

WBL Board Meeting

18 January 2012

The meeting was held at Ellen Cherniavsky's home.

In attendance: Don Berman, Ellen Cherniavsky, Richard Ferrin, Jim Geist, Lois Geer, Linda Marshall, Hank Meyer, Ron Zucker; non-voting members Kitty Gottfried, Chris Miller, Donna Rogall.

President Don Berman called the meeting to order at 7:27 PM.

Secretary's Report

The Board approved the minutes without objection.

Treasurer's Report

Fred King was absent.

President's Report

Don Berman noted that due to term limits, this is his last year as President. Richard Ferrin, Vice President, will run for President. Hank Meyer, as well as Ellen Cherniavsky, expressed willingness to run for Vice President. No one volunteered to run for Secretary, should the current one step down.

Sectional Report

Ron Zucker reported that the January sectional made \$1800 profit. This was mainly due to raising the entry fee, which offset the increased costs of food and rent. The January sectional always has the largest attendance.

Because setting the brackets in the Swiss causes the event to start late, it was suggested that a discount be given to teams which register the night before. Richard Ferrin noted that the line for lunch on Sunday was very long. Sectional Tournament Chair Ron Zucker said he had thought of ways to rearrange the serving tables to accommodate two lines instead of one [while presumably still maintaining the capability of insuring that those first in line didn't help themselves to more than their fair share]. To help avoid problems with the curfew, it was suggested that entries to the evening game Saturday be sold before dinner.

Don Berman reported complaints from players about having three board rounds on Friday, and that because of the sit-out they only played 21 boards. It was suggested that the directors be encouraged to have two boards rounds in stratified events at 10am and 2pm. Another complaint concerned an NLM player who didn't want to play up, and would not play in the event if forced to compete against higher level opponents.

Kitty Gottfried acknowledged that there are concerns about the spending on hospitality at sectionals, but reminded the Board that some of the supplies purchased for sectionals are used for the Unit Game. The coffee table is a mess during the game,

though Kitty tries to keep it straightened up. Kitty asked any board members in the refreshment area who notice the mess to help clean.

Bridge and Bowling

The alley has been rented from 1-4. There is an error in the flyer.

Unit Game

Chris Miller distributed a spreadsheet at the meeting. Attendance was essentially the same in 2011 as in 2010. Profits were up because of the increased fee.

Chris raised the possibility of laminating bidding cards. Playing cards have been changed out. If a new dealing machine is purchased, it would be wise to invest in plastic playing cards if we can count on them to last four years. This would be a big investment.

There is a concern about the tables. No one manufactures the size we use any more. Available tables, such as those used at Laurel, are at least an extra inch in length and width, and are also heavier, making them more difficult to handle and transport.

The bidding boxes seem to be in reasonable shape.

Chris reminded the Board that he had presented a request for an increase to the Club Manager stipend. Decision on this matter was deferred to the Executive Session.

Woolridge Trophy and other trophy matters

Don Berman has started having “keeper” trophies made.

On the Tubbs trophy all spots are full. It would be possible to make the trophy have a larger base, in order to provide more room. On the Woolridge we are also running out of space. It would be possible to substitute new plates. Ron Zucker commented that it is desirable to maintain the history and keep all the names of winners of the trophy in one place. Don Berman will explore the options.

Unit Knockout

February 2nd is the deadline. Seeding will be based on that game.

Bridge Bulletin

The Jan/Feb issue of the Bulletin is in mid-progress. The next deadline is March 9 for the Mar/Apr issue which will have bios of board candidates. Eva Klivington is dropping her full page ad, and Mark Lavine wants to go from a full page to 1/8 page.

Next Meeting

The Board thanked Ellen for her hospitality. Hank Meyer offered to host February 15th. Don Berman said he planned to host in April. Lois Geer said she could host March 28.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Ellen Cherniavsky, Secretary

WBL Board Meeting

15 February 2012

The meeting was held at Hank Meyer's home.

In attendance: Don Berman, Ellen Cherniavsky, Richard Ferrin, Jim Geist, Lois Geer, Fred King, Clyde Kruskal, Linda Marshall, Hank Meyer, Ron Zucker; non-voting member Donna Rogall.

President Don Berman called the meeting to order at 7:25 PM.

Secretary's Report

The Board approved the minutes without objection.

Treasurer's Report

Fred King sent the following by email prior to the meeting:

"Attached [file not included in these minutes] is my preliminary report for 2011. There is still some more income that I am hoping to receive and there may be expenses that I don't know about yet. As you can see, we did much better than last year and our loss should be about what it was in 2009. Before drawing up a financial plan for 2012, I would like some input from the board about their views on what is an appropriate level of reserves for us to have, how should we use the \$25,000 grant and where, if anywhere, they would like to see savings brought about. Here is the summary table. As you can see, it is very close to the financial plan we agreed to at the beginning of the year."

2011 Activities Profit and Loss

Item	Income	Expenditure	Net
Admin.	\$9,194.96	\$7,546.36	\$1,648.60
Sectionals	\$67,449.00	\$69,565.60	-\$2,116.60
Unit Game	\$65,862.20	\$57,182.69	\$8,679.51
Bulletin	\$2,000.00	\$14,410.61	-\$12,410.61
RR & KO	\$1,508.92	\$455.00	\$1,053.92
Totals	\$146,015.08	\$149,160.26	-\$3,145.18

2011 P&L Financial Plan

Item	Income	Expenditure	Net
Admin.	\$8,500.00	\$8,000.00	\$500.00
Sectionals	\$70,000.00	\$70,000.00	\$0.00
Unit Game	\$60,000.00	\$51,000.00	\$9,000.00
Bulletin	\$2,375.00	\$16,000.00	-\$13,625.00
RR & KO	\$1,600.00	\$500.00	\$1,100.00
Totals	\$142,475.00	\$145,500.00	-\$3,025.00

Fred said there is another \$1000 in income that might still come in. Also there will be \$1200 from the Bethesda Regional. Increased expenses will be directors' fees, which the ACBL will probably raise by 4-8%, and rents. There will be less advertising income from the Bulletin, as noted last month.

The Bridgemates, which cost \$7000, are being amortized over four years.

Fred asked for input on how much cash to have in hand. We have about \$45K included the anonymous \$25K gift. CDs are currently earning 0.5%. AAA bonds could earn from 3-5%, but there was no enthusiasm for investing the money in such vehicles, given what happened to AAA rated instruments.

Richard Ferrin suggested looking into the Silver Spring facility for sectionals given that we have extra money, however the objection was raised that the space is inadequate.

Ellen Cherniavsky mentioned that we should keep enough cash on hand to replace the dealing machine, which is around 10 years old, when this becomes necessary. We do have some leeway, as we could borrow a dealing machine from a number of clubs temporarily.

The Treasurer's report was approved without objection.

President's Report

President Don Berman said he has been having keeper plaques made for trophy recipients.

The Board discussed the upcoming elections. Fred King will be resigning as Treasurer; Rose Berman will run to replace him. Don will have a year ex officio on the Board as past President. Richard Ferrin, Vice President, will run for President. Hank Meyer and Ellen Cherniavsky will run for Vice President. Linda Marshall will run for Secretary. Hank Meyer, Clyde Kruskal and Lois Geer all have a year remaining on their terms. Ron Zucker will not be running for the Board, as he will be Tournament Chairman, and considers it inappropriate to fill that role and be on the Board. It was noted that in Baltimore, Pat Wilson served on the Board while Tournament Chair, but that this is against ACBL rules.

Dessert only will be served at the annual meeting. Candidates need to get signatures on petitions.

Dave Solomon's Pay

Fred King reported that Dave Solomon has been paid \$15/hr for a long time. One proposal was that his compensation be increased to \$18/hr with review in a year. After discussion it was agreed unanimously that he should have a raise to \$20/hr. This is separate from the caddy fee, and from the payment of \$9/box for making the boards. Compensation of \$120 (increased from \$100) for moving tables was approved unanimously.

Card Tables

The ACBL has transitioned to 34" x 34" tables, selling us the 30" x 30" ones. The 34" x 34" tables require more space, both on the floor and in storage, and are heavier. Our 30" x 30" tables are wearing out. Repairs are estimated to cost \$7 per table. Replacements are being manufactured by a company in San Antonio, but they cost \$65 per table and weigh 22 lbs versus 11 lbs for our current ones. It was suggested that tables may be available at Target for \$19 apiece. There was a discussion of whether it was worth using brackets on the tables for the Thursday night games, and the feeling was that it wasn't worth the bother. The new tables have a built-in slot for bidding boxes.

Next Sectional

Lois Geer said that NLMs had been miserable with the IMP pairs and some left rather than play in the event. It was agreed that there would be matchpoints for the NLMs, IMP pairs for the BCD strata.

At the August sectional, there will be a trophy for the pairs event, named after Steve Robinson. This will be announced at the annual meeting. The wording to go on the trophy will be decided later.

Bridge and Bowling

There were only four teams, a smaller event than last year. Dissatisfaction was expressed with Sullivan's for dinner; Don will look into alternatives.

Unit Game

Chris Miller was not present, but sent a spreadsheet by email before the meeting. He commented that there was nothing of significance to note; attendance is very much on a par with January-February last year.

An initiative that is being tried is averaging masterpoints to determine the stratum for both teams and pairs. We will try this with sectionals.

Bridge Bulletin

The current Bulletin is being printed. The next deadline is March 9 for the Mar/Apr issue which will have bios of board candidates. There will also be a call for volunteers for the July regional.

Since a number of copiers of the Directory are left over, it may not be necessary to print a new one just yet. Don Berman will ask the NVBA.

There was no mentor/mentee party, and there is no Bridge in Schools news.

Next Meeting

The Board thanked Hank for his hospitality. Lois Geer will host March 28. Don Berman said he planned to host April 25 (the last time he will act as President). The annual meeting is May 17.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:03 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Ellen Cherniavsky, Secretary

WBL Board Meeting

28 March 2012

The meeting was held at Lois Geer's home.

In attendance: Don Berman, Ellen Cherniavsky, Richard Ferrin, Jim Geist, Lois Geer, Fred King, Clyde Kruskal, Linda Marshall, Hank Meyer; non-voting members Barry Bragin, Donna Rogall.

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

Secretary's Report

The Board approved the minutes without objection.

Treasurer's Report

Fred King is almost ready to issue his final Treasurer's report. He distributed a spreadsheet, which showed we lost \$1000 last year, as opposed to \$8000 the year before. Sectionals broke even this year. Costs, e.g. ACBL sanctions and rent, will go up. The Bulletin costs more than it brings in, especially since income from paid advertisements has decreased. (Income will fall by \$1000 this year.) All advertisers have paid. Few members have opted to receive the Bulletin online [which would help reduce mailing costs]..

President's Report

President Don Berman noted that this is the next to last meeting at which he will preside. Jim Allen has agreed to run the election. Hank Meyer has decided to withdraw from the race for Vice-President.

On-Line Directory

The Washington Bridge League will provide two new online services, one of which will be the WBL Online Bulletin Board. On an OPT IN basis only, this service will include an online directory of WBL members. Members are to send any of the following information that they're willing to have posted to the WBL webmaster, Don Berman, at don.berman@verizon.net or call him at 301-776-3581: Name, Email Address, up to two Phone Numbers, ACBL Number. Both the NVBA and WBL are running low on hard copies of the directory.

Next Sectional

Ron Zucker was not present.

Unit Game

Chris Miller was not present, but sent a spreadsheet by email before the meeting. He commented that there was nothing of significance to note; attendance is very much on a par with January-February last year.

On a separate topic, the NLM sectional tournament was very successful; once again this was among the largest I/N tournaments in the country, measured by average attendance per session, at 106.5 tables. Running the GNT 0-5000 semi-finals and finals in parallel worked well, saving the cost of a separate location and additional director, without compromising the playing conditions for the teams.

An initiative that is being tried is averaging masterpoints to determine the stratum for both teams and pairs. This will be tried with sectionals.

Bridge Bulletin

The next deadline is April 27.

New Business

Fred King mentioned an initiative to have an online partnership desk. Clyde Kruskal volunteered to try to set it up and maintain it. This service will be advertised in the forthcoming Bulletin.

Next Meeting

The Board thanked Lois for her hospitality. Don Berman will host April 25 (the last time he will act as President). The annual meeting is May 17.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:26 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Ellen Cherniavsky, Secretary

WBL Board Meeting

25 April 2012

The meeting was held at Don Berman's home.

In attendance: Don Berman, Ellen Cherniavsky, Richard Ferrin, Jim Geist, Lois Geer, Fred King, Clyde Kruskal, Linda Marshall, Ron Zucker ; non-voting member Donna Rogall; guests Rose Berman, Kitty Gottfried, Dave Ruderman.

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

Secretary's Report

The Board approved the minutes without objection.

Consistency of Director Late Play Penalties

The Treasurer's Report and President's Report were deferred in order to discuss the Late Play issue, for which Dave Ruderman had prepared a presentation, which follows below.

Presentation to WBL Board of Directors

It is my opinion that the Board should have a policy regarding slow play situations. Slow play is a frequent and annoying occurrence. When penalties are assessed it is questionable that they are assessed in an even manner. In the case that precipitated this presentation, and I am sure other times, the pair receiving the slow play penalty feels it was unfairly assessed.

I suggest that the following guidelines for directors be implemented by the WBL.

In situations of slow play, the standard procedure is to give both pairs at the slow play table two rounds to catch up. Pairs who have been given a slow play warning are duty bound to advise the pairs who they play the next two rounds, that they are subject to a slow play warning.

Although the director is not obligated, the director should advise the offending pairs that it is incumbent on them to notify the pairs during the next two rounds of the slow play warning.

Failure to be on time after two rounds shall result in a slow play penalty unless the opposing pair during the second round states that it was solely responsible for failing to play at a pace that would allow the pair subject to a warning to catch up. If the opposing pair taking responsibility during the second round had been advised of the slow play warning, they shall be assessed the slow play penalty. If the second pair had not been advised of the slow play warning then the warned pair shall be assessed a slow play penalty and the second pair shall be given a slow play warning.

If the slow play situation is aggravated during the round immediately following the round when the slow play warning was given, it is the responsibility of the party given the slow play warning to inform the director. The director may modify the warning, however, that should be rarely done. It remains presumptively the responsibility of the pair subject to the warning to be on time at the end of two rounds.

Nothing in these guidelines shall preclude the directors from using their discretion to insure equity and the smooth running of the game. Other situations may arise that warrant the director to exercise discretion. The two examples that follow are not the exclusive areas where the directors may use their discretion. They are where there are: repeat slow warnings to the same pair during the course of the session and instances where a pair playing against a pair subject to a slow play warning fails to cooperate with the spirit of the guidelines.

With the exception of a couple of comments that failed to address the issue, below are the comments I received from people I sent emails regarding this problem. I was selective in who I sent emails only to the extent that I made sure that I sent emails to some people who I was reasonably confident would not agree with my views.

1. You are right in that there does not seem to be any sort of even handed enforcement of slow play rules. In general, I think the directors know who the slow people are and are a bit harsher with them - which I really don't have a problem with. On the other hand, there are certain slow players who are NEVER penalized for their slow play.
2. I'm generally sympathetic to leaving a fair amount of room for management (i.e., TD in this case) discretion, and I'd be reluctant to state the standard in a more rule-like way than what's in the ACBL code. Experienced players should certainly know that they have a responsibility to catch up when their table is substantially behind in starting a round, and it should always be feasible to avoid falling further behind. Therefore, I think a modest penalty for both pairs was warranted in the incident you describe.
3. know it's a burden for you, but I think it's good that you raised this, and I also think it would be good for this issue to be considered by the WBL Board. There's obviously a very wide range in the way the directors approach this issue right now. Some directors are very ready to impose penalties. However, most of the directors in our area try to prod slower players along nicely and achieve the result of faster play without using penalties, and reserve the use of penalties only for the players who just can't – or won't – comply. I think this is a much better approach – it achieves the result of faster play, without making players feel as if they are being unfairly punished (which they are, if the penalties are handed out in a random and indiscriminate fashion). I agree with you that guidance from the Board to the directors would be useful on this to avoid the inconsistent approaches that the directors are now using. If I were writing the guidance, I think it should say that penalties should be used sparingly, only in egregious cases, and should generally be a second or third option, not the first option.

4. Zero tolerance in this situation is particularly bad English (nothing annoys me more than that)....In any case where judgmental discretion is allowable/permitted /or can be used on a case by case basis there is NO "zero T" situation I do not think the director "abused" her position or leeway on discretion. I think he/she MAY have been unaware of all the rules that apply. The unit MUST have guidelines to provide guidance to directors in this and similar "time" situations
5. **I am not a bridge lawyer, but if the facts are as you stated without dispute, then the other pair should have been assessed at least 75% of the penalty. As to abuse of discretion, you have to know precisely what she had been told to do. The problem may be higher up if she perceived that she did not have discretion in these circumstances.**
6. I would suggest calling the director when the opponents arrive to your table 5 min late- and yes, the director should have given you a warning and let you catch up the next round before applying a penalty
7. I have no strong feelings on this matter other than to say that it seems inappropriate to assess a late penalty when no warning has been given. I don't believe that is normally done here and things seem to be working out reasonably well, so that if a slow play penalty is assessed without a warning against somebody it seems to be a little discriminatory.
8. I think directors should be allowed to issue penalties for slow play at his discretion. To avoid slow play penalties contestants should finish each round on time.

Dave requested that the Board not hasten to formulate a final response to his presentation at this meeting, so that the matter could be given due consideration.

Richard Ferrin asked whether Dave felt that directors weren't consistent, and Dave replied that they were between directors, but not across rulings. He noted that the curfew was not an issue in the specific incident he was involved in.

Ron Zucker said that the guidelines from the ACBL suggest breaks every six rounds (enabling players to catch up on the break rounds) rather than every four. The Tournament Chair can request more breaks.

Ellen Cherniavsky observed that the WBL has a policy on slow play, namely:

Slow Play: In order to keep bridge a fun game for everyone, the following slow play policy has been adopted by the WBL. Directors are encouraged to assess a slow play penalty as needed or as warranted by the circumstances. After players have been warned about their need to catch up, if they do not do so in a timely manner, penalties will be automatic.

She noted that this statement seems to imply some kind of warning should be given before the penalty is given.

The question was raised as to whether WBL policies apply to sectionals.

Donna Rogall said the use of late plays should be encouraged. Fred King objected on the grounds this means everyone has to wait for their results. Clyde Kruskal said that even before the Bridgemates, fewer late plays were being given.

Ron Zucker noted the responsibility of all players to catch up as quickly as possible, no matter what the reason for the lateness.

General Issues for WBL Sectionals

Don Berman stated that there have been problems with the behavior and cost of directors. The ACBL appoints a Chief Director who is supposed to work with the Tournament Chair on how many and what kind of directors and who to assign. Ron Zucker has scheduled a meeting with Doug Grove, acting Director in Charge (DIC); he requested email on any incidents involving directors (he mentioned that a certain director had been yelling and alienated new players). It was noted that our ombudsman, Adrienne Kuehnemann, is authorized to discuss with the Unit game director, Sectional director-in-charge, or the Board all issues raised by the membership pertaining to directors.

There had been a problem of a half table at the barometer event, which was resolved by having a director fill in. It was suggested that there be a guaranteed partner for sectional events.

The norm is 17-24 tables per director. Tournament Assistants (TAs) don't count as directors.

While Kensington loves to have us, they are concerned about complaints from the neighbors about where attendees are parking, e.g. in or blocking private driveways. Linda Marshall noted that church parking is available; Ellen Cherniavsky suggested that having offenders towed might discourage the unwanted behavior.

Richard Ferrin asked Fred why the NVBA makes money on their sectionals but not on their Unit Game, while the opposite is true of the WBL. Don suggested that expectations about food were the key.

Kitty Gottfried received a complaint from a player who didn't realize food wasn't being served on Saturday, and wondered why orders for sandwiches couldn't be submitted in advance, as is done at the NVBA. Kitty recalled that volunteers used to make sandwiches which were sold cheaply at the break [at the NVBA sectionals, held at the Elks Lodge, sandwich orders are filled by employees of the Lodge].

Kitty reminded the Board that leftover food from the sectionals is made use of at subsequent Unit Games; however this does not amount to a lot of money. Kitty also said that due to problems with her health, plans should be made for her replacement. She suggested a possible candidate.

Richard Ferrin wondered whether a small business could be found that might be willing to provide coffee and snacks at sectionals. Ron Zucker said he has looked into this, and the costs of having outsiders come in are prohibitive.

Don Berman said that sectionals have to be coordinated across the District. The dates we have now can be maintained, but in May and June it is almost impossible to book Kensington.

Friday Evening Barometer Event

The Board discussed whether to discontinue the barometer event, which has been held at one of the four sectionals. Tournament Chair Ron Zucker felt that the added expense and hassle were not worth it, as the event doesn't seem to be an attraction for players. Donna Rogall noted that this was a once-a-year event, and perhaps should be retained. The sense of the Board, as evidenced in a straw vote, was to drop it.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Fred King sent a Profit & Loss statement by email, a short summary of which is shown below. Fred states: "As you can see, we lost about \$4200. While this was about \$1200 more than in our financial plan, it was only about half what we had lost in 2010. The biggest loss comes from the Bulletin at about -\$11,400 and the biggest money maker is the unit game at +\$6500. All other items are between +\$1500 and -\$1900. If there are no objections or corrections, I will print these figures up for distribution at the unit game and also have Don post them on the web and have Donna put them in the next bulletin. "

Item	Income	Expenditure	Net
Admin.	\$8,897.14	\$7,433.72	\$1,463.42
Sectionals	\$68,116.14	\$70,008.55	-\$1,892.41
Unit Game	\$65,248.25	\$58,674.56	\$6,573.69
Bulletin	\$3,000.00	\$14,410.61	-\$11,410.61
RR & KO	\$1,698.92	\$638.75	\$1,060.17
Totals	\$146,960.45	\$151,166.19	-\$4,205.74

The way they are now being accounted for, the Bridgemates represent a \$300 loss. Ron Zucker will include a \$0.50 nominal charge for Bridgemates in future reports.

President's Report

The Board thanked Don for his service.

Don said that members who are not paid up are not eligible to vote at the annual meeting. Ron Zucker is to talk to Jerry Kiewe about sources for a kosher cake to be served there.

WBL Bulletin

The next deadline is April 27, however the actual Bulletin will not go out until after the election [May 17]. The Bulletin will go to the printer May 21st. The Bulletin will contain a call for nominations for the Machlin trophy.

Donna submitted quotes from printers and mailing houses. It was decided to investigate the option of a second mailing address from Richmond, but there is a possibility this might jeopardize our grandfathered periodical rate. Don Berman will look into submitting the required form 3510 to the Post Office. If there is any reason to believe we can't retain the preferred rate, the Board agreed to go with Donna's recommendation of Duke printing.

Next Meeting

The Board thanked Don for his hospitality. The new president, to be elected May 17, will host May 23.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:43 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Ellen Cherniavsky, Secretary

WBL Board Meeting

May 23, 2012

The meeting was held at Richard Ferrin's home.

In attendance: Richard Ferrin, Ollie Thomas, Lois Geer, Rose Berman, Don Berman, Jim Geist, Clyde Kruskal, Ellen Cherniavsky, Linda Marshall; nonvoting members Donna Rogall, Chris Miller, Kitty Gottfried; guest Shawn Stringer

President Richard Ferrin called the meeting to order at 7:45.

New board member Ollie Thomas was introduced.

Secretary's Report

The Board approved the minutes without objection.

Treasurer's Report

Rose Berman indicated that she has received the WBL financial data from Fred King and has the financial software necessary to maintain the financial database.

Consistency of Director Slow Play Penalties

The Board discussed the pros and cons of requiring a warning to be given before a slow play penalty is assessed. Chris Miller agreed to draft a policy for discussion at the next meeting. We also agreed to check with Ron Zucker about the possibility of adding a second break to sectional games when possible. We noted that it is impossible to do this for the Friday evening game because of the curfew. Chris Miller indicated that our late play policy will not be effective for sectionals, which are ACBL events, but that we can express our preference regarding late play penalties to the lead director for each sectional. Richard Ferrin agreed to check with Adrienne Kuehneman to see whether she has received any complaints about director actions in response to slow play.

Unit Game Report

Chris Miller indicated that unit game attendance is stable compared with last year's attendance. The table counts in the A/X and B/C/D games are up slightly, and the table counts in the NLM and novice games are down slightly. We discussed ways to attract greater novice attendance. We are going to distribute free plays to the novice game for bridge teachers to distribute. Rose Berman agreed to draft a flyer to distribute to the bridge teachers. Lois Geer agreed to investigate the possibility of setting up separate special refreshments for the novice group.

Bulletin Report

Donna Rogall reported that Duke Printing will print and mail the next Bulletin. Rose Berman will check with Fred King on the process of adding money to our postage account. The deadline for items to Donna for the following Bulletin (to be delivered by July 19th) is June 5th. Rose reported that Steve Robinson has agreed to circulate (as part of his weekly email) a link to each new Bulletin when it becomes available on-line. Don Berman will ask Steve to circulate an email with a link to a web page that will allow a member to opt out of receiving a hard copy of the Bulletin.

Regional Report

Shawn Stringer reported on the status of planning for the Fourth of July Regional in Bethesda. Shawn circulated copies of the budget for the regional. The budget is \$27,000. We do not have a carryover from the last regional. We are providing food for three nights, Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday. There will be no hospitality suite on those nights. We are also providing some hospitality food for the daylight pairs. Sharon Anderson, ACBL president, is planning to attend the regional, except for the end, and plans to conduct focus groups. Prizes have been ordered.

September Sectional

The board agreed that the Friday evening game will be imp pairs for the A/X game and matchpoints for the B/C/D and NLM games. All games in the sectional will be stratified by average. On Saturday, the Machlin Trophy will be awarded between sessions. On Sunday, the A/X game will be the Eynon Trophy event, and a 1-day bridge class will be conducted.

Committee Assignments

The following committee assignments were agreed to:

Bulletin Committee: Richard Ferrin (chair), Donna Rogall, Rose Berman

Calendar of Obligations: Don Berman

Charity Chair: Linda Marshall

Club Relations Committee: Ellen Cherniavsky (chair), Lois Geer, Norman Mitchell

Elections Committee: Jim Allen (chair), Frances Burke, Richard Ferrin, Jim Geist

Executive Committee: Richard Ferrin, Ellen Cherniavsky, Rose Berman, Linda Marshall

Membership Growth Committee: Linda Marshall (chair), Brian Geer, Ollie Thomas, Norman Mitchell, Barbara Summers, Gene Fisher

Parliamentarian: Ollie Thomas

Ombudsman: Adrienne Kuehneman

Recorder: Barry Bragin

Publicity and Marketing Committee: Clyde Kruskal (chair), Lois Geer, Bob Levey, Charity Sack

Tournament Committee: Ron Zucker (chair), Jim Geist, Clyde Kruskal, Kitty Gottfried, Lois Geer

Scheduling Committee: Barbara Doran, Clyde Kruskal, Chris Miller, Millard Nachtwey, Ted Ying, Richard Ferrin

Unit Game Committee: Clyde Kruskal (chair), Lois Geer, Jim Geist, Kitty Gottfried, Rose Berman

Ways and Means Committee: Richard Ferrin (chair), Ellen Cherniavsky, Barbara Ames

Holiday Party Committee: Jim Geist (chair), Kitty Gottfried, Millard Nachtwey

Liaison to Ohr Kodesh and Kensington Armory: Rose Berman

Youth Bridge Committee: Don Berman (chair). Don plans to recruit members and propose a budget for this.

Player of the Year Eligibility

Leo LaSota is the leading player for the WBL/NVBA Player of the Year trophy who has met the playing qualification requirements. Leo was put on probation by District Six for a portion of the covered period and, thus, is not considered to be a “member in good standing” for purposes of WBL’s trophy race. The ACBL has a different standard for what constitutes a “member in good standing.” The Board discussed whether the period of District 6 probationary status makes Leo ineligible for the Player of the Year trophy for 2011-2012. The probationary period does not affect Leo’s eligibility for the 2012-2013 Player of the Year trophy.

The following motion was passed, 7-1:

“It is the sense of the Board that Leo LaSota was not a WBL member in good standing during a portion of the trophy race period.”

The Board voted, 7-1, to communicate to the NVBA Board that the WBL Board feels that Leo is not eligible for the Player of the Year trophy.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, June 27th. Linda Marshall will host.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:10 pm.

WBL Board Meeting

June 27, 2012

The meeting was held at Linda Marshall's home.

In attendance: Richard Ferrin, Rose Berman, Ollie Thomas, Norman Mitchell, Lois Geer, Don Berman, Carole Banks, Jim Geist, Clyde Kruskal, and Linda Marshall; nonvoting members Donna Rogall and Chris Miller; guest David Marshall

President Richard Ferrin called the meeting to order at 7:40.

Secretary's Report

The Board approved the minutes of the last meeting with two changes: the minutes should note that the District 6 probation period does not affect Leo LaSota's eligibility for the for the 2012-2013 Player of the Year trophy, and a typo will be corrected.

Treasurer's Report

Rose Berman indicated that we have approximately \$51,000 in cash earning very little interest. We discussed possible low-risk investments. Anyone with suggestions will let Rose know, and Rose will check with Bank of America on available CDs.

Slow Play Policy

The Board voted to approve the slow play policy that was previously circulated by email (9 in favor, 1 abstention). We noted that the slow play policy applies only to WBL club games, and not sectionals. The slow play policy that was approved is as follows:

Slow Play:

Players are responsible for:

- 1) maintaining a pace consistent with the time allotted for the round,
- 2) being aware of the time remaining in each round,
- 3) being seated and ready to play at the start of each new round, and
- 4) making a concerted effort to catch up when behind, whether at fault or not.

Directors should:

- 1) determine fault for slow play when possible, and
- 2) apply the following guidelines consistently
(taking into account particular circumstances,
including experience levels).

- The first violation (2+ minutes late starting a round) in a session will normally incur a warning.
- Extreme violations (4+ minutes late starting a round), and habitual slow play that persists from one session to another, may be penalized without prior warning.
- Failure to catch up within two rounds of being warned, any subsequent slow play violation, or playing through the whole of a break, will normally incur a penalty (usually 1/4 board).
- Further violations may incur additional increasing penalties.

Late Plays:

- 1) Late plays may be awarded in pair events in order that all scheduled boards be played, but these should not become a reward for slow play.
- 2) Award of a late play will always be accompanied by a slow play warning or penalty.

The club manager is instructed to maintain a record of all slow play penalties (and warnings and late plays as far as practicable) awarded in WBL events, and to bring persistent or flagrant slow play to the attention of the Unit Recorder.

Unit Game Report

Timer: Chris Miller asked the Board's approval to purchase a new round timer for approximately \$150. The Board approved the purchase (9 in favor, 1 opposed).

Dealing machines and related supplies: We discussed the state of our playing cards and dealing machine. Our dealing machine is getting out of alignment and needs maintenance. Also, our dealing machine does not work with plastic cards. Plastic cards are more expensive but last much longer. If we purchase a new dealing machine, new plastic boards would work more efficiently with the dealing machine. Barron Barclay sells a dealing machine for \$4,400, and we would need 15 sets of boards as well. Don Berman and Chris Miller will investigate purchasing a dealing machine while in Philadelphia. Don indicated he thinks we can get a lower price for the dealing machine.

Tables: We discussed the possibility of purchasing new tables. Our tables are extremely worn. New tables were in use in Gatlinburg, and have pros and cons compared to the tables we use. Richard Ferrin agreed to talk to Fred King and Margot Hennings about their experience with the new tables.

Charity games: We do not run many club-wide charity games, but we run NLM charity games along with the GNT qualifiers and half of the NAP qualifiers. Linda Marshall agreed to present a list of potential charity recipients (other than ACBL charities) to the Board at the next meeting.

Bulletin Report

The July/August Bulletin is almost ready for the printer. Duke Printing was satisfactory and we will continue to use them. Duke Printing pays for postage and then charges us; we discussed the logistics of using the money we currently have in our postal account. Don Berman will ask Steve Robinson to send a mass email that includes a link to enable our members to opt out of receiving paper copies of the Bulletin.

Committee Assignments

Carole Banks agreed to join the Calendar of Obligations committee.

Fourth of July Regional

Richard Ferrin indicated that Shawn Stringer has suggested having preduplicated boards with hand records for the A/X Sunday swiss game and has asked the WBL for \$350 to \$400 to cover the cost of preduplicated boards. We discussed the pros and cons of doing this and the possibility of doing this for other segments of our membership at other tournaments. A motion was made to contribute up to \$400 for this purpose and to investigate the possibility of providing preduplicated boards for the B/C/D game or the NLM game at the next sectional. The motion was voted down (3 in favor, 7 opposed).

Newcomer Game

Lois Geer passed along a suggestion from a player at the newcomer game that if a player brings a new player (who has not previously played at WBL) to the game, both players play free that evening. A motion to approve this policy was passed (10 in favor, none opposed). A motion was made to extend this policy to the NLM game. The motion was passed (9 in favor, 1 opposed).

Woolridge Trophy

Don Berman noted that the Woolridge trophy is a plate rather than a trophy (as are the other WBL trophies) and that it has very little room for more names. Don suggested purchasing a trophy to replace the plate. Don will investigate the cost of purchasing a trophy rather than a plate or wall plaque.

WBL Policies

Chris Miller noted that the WBL policies listed on the website are out-of-date in a number of ways, and suggested updating them and moving some items (such as advertising rates and members entitled to free plays) to schedules rather than keeping them incorporated in policies. We agreed to appoint a Policy Maintenance Committee. The members are: Linda Marshall (chair), Ellen Cherniavsky, Donna Rogall, and Chris Miller.

Donna pointed out that our policies include the following regarding the Bulletin: All columns in the WBL Bulletin shall be reviewed by two of the following (not including the author of the column): the Bulletin Editor, the Bulletin Committee Chairperson, and any member of the WBL Executive Committee. Donna suggested eliminating this policy, and noted that this policy is not followed in any event. We discussed the policy, and Donna suggested a revised policy: The editor of the WBL Bulletin will obtain review of a column in the Bulletin from a member of the Executive Committee prior to publication if the editor deems further review necessary. The revised policy was approved (8 in favor, 2 opposed).

Smoking at the Unit Game

We agreed that Richard Ferrin will ask Kathy Rabenstein whether she is willing to assume the job of putting out the ashtray and taking it back in at the end of the unit game.

Hospitality at the Unit Game

Richard Ferrin noted that we need to find additional volunteers to help with hospitality at the unit game due to Kitty Gottfried's health problems. Richard will make an announcement at the unit game asking for additional volunteers. Ollie Thomas will check on commercial suppliers from whom we might purchase food and other supplies.

Liability Insurance

Richard Ferrin told us that Jerry Kiewe has asked about WBL's liability insurance. Chris Miller said that we are covered under an insurance policy maintained by ACBL. Richard will confirm this.

WBL/NVBA Directory

Lucy McCoy has contacted Richard Ferrin to ask about publishing another joint directory. Don and Rose Berman will coordinate with Lucy on this. Donna Rogall agreed to add an item to the Bulletin asking members to check their listings in the directory and offering to publish cell phone numbers rather than home phone numbers for members who prefer that.

Player of the Year Eligibility

Donna Rogall suggested clarifying our published policy on this. We agreed to table this until the next meeting.

Dan Falk

Ollie Thomas noted that Dan Falk, a regular player at the unit game, passed away recently. David Marshall agreed to talk to Ted Ying (who is directing at the next unit game) about making an announcement at the unit game.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on August 1 at Norman Mitchell's house.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:45 pm.

WBL Board Meeting

August 1, 2012

The meeting was held at Norman Mitchell's home.

In attendance: Richard Ferrin, Rose Berman, Ollie Thomas, Norman Mitchell, Lois Geer, Don Berman, Carole Banks, Jim Geist, Clyde Kruskal, Ellen Cherniavsky, and Linda Marshall; nonvoting members Donna Rogall, Ron Zucker, and Chris Miller; guest Shawn Stringer

President Richard Ferrin called the meeting to order at 7:20.

Secretary's Report

The minutes of the 6/27/2012 meeting were approved with no changes.

Treasurer's Report

Rose Berman reported that she had investigated purchasing CDs and that rates of return are negligible. Rose suggested investing WBL's excess liquid assets in high quality corporate bonds. A committee comprised of Rose Berman (chair), Norman Mitchell, and Carole Banks will investigate the purchase of bonds.

2012 Fourth of July Regional

Shawn Stringer, the chair of the regional, presented a report on the regional. Despite a number of disadvantages, the regional was a success. The daylight pairs games were more popular than usual. Attendance was 175 tables short of 2010 attendance. However, the regional was a week closer than usual to the NABC. Also, attendance is usually low when the Fourth of July falls on a Wednesday. In addition, some people received incorrect information early in the week that the hotel was without power. People who waited until late to book hotel rooms had difficulty early in the week because many local residents who were without power were staying in hotels (so the hotel was full). The MABC tables were initially sent to Raleigh, so WBL tables were obtained at the last minute for use until the MABC tables arrived.

Shawn indicated that the hotel is expensive and difficult to work with. We are committed to that venue for 2014. The next regional that WBL hosts after 2014 will be in 2017 (the summer NABC is in Washington in 2016).

ACBL President Sharon Anderson attended the regional and conducted several focus groups.

The I/N program was successful. MABC provided \$1000 for I/N mailings. Bill Cole organized the I/N speaker program. There were I/N receptions on Tuesday and Saturday. I/N players received personalized labels as registration gifts. One of Sharon Anderson's focus groups was with I/N players.

There were no funds carried over from the 2010 regional because the 2010 regional was over budget. The 2012 regional was under budget by \$2,700, so \$2,000 (the maximum amount) will be carried over to the budget for the 2014 regional. Shawn's daughter published the daily bulletin on a volunteer basis. WBL will receive \$1,250 from MABC for running the regional. In addition, WBL will receive \$275 from the regional budget for use of the WBL dealing machine.

Hand records were provided for the second half of the A/X swiss on Sunday. The MABC provided funds to support this.

Shawn gave a short report on the Cambridge regional, which will be held in the fall of 2013.

Unit Game Report

Chris Miller reported that attendance was down during the Philadelphia NABC but was otherwise normal for this time of year. The new slow play policy has been implemented. Chris has investigated the use of credit cards at the unit game. There are smart phone apps that would enable us to do this with no start-up cost. However, the unit would pay 2.75% for each transaction. Also, this might slow the process of selling entries. Ron Zucker noted that our sectional budgets are very tight and could not stand the loss in revenue from the transaction fee. We discussed this, and decided not to allow payment by credit card for now, either at the unit game or at sectionals.

Bulletin Report

Donna Rogall presented the report, and asked about the January sectional ad, which will be included in the next Bulletin. Ron Zucker will contact Tanya from ABA to ask whether ABA wants to have the traditional joint WBL/ABA game on Saturday at the sectional. Otherwise, we will have the same schedule we had at the sectional last January. The next Bulletin will be mailed in mid-September.

WBL/NVBA Directory

Don Berman indicated that he has assembled a draft directory and will make it available during the next several unit games so people can review it and make necessary corrections. Ellen Cherniavsky said she will provide Don with corrections regarding club games. Don told us that Spectrum would charge

\$1.15 per copy to print the directory. Shawn Stringer said the printer she uses might be less expensive than that. Don will check prices and use whichever of the two printers is less expensive.

Unit Game Hospitality

Ollie Thomas has investigated options for purchasing supplies for unit game hospitality and having them delivered. Jerry Kiewe has indicated that, if we have supplies delivered during hours when WBL is not using space at Ohr Kodesh, the synagogue staff can receive our deliveries and store them for us (provided that the supplies don't require refrigeration). Ollie indicated that Peapod (Giant's delivery service) is the only feasible delivery option he found that can handle all of our needs. There is a \$75 minimum, and no delivery charge. We noted that the unit game hospitality chair, Kitty Gottfried, has indicated that she prefers to keep the status quo for hospitality supplies. We decided not to use Peapod for now and to reconsider this if Kitty becomes unavailable for unit game hospitality.

Free Plays for Player of the Year

Richard Ferrin noted that the WBL/NVBA Player of the Year receives a trophy but no free plays. The WBL trophy winners also receive free plays. We discussed this issue. We have not seen any indication of a demand for free plays for the trophy. In addition, we would have to coordinate any free plays for the trophy with NVBA. Richard will discuss this with Mike Cappelletti, Sr., and will also discuss eligibility conditions with Mike.

Non-LM Sectional Appreciation

Richard Ferrin noted that, after the first NLM sectional, WBL gave Shawn Stringer (sectional chair) 10 free plays for herself and 10 free plays to distribute to volunteers. This was not done after subsequent NLM sectionals. Richard moved that, in the future, WBL will give Shawn 10 free plays for herself and 10 free plays to distribute to volunteers for each NLM. The motion was passed, 10 votes in favor and one abstention.

WBL Support for 2014 Regional

We discussed providing additional support from WBL for the 2014 regional. Richard Ferrin moved to dedicate the \$1,250 we will receive from MABC for the last regional to the new regional, for the regional chair's discretionary spending. The motion was passed, nine votes in favor, one opposed, and one abstention.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on September 12th at Ellen Cherniavsky's home.

President Richard Ferrin adjourned the meeting at 9:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Linda Marshall, Secretary

WBL Board Meeting

September 12, 2012

The meeting was held at Ellen Cherniavsky's home.

In attendance: Richard Ferrin, Rose Berman, Ollie Thomas, Norman Mitchell, Carole Banks, Jim Geist, Clyde Kruskal, Ellen Cherniavsky, and Linda Marshall; nonvoting members Donna Rogall, Chris Miller, and Ron Zucker; guest Barbara Doran

President Richard Ferrin called the meeting to order at 7:30.

Secretary's Report

The minutes of the 8/1/2012 meeting were approved with no changes.

Treasurer's Report

Rose Berman presented a summary of WBL financial results for January through July of 2012. Norman Mitchell reported that he has investigated conservative investment options. His broker has recommended bond laddering. Using this approach, we would invest 1/3 of our intended investment assets each year in high quality corporate bonds and subsequently turn over those bonds every three years. The Board discussed this approach. Norman agreed to circulate additional information regarding this approach to the WBL Board. We will discuss this again at the next meeting.

Guaranteed Partner Program

Barbara Doran reported on the state of the WBL guaranteed partner program and issues that have recently arisen. One player has been frequently coming to the unit game in search of a partner. Frequent use of the guaranteed partner program by a single player who has trouble getting regular partners is a disincentive for people to volunteer for the guaranteed partner program. We could also use a greater variety of strong, pleasant partners as volunteers. We agreed to publish an item in the Bulletin reiterating WBL guaranteed partner program policies. We also agreed to create a laminated sign for use at the partnership desk explaining those policies. Barb will circulate a draft of the sign, and Rose Berman will laminate it once it has been finalized. Barb asked the Board members to consider volunteering for the program. Richard Ferrin agreed to speak with Barbara Summers (who coordinated volunteers for the unit game) about getting additional volunteers for the program.

Unit Game Report

Chris Miller reported that attendance has been similar to last year's attendance. The Bridgemates have been reliable, though there have been occasional difficulties with them due to human error. The first Thursday in December is a game to support the GNTs and NAPs.

Policy Committee Report

Linda Marshall presented a new draft of the WBL Policies as edited by the Policy Committee (which consists of Linda, Ellen Cherniavsky, Donna Rogall, and Chris Miller). The current draft reflects clean-up and some items that had been approved by the Board but not previously reflected. Linda noted a number of inconsistencies between the written policies and current practice. These substantive inconsistencies have not yet been addressed by the committee. We agreed that the committee will conduct a second stage of work to come up with a list of these inconsistencies and recommendations as appropriate. We will also circulate a comparison of the draft policies with the old policies to facilitate the Board's review prior to approval of the new draft. Donna raised the question of making prior versions of the policies available online. We agreed to defer this until a subsequent meeting when Don Berman, who is the WBL webmaster, is present.

Bulletin Report

The deadline for submitting items to the Bulletin that will be published in early December is October 11th. This year's holiday party will be in Kensington. Don Berman will provide Donna with the date for Bridge and Bowling (which will not conflict with the Baltimore sectional this time).

Sectional Report

Ron Zucker reported that the August sectional broke even. Doug Grove will be the Director in Charge for the next sectional and possibly the one after that, but we will need to get a new Director in Charge eventually. We discussed various possibilities for that position. We agreed to defer that selection until the following meeting. Ron Zucker suggested creating a Tournament Committee. He will ask Dick Wegman, Shawn Stringer, and Don Berman if they would be willing to serve on this committee. Ron expressed a preference for keeping our sectional farther from the Jewish High Holidays next year. The Board agreed to this preference. Ron will coordinate this request with Doug Grove and Lucy McCoy. We discussed the possibility of changing Saturday tournament game times, but agreed not to change them for now.

Bridge in Schools

Bryan Geer has received an inquiry from a bridge player who would like to work with students in a school bridge program. We agreed to put him in contact with Ron Starr, who teaches bridge at Tilden Middle School and BCC High School and could use an additional volunteer. Ollie Thomas suggested Margaret Whilden as a possible Bridge in Schools coordinator. We agreed to invite her to a Board meeting if she is interested in the position.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on October 10th at Carole Banks' home.

President Richard Ferrin adjourned the meeting at 9:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Linda Marshall, Secretary

WBL Board Meeting

October 11, 2012

The meeting was held at Carole Banks' home.

In attendance: voting members Clyde Kruskal, Linda Marshall, Ellen Cherniavsky, Carole Banks, Rose Berman, Jim Geist, Don Berman, and Norman Mitchell; nonvoting members Donna Rogall, Chris Miller, and Ron Zucker; guest Adrienne Kuehneman

Vice President Ellen Cherniavsky called the meeting to order at 7:35 (Richard Ferrin arrived at 7:55, after the Unit Game Report, and took over running the meeting at that point).

Secretary's Report

The minutes of the 9/12/2012 meeting were approved, subject to the change that the meeting was held at Ellen Cherniavsky's home (the draft minutes incorrectly stated a prior meeting location).

Treasurer's Report

Rose Berman presented a summary report for 2012 as of 9/30/12. Rose recommended investing up to \$40,000 in high quality corporate bonds and keeping the rest in liquid assets. Rose will obtain an investment proposal from John Lin. The Board voted 8-0 to authorize Rose to invest the money without further approval if John Lin presents her with a time-sensitive opportunity to purchase high quality corporate bonds that she thinks is appropriate. Otherwise, Rose will present any investment proposals at the next meeting.

Unit Game Report

Chris Miller reported that the NLM sectional attendance was down substantially from last year. Last year, the sectional attracted 88 tables, and this year the sectional attracted 66 tables. The sectional generated a net loss of between \$1,000 and \$1,300.

Sectional Report

Ron Zucker reported that the sectional committee (Don Berman, Shawn Stringer, Dick Wegman, Bill Cole, and Ron) met on 10/10/12. The committee is considering possible formats for the Friday evening game that might be more popular than imp pairs. A swiss event is a possibility—either triple nickel (5 5-board rounds, with 5 minutes per board), or 4 6-board rounds. They are also

considering offering some type of financial incentive for Friday sectional attendance. On Sundays, the flight B bracketed games are more popular than flight B swiss. Therefore, beginning after the January sectional, all sectional Sundays will feature flight B bracketed games unless the A/X event is board-a-match (since BAM and bracketed games both take so much set-up time). Players are continuing to complain about the manner in which time rules are being enforced at sectionals.

Bulletin Report

Donna Rogall asked for information on a few scheduling items to appear in the Bulletin. Bridge and Bowling will be held the Saturday of the weekend before the Superbowl so that it does not conflict with the Baltimore sectional (as it did in the past). Don will confirm this date with the bowling alley so that it can be advertised in the Bulletin. The unit game GNT qualifier that will be used to seed the unit KO will be the qualifier to be held on 1/17/13, which will also be the deadline for registering for the KO.

WBL/NVBA Directory

Don Berman reported that WBL has about 100 copies of the newly printed directory left. We gave 100 copies of the directory to the Maryland Bridge Association. Don recommended we pay for 75 of them and ask NVBA to pay for 25 of them. The MBA has asked to be included in a 3-unit directory the next time a directory is printed, since some of their members play with members in the other two units. The consensus of the Board was generally favorable. Don agreed to raise this with NVBA.

Ombudsman's Report

Adrienne Kuehneman (WBL Ombudsman) reported that she has received complaints about enforcement of WBL's recent changes in the slow play policy. The policy is perceived as unfair, particularly when players receive warnings in the last round that are carried over to the next week and both players are playing in that game with different partners.

Slow Play Policy

The Board discussed possible alternatives to last-round warnings that carry over to the following week. Chris Miller agreed to maintain a list of people who are warned regarding slow play in the last round. Clyde Kruskal will talk to them about their slow play. Last round warnings will not carry over to the following week's unit game. The Board also discussed director demeanor issues. Chris Miller proposed getting the unit game directors together for a weekend lunch meeting to discuss these and related issues. The Board approved spending up to \$100 for food at this meeting (8-0).

New Head Director for WBL Sectionals

The Board discussed various candidates for head sectional director. A replacement is needed because our former head sectional director, Millard Nachtwey, recently passed away. The leading candidate is Doug Grove, but he may be too busy to fill this role if he also succeeds Millard in his role as ACBL Field Representative.

Holiday Party

Jim Geist proposed purchasing most of the dinner and having members bring desserts and appetizers. Jim will investigate this and report at the next meeting (or by email beforehand).

Bridge in Schools

Norman Mitchell reported that Margaret Whilden has recruited volunteers for a Bridge in Schools program. Norman has also discussed school bridge with Ron Starr. Ron told Norman that the ACBL will pay \$700 per school program. Margaret thinks she might be able to get grant money for the program. We will invite Margaret to the next meeting (or whichever meeting she is able to attend).

Offer from Marty Bergen

Don Berman reported that Marty Bergen has authored 28 pamphlet-style books that sell for \$10 each. He has offered to sell them at a volume discount for \$5 each (or \$4.75 each, depending on number purchased). We could resell them to members. The Board agreed to table this topic.

Replacement Board Member

Lois Geer has proposed withdrawing from the Board because of scheduling conflicts. The Board discussed possible replacements. Richard Ferrin will ask Bob Stearns to serve on the Board.

2013 Unit Game Schedule

Don Berman presented the unit game schedule prepared by WBL and NVBA representatives and Doug Grove. The Board approved the schedule (8-0).

Unit Game Odor Abatement

Jim Geist raised this subject, on which he had sent an email with several proposals. The Board agreed to table this until the following meeting.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on December 5th at the Bermans' home.

President Richard Ferrin adjourned the meeting at 10:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Linda Marshall, Secretary

WBL Board Meeting

December 5, 2012

The meeting was held at Rose and Don Berman's home.

In attendance: voting members Norman Mitchell, Richard Ferrin, Jim Geist, Rose Berman, Don Berman, Linda Marshall, Bob Stearns, and Carole Banks; nonvoting members Donna Rogall and Chris Miller; guest Margaret Whilden

President Richard Ferrin called the meeting to order at 7:45.

Secretary's Report

The minutes of the 10/10/2012 meeting were approved without change.

Treasurer's Report

Rose Berman reported that she has discussed possible low-risk investments with Bob Lin. Bob suggest purchasing certificates of deposit with a two or 3 year term. He is concerned that, if WBL purchases corporate bonds, they will depreciate in value if interest rates rise (which seems likely). We can purchase a CD for that term with an interest rate of 1.25%. Clyde Kruskal observed that Rose should be accounting for additions to the building fund following each tournament. Rose had not been informed of the building fund. Linda Marshall offered to forward information on the building fund to Rose. A motion was made to invest \$25,000 in a 2-year CD and \$15,000 in a 3-year CD. The motion passed, 8 in favor and 1 opposed.

Unit Game Report

Chris Miller reported that there are no current issues to discuss regarding the unit game. He reported that there is a "power ratings" website that tracks the recent performance of players and pairs. He recently sent the unit game results for the past two years to the webmaster of the site. Afterward, Bill Cole expressed concerns about providing data for the website. Chris asked the Board for approval to send in monthly results. We agreed to discuss this at the Board meeting next month. Chris will circulate the URL and Bill's email expressing concerns. We will invite Bill to the next meeting.

2013 Holiday Party

Lucy McCoy, who is in charge of scheduling for District 6, has asked for WBL to switch dates with NVBA for the 2013 holiday party. The NVBA Board

prefers not to hold the holiday party during STAC week. STAC week is being moved to include the third Thursday of December instead of the second Thursday of December. We discussed this request, and no objection was raised. A motion was made to switch the 2013 holiday party to the third Thursday of December. The motion was approved unanimously.

Bridge in Schools

Margaret Whilden reported on her efforts to develop a bridge in schools program for WBL. Currently there are bridge programs in two Montgomery County schools. Shawn Stringer has told Margaret that District 6 has \$6,000 in WBL funds that can be used for bridge in schools. Margaret has team leaders for programs in four schools and can recruit others as volunteer instructors. Barbara Heller can order supplies for a 20% discount. Margaret estimates that it will cost approximately \$1,000 to start programs in four schools. Two schools (Fillmore and Key) might be able to host bridge in schools programs beginning during the current school year. Don Berman offered to find out whether District 6 has WBL funds available for this purpose. He believes MABC may also have funds available for bridge in schools. Donna Rogall offered to include an item in the Bulletin to solicit volunteers for bridge in schools. The following motion was made:

- WBL will provide \$500 for start-up expenses for bridge programs in two schools.
 - The WBL Board will purchase up to \$500 in supplies that can be used for bridge in schools programs.
 - The WBL Board will attempt to get reimbursement of these expenses from District 6 and MABC.
 - Margaret Whilden will provide periodic updates on the program to the Board.
- The motion was passed unanimously. Carole Banks requested that Margaret provide a more detailed budget in future requests.

Bulletin Report

Donna Rogall reported that the next Bulletin deadline is January 2nd. She will need information on the April sectional by then, and will consult with Ron Zucker to see whether there are any scheduling issues to be resolved for that tournament.

Policy Committee Report

Linda Marshall reported that she circulated a redlined version of the Committee's previously discussed restated policies reflecting non-substantive changes. Most members have not yet reviewed these changes. A motion was made to accept the changes with the understanding that any problems with the changes can be resolved later. The motion passed unanimously. Linda agreed

to email the revised policies to Don Berman so that they can be posted on the WBL web page.

Unit Game Odor Abatement

Jim Geist reported that he has received a complaint about heavy perfume and other odors that trigger health issues for some players. We discussed this issue and determined not to take formal action. Jim will forward the email raising concerns to Richard Ferrin, and Richard will decide how best to handle these concerns through approaching players who might be the source of the problem odors.

2012 Holiday Party

Jim Geist reported that we have paid the caterer, and have ordered 110 portions of lasagna and Caesar salad. Some players are bringing additional entrees. Kitty will bring ham and turkey. Some players have volunteered to bring appetizers and dessert. Jim and Clyde will recruit additional volunteers to bring food, and volunteers for set-up and clean-up at the next few unit games.

Unit 147 Tournament Coordinator

Lucy McCoy has told us that WBL needs a Tournament Coordinator. The Tournament Coordinator is responsible for contacts with ACBL regarding WBL sectionals. Ron Zucker has volunteered for this position.

Bulletin Advertising for New 0-1500 Game

Don Berman reported that Barry Lieberman will begin running a 0-1500 game at Laurel Bridge Club on Sunday afternoons after football season is over. Barry has asked us to publicize the game in the WBL Bulletin. We discussed the request. The Bulletin contains a club news column; a one-time announcement that this weekly game is beginning is an item that is appropriately included in the club news column. We agreed that new club games can be included twice as club news. Although we provide publicity in the Bulletin free of charge to 0-300/NLM games, this new game at Laurel does not fall within this category and therefore is not eligible for continuing free publicity in the Bulletin.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on January 16th at Donna Rogall's home.

President Richard Ferrin adjourned the meeting at 9:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Linda Marshall, Secretary