. The rules currently allow the Senior Center to rent the space only once per year to the same group. Moreover, while the rent money goes to the Recreation Department, the expenses come out of the Senior Center's direct budget. Also, the Senior Center has activities in the proposed space until 12:30 on Saturday. Nevertheless, the Senior Center is willing to rent the space to the WBL in January, and cancel the Saturday morning activities there on the Saturday of the tournament. The Senior Center also has a rule that prevents groups from collecting money on-site, although it may be possible to get an exception from this rule and several of the other rules. Nadine noted that her contact at the Senior Center was particularly interested about the age demographics of the WBL, and suggested that this factor might increase the possibility of getting waivers on the various rules that pose problems. At the same time, part of the problem with waivers of the rules is that it is unclear who has authority to waive the rules; it may require approval high up the chain in Montgomery County government.

Nadine also looked at Holiday Park as another potential sectional site, but they want \$90 per hour per room, and one room is not enough to accommodate the entire tournament. Richard Ferrin asked about the 4-H center, which had been mentioned several months ago as a potential sectional site. Nadine reported that the rooms there are not big enough; we would need four rooms to hold the tournament. Also, the WBL could not bring in its own food.

Ron Zucker said that he is leery of moving the WBL's sectional tournament, now that people finally know the Newport Middle School location. However, Forest Glen is a good location, close to the beltway. Ron also worried about the trouble of changing sites for just one tournament, given the current Forest Glen rules limiting use to once per year.

Fred King asked if the Newport Mill Middle School would refund the rent if the WBL switched sites in January. Steve Robinson said that the school would refund the rent, with only a \$25 penalty. Dick Wegman stated that if the Forest Glen site works out, we would have to make sure that we could cancel the reservations for the other WBL tournaments and get refunds.

Nadine stated that trying out Forest Glen for the tournament this January looks especially attractive given the problem of the snow policy at the School. Steve Robinson also noted the problem of poor regulation of heat at the School for the winter months.

Steve Robinson moved to switch the site of the January 2005 WBL sectional tournament to the Forest Glen location, provided that Nadine could reach an acceptable accommodation with the Senior Center regarding some of the rules, such as collecting money on-site, etc. The motion passed five to three.

January Sectional Schedule

Dick Wegman expressed his belief that 3:45 PM is too late for a start time for the second session on Saturday. Many WBL members have told him that they want to get home earlier after the second session on Saturday so that they have their evenings free.

Donna Rogall stated that the break between sessions on Saturday occurs at a strange time. Also, with a 3:45 PM start, it will be already dark at the end of the second session for most of the tournaments. If the WBL continues to collapse the Saturday schedule from three sessions to two, there should be more of a compromise on the start times. Ron Zucker agreed that that the current schedule does not allow for a dinner break. Dick asked Donna and Ron whether they would play in an event with an 11:00 AM start time. Donna stated that maybe she would one day of the tournament, Ron said that he might be willing to do so, depending on the circumstances,

Steve Robinson suggested that the problem regarding the late end of the second session could be solved by cutting the number of boards to 24 per session. Nadine Wood said that 11:00 AM is a good start time for the first session, and that if we cut the number of board to 24, it would allow for a 3:30 start, finishing the second session by 6:45 PM.

Ron Zucker objected to any plan that cut back the amount of bridge. He asked whether the 15-minute saving would really make it easier to start the second session at 3:30 PM. Dick and Nadine stated that it would indeed make it easier.

Donna Rogall asked whether anybody has analyzed any data regarding attitudes among the membership concerning start times. Barbara Ames volunteered to develop a short survey.

Dick observed that when the WBL first experimented with two sessions in the August tournament, the tournament drew more tables for two sessions Saturday than they had for three sessions on the Saturday of the previous tournament. Attendance dropped on Saturday in October, but it was down across the board, both Saturday and Sunday. Dick recommended sticking with two sessions on Saturday, for at least one more tournament, and agreed with the idea of taking a survey of the membership. Donna Rogall said that Dick's suggestion was OK with her, as long as there is some data collection and analysis, and as long as the Board is willing to revisit the issue. She noted in closing that the additional problem with early starts on Saturday is that it is difficult for players who played in the late Friday night session.

Steve Robinson moved to change the number of boards to 24 for the two Saturday sessions, with start times at 11:00 AM and 3:30 PM. Start time for the Sunday Swiss would be at 11:00 AM. Barbara Summers seconded the motion. The motion carried four to two.

Dick asked whether the trophies for the WBL trophy races (Lovenberg, Cohen, Tubbs, and Woolridge) could be awarded at the January tournament. Don Berman stated that he believed he could tabulate the final data in time. Nadine noted that the party for new Life Masters would be held the Friday night of the January tournament, and suggested awarding the trophies between sessions on Saturday, just before the Panel Show. Ron Zucker asked why it is important to award the trophies in January. Nadine replied that it makes the races more exciting if the trophies are awarded as soon as possible after the end of the cycle. Fred King asked who would make sure that the trophies are there at the sectional to be awarded. Dick said that Barbara Shaw would be responsible for making sure that the trophies are transported to the sectional. Ron Zucker moved to award the trophies between sessions of the Saturday of the January sectional. The motion carried unanimously.

Nadine reported that the WBL is still looking for a new partnership chair for the sectionals, and for the July 4th regional. Barbara Ames volunteered to serve as partnership chair for the regional, but not for the March sectional, because of her schedule during tax season. However, Barbara is willing to pick up the sectional responsibility beginning in May.

Unit Game Management and Cell Phone

Dick Wegman reported that he talked to Ted Ying regarding complaints concerning his direction of the Unit Game. The discussion was productive, and Ted was receptive to suggestions. Ted has asked if there have been any more complaints since the ones originally reported. Ted indicated that he is interested in correcting any problems.

Don Berman reported that the cell phone has arrived. The telephone number is 301-395-2760, and it is posted on the WBL's web site. Ted Ying will have custody of the phone, and will have a list of standby partners. Dick noted that Barbara Doran will handle partnerships at the Unit Game 7:00-7:30 PM Thursday night.

Christ The King Upgrade, Unit Game Equipment

Dick Wegman reported that he has again complained to the Church about the condition of the bathrooms. Church officials promise to work on it. Apparently part of the problem was that the person in charge of maintenance was out for a few weeks. Dick asked Board members if they had any suggestions regarding lighting.

Steve Robinson explained that the WBL already has floor lamps, which were last used when the site was the Kensington Armory. Ron Zucker said that the WBL could get floor lamps at \$30 each from Home Depot. Dick asked Barbara Ames and Ron Zucker to look into options for improved lighting.

Dick noted the problem with sticky cards, and said that Ted will replace them with fresh cards.

Fred King said that the tables used at the Unit Game are from the MABC. Lee Biggs, who stores tables for the MABC, has more tables available. Barbara Summers volunteered to talk to Lee about obtaining more tables. Ron Zucker volunteered to help move them.

Liability Insurance

Steve Robinson reported that he received a \$900 estimate for liability insurance. Barbara Ames said that she would be meeting tomorrow with an insurance agent for Director and Officer ("D&O") insurance. Steve explained that he already obtained D&O insurance for a few hundred dollars. After some discussion, it was unclear just what that insurance covers, however. Barbara Ames said that she is still checking on obtaining tournament liability insurance from the ACBL. Dick Wegman directed Barbara Ames to check further on the insurance situation and send an e-mail to the Board.

Directory

Ron Zucker reports that the WBL directories are all gone, but errata booklets are still available. He will make an announcement tomorrow night.

Mailing of Bulletins

Donna Rogall announced that she found a printer willing to do the mailing, using automated mail. The U.S. Postal Service charges currently are approximately \$320 per issue. Donna's charges for labor are \$150 per issue, for a total of \$470 per issue. Using the printer to do the labor would change the charges to approximately \$220 per issue from the U.S. Postal Service and \$345 for the printer's labor, for a total of \$565 per issue. (The U.S. Postal Service charges would decrease because the WBL would qualify for the lower charges of automated mail.) Steve Robinson moved to use the automated mailing route. The motion carried unanimously.

Donna commented that it was a bad idea to decrease the number of issues of the Bulletin, because the WBL currently enjoys a special periodical postal rate. The Post Office has continued to charge the WBL the special rate, even though the WBL should no longer qualify for the periodical rate. If the WBL changes the number of issues, it might draw attention to the fact that the WBL does not qualify for the periodical rate. On the other hand, the WBL could save money by producing a very small issue for the 6th issue. Fred King asked how much more expensive it would be if the WBL lost the periodical rate. Steve Robinson estimated that it would cost approximately \$550-\$600 per issue, compared to the periodical rate of \$220 per issue (assuming that the mailing is automated). Fred commented that it costs about \$12,000 to \$13,000 per year for the Bulletin, which is easily the WBL's largest expense. Donna Rogall suggested that having a truncated issue for the 6th issue (about eight pages), would result in significant savings. Dick Wegman appointed Steve Robinson to investigate further.

Potential Assistance for Washington Bridge Center

Dick Wegman reported that Jim Allen is worried about declining attendance at the Washington Bridge Center. Dick will invite Jim to the next WBL Board meeting to discuss the issue further.

ABA

Dick Wegman noted the e-mail from the ABA's Cassandra Smith, which Dick forwarded to the Board. In particular, he notes that the ABA will have a charity game on October 30, and a memorial game in memory of Art Reid on November 6. Both games are two sessions and begin at 11:00 AM. Dick commented that if any WBL Board members are in town those days, the ABA would be delighted if they could attend. He will announce these ABA events at tomorrow's unit game, and obtain flyers.

Bridge and Bowling

Ron Zucker reported that there is a bowling alley off New Hampshire at the DC line. The alley would be willing to reserve up to eight lanes. Fred King stated that eight lanes should be enough. Ron asked whether people would go there. He noted that there are plenty of places to eat in the area, and the bridge part of the event could be held nearby at the Washington Bridge Center. Donna Rogall asked whether the bowling alley allows smoking. Ron said that it allows smoking only at the bar, not at the lanes. Ron said that one constraint in looking for bowling alleys is that it should be close to the bridge site. At Dick Wegman's suggestion, Ron will expand his search and will report back at the next meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 10:12 PM. The next WBL board meeting will take place November 10 at Barbara Summer's residence. Dick Wegman will ask Frances Burke if she can host on December 15. Don Berman tentatively agreed to host on January 19, 2005. The Board thanked Ron Zucker for hosting the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,
Richard Ferrin, Secretary

Minutes
WBL Board Meeting
November 10, 2004

The meeting was held at Barbara Summers' residence.

In attendance: Don Berman, Winston Edwards, Richard Ferrin, Steve Forsythe, Steve Robinson, Barbara Summers, Dick Wegman, Ron Zucker, and non-voting members Kitty Gottfried, Donna Rogall and Nadine Wood. Charity Sack also attended a portion of the meeting.

President Dick Wegman called the meeting to order at 7:50 PM.

Secretary's Report

Without objection, the board approved the minutes, as amended.

Treasurer's Report

Steve Robinson reported that the WBL has \$6,517.09 in its checking account. The WBL has prepaid the rent for all of its sectionals for 2005.

January Sectional

Dick Wegman reported that the Friday events at the January WBL sectional will be held at Christ the King Church, and the Saturday/Sunday events will be held at the Margaret Schweinhaut Senior Center in Forest Glen. The WBL reached agreement with the Schweinhaut Center only for the January 2005 sectional, because of a rule at that facility that allows any one group to rent the space only once per year. We hope that if the WBL is happy with the location and the Schweinhaut Center is happy with our presence during the January tournament, then it may be possible to persuade the local authorities to amend the rules going forward. Unfortunately, it will be too late to schedule the March 2005 tournament there, but hopefully subsequent tournaments can be scheduled at the Schweinhaut Center. Nadine Wood agreed, adding that we also do not want to push the Schweinhaut Center too fast. She stated that it may be possible logically to schedule the May tournament there, however, if the previously-described obstacles can be overcome.

Nadine observed that the Schweinhaut Center has several advantages over other locations, but there are several complications. In particular, Montgomery County takes the rent money, but gives back nothing to the Schweinhaut Center for agreeing to host the event. Nadine suggested that somebody on the WBL Board should talk to the relevant county politicians.

Nadine said that another issue with the Schweinhaut Center facility is that we have to do the cleanup ourselves. She suggested getting another caddy to help with cleanup. Charity Sack suggested that for a task like a major cleanup, the WBL should hire someone.

Ron Zucker offered to lend his sound system for the sectional, which offer was enthusiastically accepted.

Dick asked who should be invited to the Saturday afternoon panel presentation. Suggested panelists included John Adams, Bill Cole, Bobby Gookin, and Jeff Roman. Charity Sack will ask if they are available.

Unit Game Management

Dick Wegman reported on a conversation he had with Ted Ying regarding a recent incident at the unit game in which a web movement was set up incorrectly, resulting in delays and early termination of the game. In that conversation, Ted acknowledged that he had little experience running a web movement by himself. (Tim Crank usually is responsible for setting up web movements, but he was directing a tournament out-of-town on the date that the unit game incident occurred.) Dick stated that the WBL offered a free play to everybody who played on the Thursday night when the incident occurred. Dick noted that in his conversation with Ted, Ted said that about five players had previously complained about the use of web movements in the unit game, but that those players' complaint was mainly that a single-section web movement awards fewer masterpoints in total than two smaller sections.

Ron Zucker stated that if Tim or Michael Carroad are not present at the unit game, then the web movement should not

be used. Ron noted that on the night of the incident, some players complained about a separate incident approximately one month previously, when the duplicated boards were the same one used the previous week. Ron noted, however, that the duplication problem was not Ted's fault. Ron also observed that the root problem is that the A/X flight of the WBL unit game usually attracts approximately 19 to 22 tables, which means that if the web movement is abandoned in favor of two sections, the section size is small and requires three-board rounds.

Steve Robinson commented that running a web movement is not all that difficult; that the movements have already been worked out for every number of tables and detailed in writing, so setting up the movement only requires an ability to follow directions.

Steve Forsythe noted that it is easy to make a mistake with any movement. Don Berman noted that Ted is not a full-time director. Richard Ferrin indicated that the Board should be patient with Ted, because there is a learning curve with any new unit director and this problem (web movement gone awry) has not occurred at a WBL event in several years.

Dick invited a Board motion directing Ted to run a web movement only when Tim Crank or Michael Carroad are present. Steve Forsythe moved to tell Ted not to run a web movement if he is not comfortable doing so. The motion, as framed by Steve, passed 6-1.

Unit Game Facility

Dick Wegman reported that the WBL procured new tables last week from the Mid-Atlantic Bridge Conference ("MABC") depot, and also replaced some of the cards. Richard Ferrin noted that there are still some sticky cards in use at the unit game. Dick said that he would instruct Ted to replace the rest of the cards. He noted that it may be possible to obtain card decks at a cheaper rate through the MABC than through the ACBL, because of the deal the MABC got for card decks promoting the upcoming Atlanta Nationals.

Dick stated that he spoke with church officials at Christ the King regarding the lighting problem at the unit game facility. The church officials granted permission for the WBL to replace the bulbs, including use of halogen bulbs. Ron Zucker and Fred King plan to go to Home Depot to obtain bulbs. Don Berman asked whether anybody had determined whether the infrastructure can handle additional wattage. Barbara Summers said that Barbara Ames will check with church officials regarding the wattage.

Dick asked all board members to let him know if there was any further problem with the cleanliness of the bathrooms. Steve Robinson reported that the WBL purchased a timer from the MABC for \$150.

ABA Joint Event

Dick Wegman stated that April 16 or April 17 may be potential dates to arrange a joint event with the WBL and ABA. Steve Robinson noted that that would be the same weekend as the Gatlinburg regional. Barbara Summers asked where the ABA holds its tournaments. Don Berman stated that they hold them in Mt. Ranier.

Insurance Coverage

Dick Wegman announced that Steve Robinson received a certificate for liability insurance. Dick will fax a copy to the Church. Regarding D&O insurance, he is still awaiting a quote from an agent. Steve Robinson noted that the liability insurance policy is \$234 for the period September through May. Dick commented that the D&O insurance will be more expensive. Nadine Wood stated that the possibility of collective action to obtain D&O insurance is an item on the ACBL's agenda for the meetings at Orlando.

District 6 Meeting at Virginia Beach

Steve Robinson reported on the latest District 6 meeting. District 6 is changing its STAC schedule. Currently, there are four STACs: (1) a STAC benefiting the Baltimore unit; (2) a STAC half benefiting the NVBA and half benefiting the WBL; (3) a District 6 STAC with half the proceeds going to District 6 and half going to the District 6 clubs; and (4) a MABC STAC. District 6 will retain the latter two STACs, but proceeds for the first two STACs will be divided among the eight units in District 6, based on table count in the STAC. They expect the total revenue to the WBL to be about the same as before.

Don Berman stated that attendance at Jim Allen's club (Washington Bridge Center) is declining, as is the Laurel Bridge Club. As a result, WBL's STAC revenue is likely to drop. The problem is competition from the low-cost

senior games, many of which are unsanctioned.

Steve Robinson reported that ACBL has changed its charitable giving policy. Previously, ACBL donated \$100,000 per year to one organization. Now, the ACBL will donate \$20,000 to a charitable organization in each district once every four years. The ACBL's first \$20,000 donation to an organization in District 6 will be in 2005. District 6 has until November 2005 to decide on a beneficiary.

Don Berman also noted that ACBL has agreed to allow any club at any time to run a sectionally-rated game, for a fee of \$1 per table.

Volunteer Coordination

Dick Wegman stated that Barbara Summers will coordinate with Steve Forsythe to obtain volunteers for sectionals. He asked Steve Forsythe to notify the directing staff of the volunteers the next sectional.

Bridge and Bowling

Ron Zucker reported on his efforts to arrange this event, which has previously been handled by the NVBA. Ron contacted several bowling alleys, and found that only an alley in Laurel will reserve lanes this far in advance. Laurel Bridge Club could host the bridge part of the event. However, the concern is that the location is too far from Virginia to attract many NVBA members. Ron is also looking at alleys in Clifton and Bethesda. The alley he mentioned in a report in the October 2004 Board meeting, which is in Northeast DC, has since been condemned.

Ron reported that February 5, 2005 has been set as the date for the bridge and bowling events, although January 15 may be another option, if necessary. He reserved the alley in Laurel, since the alley does not require a deposit until one month before the event. Ron is still looking for other locations.

Midnight Basketball

Don Berman stated that Mary Dresser previously has run the annual Van the Man charity auction and bridge event, but she is getting tired of running the event. Don asked the Board to consider having the WBL host the event, raising money for the WBL. This could be a way for the WBL to raise funds to subsidize the sectionals. Ron Zucker observed that if the WBL runs a charity event to raise money for itself, ACBL rules require that the WBL first host a charity game for the ACBL. Steve Robinson confirmed Ron Zucker's understanding, and said that the WBL could host a charity game for the ACBL any Thursday night.

Directory Distribution

Ron Zucker reported that there is one box of WBL directories left. Dick Wegman suggested making an announcement at the unit game that the directories are there.

Bulletin

Donna Rogall addressed the suggestion made in previous Board meetings of running one short issue. She said that the problem is that the ad space as a percentage of the total publication cannot be too high, or else there would be a problem complying with postal regulations. As an alternative, she suggested raising rates for advertisements. The current rates, and the rates she proposes, are as follows:

<u>Current Rate</u>	<u>Proposed Rate</u>
\$60 full page	\$75 full page
\$40 half page	\$50 half page
\$25 quarter page	\$30 quarter page
\$15 eighth page	\$20 eighth page

She also proposes a deal that if the sponsor pays for five ads, the sixth would be free.

Following a brief discussion, the Board by consensus agreed to Donna's proposal.

Miscellaneous

Steve Robinson commented that when he went to the Las Vegas regional, they used tablecloths on the bridge tables. He thought that might be a good idea for local tournaments. Dick asked Steve to research this possibility further. The meeting adjourned at approximately 9:30 PM. The next WBL board meeting will take place December 15 at Frances Burke's place. The Board thanked Barbara Summers for hosting the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard Ferrin, Secretary

Minutes

WBL Board Meeting

December 15, 2004

The meeting was held at Frances Burke's house.

In attendance: Barbara Ames, Don Berman, Winston Edwards, Richard Ferrin, Fred King, Steve Robinson, Barbara Summers, Dick Wegman, and non-voting members Donna Rogall and Ted Ying. Bill Cole also attended a portion of the meeting.

President Dick Wegman called the meeting to order at 8:15 PM.

Secretary's Report

Without objection, the board approved the minutes, as amended.

Treasurer's Report

Steve Robinson reported that the WBL has \$7,869.66 in its checking account, plus \$671.75 for the November unit game proceeds. Ted Ying noted that in December, the WBL will pay for hand records for January-June unit games, rent at Christ the King Church, and rent at the Schweinhaut Senior Center for the January sectional. Steve reported that there is approximately \$18,000 in the WBL's savings account. The Treasurer's report was approved.

January Sectional

Dick Wegman reported that the Saturday/Sunday events will be held at the Margaret Schweinhaut Senior Center in Forest Glen. Dick noted that the facility is well located, with plenty of parking. He said that we need to make sure that people park in the designated areas. Ted Ying suggested that the WBL find a volunteer to police the parking area. Barbara Summers agreed to find volunteers.

Dick stated that Bill Cole and Nadine Wood deserve credit for lining up this site. The Director of the Schweinhaut Center is interested in seeing how this tournament goes. It may be possible for the WBL to be a long-term user of the site if the Director is satisfied with the WBL's use of the site at the January tournament. The Director has authority to decide whether the WBL can use the facility for more than once a year. Dick announced that Steve Forsythe will make sure the Center is clean following conclusion of the Sunday game. Dick emphasized that it is important that smokers do not litter the entrance with cigarette butts.

Dick hopes that the Center will invite the WBL to return for the May sectional. Dick hopes that this site may be a possibility for the unit game in the future. Steve Robinson noted that the problem with moving everything to the Schweinhaut Center is that the Center is unavailable for Friday nights during the sectionals.

Bill Cole cautioned that an administrator from the Schweinhaut Center will be on site during the January sectional, making it even more important to give a good impression throughout the tournament. Bill also noted that the caddies cannot clean up on Sunday evening, because they will be helping Lee Biggs with the tables. Bill emphasized that trash maintenance will be a concern. Trash from the Saturday event needs to be collected and deposited in the garbage bin in the back; it will be unacceptable to wait until Sunday. It is especially important to clean up food garbage. Ted Ying mentioned that we need to make sure to clean up garbage in the bathrooms.

Bill stated that when the WBL held its tournaments at the Kensington Armory, the problems with the city authorities were mainly the WBL's fault. It is crucial for the success of future WBL sectionals to have a pleasant place to play, and the Newport Mill Middle School is unsatisfactory in that regard. Without pleasant surroundings, it will be difficult

to improve attendance at the sectionals.

Barbara Ames expressed concern that the cleanup issues were such that the WBL should consider hiring cleanup help, rather than asking for volunteers. Ted suggested hiring somebody to clean up after every session. Steve Robinson said that if every WBL Board member picks up 10 cups before leaving the game, the trash problem should stay in check. Donna Rogall stated that she knew somebody who might be interested in cleaning for hire. Dick suggested that hiring a cleaner for Sunday evening should be sufficient. Bill replied that the cleaner for Sunday needs to start as early as possible, so that the Schweinhaut Center administrator will be there no longer than necessary. Ted suggested that hiring a cleaner for Sunday will be a bigger job than clean-up after the unit game, for which the WBL currently pays \$50.

Dick asked Donna to check with her source for a possible cleaner, and to e-mail Nadine Wood. We will get a commercial service if necessary.

Dick stated that Fred King will make trophy presentations at the January tournament, between sessions on Saturday. Tomorrow night (December 16), before the unit game, we will present the trophy to Don and Rose Berman for the D.C. Championship Pairs.

Dick reported that we will try to get high school students from the school program to attend a side game at the sectional. Dick said that Ron Starr asked if they could play for free. Steve, Fred, and Winston all suggested that it is important to charge some fee, and suggested \$1. The Board agreed by consensus to charge \$1 for the side game for the high school students. The Board also agreed with a suggestion by Winston to present trophies to the winner of the high school game. Ted will arrange for the trophies.

Donna reminded the Board that new Life Masters will be recognized at the Friday night session. We need to obtain biographical information for the new Life Masters, and procure a cake as part of the celebration. Barbara Doran has taken care of this in previous years. Dick will follow up with Barbara Doran.

Donna also reminded the Board that we need to think now about promoting the April/May sectional. Will the schedule remain the same? Dick suggested that Donna speak with Nadine about the schedule. Donna asked what promotional events the WBL planned for the sectional. Dick suggested another panel show. He stated that the WBL trophy pair events will switch to the August tournament.

Unit Game

Dick Wegman noted the December 15, 2004 e-mail from Ron Zucker to the Board regarding lighting options. Ron recommends fluorescent bulbs on tree lamps; about six should do. Ted Ying recommends incandescent lamps with globe bulbs. Ted agreed to e-mail comparisons to Dick and Ron.

Barbara Ames suggested that the Board authorize the expenditure now. Richard Ferrin moved to authorize spending on lighting up to \$400. The motion passed unanimously.

Steve Robinson followed up on his suggestion from a previous meeting to consider table covers for the unit game. Steve now believes that expenditure on table covers would not be worthwhile.

Steve also suggested that the WBL participate in a Toys for Tots drive, with bridge players encouraged to bring in toys to the unit game. Dick said that he thought it was too late for this year, but would be a good idea for next year.

Directory

Dick Wegman passed on information from Ron Zucker that the directories, including the errata sheets, have been distributed to the clubs. Dick noted that the NVBA did not participate with the WBL in the printed directory, but the NVBA plans to have an online directory soon. Dick asked whether WBL members should be listed, and if so, whether their e-mails should be included. Don Berman noted that the WBL has previously rejected proposals for an online

directory, with e-mail addresses, because of privacy concerns. Fred King suggested that the Board notify WBL members that they can give their names to the NVBA for inclusion in the NVBA's directory. Winston Edwards agreed with that approach, noting that it addresses the privacy concerns. Dick predicted that the NVBA will want the WBL to collect the names for them. Don Berman volunteered to confer with Leo Cardillo to clarify the NVBA's intentions.

Bridge and Bowling

Dick Wegman referenced Ron Zucker's December 15, 2004 e-mail, in which Ron arranged for bowling on February 5, 2005 at Laurel Bowling Center. Don Berman said that Laurel Bridge Club can host the bridge portion of the event. Donna Rogall stated that the WBL needs to produce a flyer with details. The WBL Bulletin notice only mentioned the February 5 date for Bridge and Bowling, not the location or other details. Fred King suggested that Steve Robinson distribute details through his e-mail list. Don Berman volunteered to look for a director for the bridge event.

St. Elizabeth's

Dick Wegman reported that St. Elizabeth's asked for another donation for their bridge game. The WBL donated \$150 last year. Richard Ferrin moved that the Board donate \$150 again this year. The motion passed unanimously.

D&O Insurance

Dick Wegman stated that Barbara Ames obtained a quote of \$750 per year for Director and Office ("D&O") insurance. But at the last WBL Board meeting, Nadine Wood asked the Board to delay action until after Orlando, at which time she expected further information on this subject from the ACBL. Because Nadine was unable to attend this meeting (she's preparing food for the WBL holiday party), the Board adjourned briefly so that Dick could confer with Nadine by phone.

Nadine told Dick that the ACBL Board of Governors discussed in Orlando the issue of D&O insurance for ACBL local organizations, but that nothing was resolved at Orlando and the Board asked the ACBL's attorney to gather more information and report back. Nadine expects that ACBL will provide a solution, but not before this summer. Dick asked the Board whether the WBL should wait another six months for an ACBL-wide resolution. Barbara Ames and Fred King thought that the WBL should not wait. Dick and Richard Ferrin thought that the WBL could wait another six months, in light of the fact that the WBL has already done without D&O insurance for a considerable period of time.

Ted Ying noted that there should be coverage for game directors. Richard Ferrin noted that the kind of coverage appropriate for game directors ordinarily should be liability insurance (which the WBL already has), and that D&O insurance is directed more at covering activities of the Board, not decisions of game directors at the unit game. Richard said that to the extent that Ted is not covered, we should address it through changes to the WBL's liability insurance policy, not through a D&O policy.

Dick asked what the policy limit should be on a D&O policy for the WBL. Barbara Ames estimated that a \$1 million policy would be appropriate. She said that based on her research, having a higher deductible will not result in a significant cost savings. Barbara also said that Nadine thinks that the WBL is already covered by the ACBL's own policy in the context of a tournament, but not in the context of the unit game.

Barbara Summers moved to go forward with a six-month D&O insurance policy or a pro-rata agreement, so that the WBL could withdraw from the agreement if the ACBL provides something better six months from now. The ceiling on expenditures authorized for the policy would be \$800 annually. The motion passed without dissent.

Free Play Policy

Fred King reported on his comprehensive review of the WBL's policy regarding free plays. He noted that free plays are awarded as prizes, and for work done. In both cases, the WBL's policy is inconsistent.

Last year, 10-12 percent of the attendees at the unit game played for free, and 8-10 percent of the attendees at the sectionals. These figures underestimate the free plays actually awarded, because some of the awardees do not use their free plays.

Fred proposes changing the free play award policy to make them consistent. Fred also suggested that the WBL should consider whether it is appropriate to offer free plays as an incentive for work done, and if so, what the criteria should be.

Dick Wegman asked what was the total value of free plays last year. Fred reported that the value was \$5,700 in 2001, \$5,500 in 2002, and \$4,400 in 2003. Ted Ying noted that these amounts are modest in comparison to income generated. Ted believes that the award of free play is cheap given the value of services volunteered. He added that the status quo appears to be more loyalty to the WBL than in the Maryland Bridge Association. Dick stated that nevertheless the free plays for volunteer work should be realigned in relation to contributions rendered. Dick also gave examples of WBL Board members and other volunteers that give significant time without asking for any free plays. Fred King added that the NVBA also is studying its own free play policy.

Name Tags

Steve Robinson suggested that the WBL should make its games friendlier by promoting use of name tags at the game. Dick Wegman noted that the WBL already does this occasionally, such as at the annual holiday party. Barbara Summers volunteered to procure name tags and markers for the unit games. Dick suggested that use of name tags might be appropriate for sectionals too.

STACs

Don Berman reported that by a new rule at the Sectional Tournaments at Clubs (“STACs”), persons participating in games that cannot guarantee at least five tables cannot qualify for overall awards. He said that smaller clubs have difficulty guaranteeing five tables.

Next Meeting

The meeting adjourned at approximately 10:20 PM. The next WBL board meeting will take place January 19 at Don Berman’s house. The February meeting will take place February 16 at Winston Edward’s house. The March meeting will take place March 23 at Donna Rogall’s house. The Board thanked Frances Burke for hosting the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,
Richard Ferrin, Secretary