

WBL Board Meeting

January 16, 2013

The meeting was held at Donna Rogall's home.

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

President Richard Ferrin called the meeting to order at 8:00.

Secretary's Report

The minutes of the 12/5/2012 meeting were approved subject to correcting the spelling of Barbara Heller's name.

Treasurer's Report

Rose Berman distributed a profit and loss statement for 2012. The WBL had net income of approximately \$3,400 for 2012. Rose will distribute a budget for 2013 at the next meeting. Rose reported that she has tried to invest WBL funds in a certificate of deposit from Bank of America but Bank of America has been frustrating to deal with. The Board agreed that Rose can purchase a CD from another bank without prior Board approval.

Rose reported that Ohr Kodesh was unaware that we were not going to be using the facility the Thursday of the last sectional and they set up for us. She suggested making a token donation in recognition of their expense. A \$100 donation was approved unanimously. Clyde will discuss with Jerry Kiewe which synagogue fund the donation should go to.

Unit Game Report

Chris Miller reported that 2012 attendance was slightly down compared to 2011 attendance. The unit game profit for 2012 was up approximately \$1,000 from 2011. There are no other unit game issues to report.

Bulletin Report

Donna Rogall reported that she is working on the January/February bulletin to be received approximately 2/22 by members. It is scheduled to go to the printer on 2/7. Additional pages may be needed to include the new life master bios as well as in memoriam pieces for several recently deceased

members who made significant contributions to WBL. For one of these recently deceased former members, Andy Gabrilovitch, Donna suggested rerunning his article on integration. We discussed running this article and this was approved, with 8 in favor and one abstention.

2012 Holiday Party

Jim Geist reported that the 2012 holiday party was a success. We discussed the food served at the holiday party and determined that we should serve more meats and side dishes and fewer desserts next year.

Bridge in Schools Report

Margaret Whilden reported on her progress in establishing a bridge in schools program. Bridge in schools programs will begin in Fillmore, Hardy, and Bannecker. There are existing bridge in schools programs not affiliated with WBL that are run by the Eakins family in DC Prep and 2 other schools. Margaret is deciding on teaching materials for the program. She has the ACBL teachers' manual and is also looking at Easybridge. Donna Rogall suggested that Margaret talk to Charity Sack, whose mother wrote the Easybridge materials. Rose Berman suggested that Margaret reach out to the ABA to coordinate with them. Margaret will check with Roz Dixon on coordinating with ABA. Margaret also has a friend who is independently trying to start a bridge in schools program with support from a lawyers' nonprofit organization. Margaret will also try to identify possible schools to host bridge in schools programs in upper Montgomery County and volunteers for those programs. She has a contact who knows the school math coordinators and will try to get interest from the math coordinators through this contact. She will also contact some private schools in southeast DC and Anacostia. She would like to be able to donate some CDs and books on bridge to libraries of participating schools. She suggested purchasing student ACBL memberships for participating students. She also suggested holding a youth game at our sectionals.

We agreed that Norman Mitchell will be our Bridge in Schools liaison to the ACBL.

Power Ratings

We discussed the advantages and disadvantages of providing unit game results on a continuing basis for the power ratings web page. Some like having the information, for what it's worth, and others are concerned that power ratings will have negative effects. Richard Ferrin reported that he has received several complaints from members about our having provided results for the power ratings web page. There was a motion to provide unit game results for the power ratings website monthly. The motion failed, with 2 in favor, 6 opposed, and one abstention.

Compensation to NLM Sunday Sectional Players

Ron Zucker reported that holding the lunch break the Sunday of the last sectional after the third round resulted in significant disruption to the single-session non-LM swiss game. To encourage these players to return, he suggested that the WBL send certificates for half a free play at the next WBL sectional to the affected players, along with a letter of apology. This suggestion was approved unanimously.

Temperature at the Unit Game

Ollie Thomas reported that he received a petition from 25 players in the non-LM section of the unit game, stating that the part of the room they play in is too cold. Ollie reported that the problem is in the row nearest the wall. We agreed to have the tables arranged so as not to use the coldest space.

WBL/NVBA Directories

Rose Berman reported that we are out of directories. We discussed whether to print more immediately and decided to wait until the fall, which is when we usually print more directories.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on February 13th at Linda Marshall's home.

President Richard Ferrin adjourned the meeting at 10:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Linda Marshall, Secretary

WBL Board Meeting

February 13, 2013

The meeting was held at Linda Marshall's home.

In attendance: voting members Bob Stearns, Norman Mitchell, Richard Ferrin, Ellen Cherniavsky, Carole Banks, Linda Marshall, Rose Berman, Ollie Thomas, Jim Geist, Clyde Kruskal; nonvoting members Donna Rogall and Chris Miller

President Richard Ferrin called the meeting to order at 7:50.

Secretary's Report

The minutes of the 1/16/2013 meeting were approved subject to correcting the entry regarding the temperature of the NLM area at Ohr Kodesh to reflect that Chris Miller was not yet at the meeting at that point.

Treasurer's Report

Rose Berman distributed a report, and the Board discussed it. Norman Mitchell asked for a report to be distributed earlier in advance of the meeting in the future, and Rose agreed.

Unit Game Report

Chris Miller reported that he is considering using preduplicated boards for the last match of GNT qualifiers at the unit game, perhaps only for the top 6 or so matches. Chris also reported an event at the unit game recently in which a local resident came to the game and complained about a traffic accident. The police were called. Chris indicated that the police plan to get more aggressive about ticketing for parking violations.

Bulletin Report

Donna Rogall reported that the January/February Bulletin issue is at the printer. It contains 8 pages more than usual, and cost an extra \$200 to print. The issue contains an article about the desegregation of bridge in honor of Andy Gabilovitch, and also contains memorials for several deceased players and the bios for the new life masters. Donna reminded the Board that she is entitled to an additional fee for the extra pages. The deadline for submitting items for the next Bulletin to Donna is 2/14. All Board members who are up for election are running again, and should update their bios for Donna.

The next Bulletin will advertise the April and July sectionals. Donna asked whether the trophy pairs event at the July sectional had been named after Steve Robinson. Several board members remembered voting on this previously. Clyde Kruskal indicated that he thought he had been tasked with wording and with checking with Steve. Linda Marshall agreed to check old minutes for a mention of this.

Donna asked about arrangements for the annual meeting. Richard Ferrin will check with Jim Allen to see whether he will run the election again. The annual meeting will be at Ohr Kodesh. We will serve dessert only (not dinner).

Ollie Thomas asked about the scrip for players in the first non-LM game the Sunday of the last sectional. We had previously approved granting them half a free play for the next sectional in recognition of the poor playing conditions caused by the timing of the break for the other games. We agreed that, at this point, it is better to send it to them a few weeks in advance of the next sectional.

Donna reported that members who had previously opted out of receiving a Bulletin will receive a Bulletin again because Donna is now handling the mailing list. Chris Miller will create a group code for opt-outs and give Donna the list with opt-outs removed.

Bridge in Schools Report

Norman Mitchell reported that Pat Mitchell plans to run the Bridge in Schools programs at Hardy, Fillmore, Bannecker, and Wilson. These programs will probably begin in the fall. Norman will be Pat Mitchell's liaison to the Board. Margaret Whilden plans to continue to work on developing Bridge in Schools programs at other schools. Carole Banks gave Norman Mitchell sample Easybridge materials for Pat to use.

Temperature at the Unit Game

Ollie Thomas reported that the temperature at the far end of the room at Ohr Kodesh has gotten a little warmer. Chris Miller indicated that he intends to rotate sections of the game to different parts of the room so that nobody is cold all the time.

Dealing Machine

Chris Miller reported that the dealing machine is just barely running, and needs to be replaced. Chris has priced dealing machines. The PlayBridge Dealer 4 sells for \$4,400. The Duplimate sells for \$3,500. The Duplimate uses bar coded cards. The PlayBridge Dealer 4 is compatible with plastic cards, and the Duplimate is not. If we buy the PlayBridge Dealer 4, Ron Kral may be able to get us a rebate of \$500 to \$1,000 for trading in our old machine. The board

approved, by unanimous vote, a motion to purchase the PlayBridge Dealer 4 and to try to obtain a trade-in discount for our old machine. Chris will try out some plastic cards once we get the new machine. Roz Dixon has been letting us use her dealing machine for the unit game in the meantime. Chris Miller has given her some free plays in recognition of this.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on March 13th at Ron Zucker's home.

President Richard Ferrin adjourned the meeting at 9:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Linda Marshall, Secretary

WBL Board Meeting

March 13, 2013

The meeting was held at Ron Zucker's home.

In attendance: voting members Jim Geist, Bob Stearns, Ollie Thomas, Norman Mitchell, Richard Ferrin, Ellen Cherniavsky, Carole Banks, Linda Marshall, Clyde Kruskal; nonvoting member Ron Zucker; guest Pat Mitchell

President Richard Ferrin called the meeting to order at 7:50.

Secretary's Report

The minutes of the 2/13/2013 meeting were approved.

Bridge in Schools Report

Pat Mitchell reported on the status of her efforts to establish Bridge in Schools programs at several schools in DC. She reported that she is preparing to start a program at Hardy Middle School and is planning to begin the program on 4/18. She has recruited 14 volunteers who are available to assist in Bridge in Schools programs. Hugo Van Dyke, an American University professor, has been teaching some AU students bridge. Regena Edwards is interested in participating in Bridge in Schools programs, and prefers to teach south of the Anacostia River. Pat will try to help her establish programs. There are existing programs at Anacostia and School Without Walls. Pat suggested starting a Bridge in Schools newsletter every few months once a number of programs are established. She would like to have a summer bridge program at the summer camp in the Hardy Middle School building. She would like to get students from the bridge program at Thomas Jefferson HS in Virginia to mentor students at the DC Bridge in Schools programs.

Ron Starr will be unable to continue the program at Tilden Middle School. Norman Mitchell will pass along the information for that program to Margaret Whilden.

Dealing Machine

Ellen Cherniavsky reported that the new dealing machine has been purchased and is working well. We traded in the old machine for a \$1,000 dollar discount on the new machine.

Slow Play Policy

Ellen Cherniavsky reported that she has received an inquiry about what happens to players and pairs who violate the slow play policy on a consistent basis. A director reported a pair to Barry Bragin (our recorder) for this, and Barry asked Ellen what should be done. Barry also talked to the pair and told them to expect a memo on the subject that they will be asked to address. Bob Stearns asked what a pair should be doing to protect themselves when the table is running late and the pair feels they are not at fault for the lateness. Bob will write up his concerns relating to slow play and circulate them. Ron Zucker reported that he has received comments regarding the slow play policy from a number of players. Carole Banks reported that she has heard that some players are planning to provide us with feedback on the slow play policy.

Sectional Report

Ron Zucker reported that, so far, he has been unable to obtain a date for the second sectional of 2014 for which Kensington is available. He is trying to avoid scheduling the sectional at Newport Middle School because that site has a number of disadvantages. He will continue to try to obtain a date for which Kensington is available.

Terry Lavender is the Director in Charge for the April and July sectionals but is retiring after the July sectional. We discussed possible replacements for Terry but did not reach a conclusion.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on April 24th at Carole Banks' home.

President Richard Ferrin adjourned the meeting at 9:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Linda Marshall, Secretary

WBL Board Meeting

April 24, 2013

The meeting was held at Carole Banks' home.

In attendance: voting members Bob Stearns, Linda Marshall, Norman Mitchell, Ollie Thomas, Carole Banks, Richard Ferrin, Ellen Cherniavsky, and Clyde Kruskal; nonvoting members Donna Rogall and Chris Miller; guest Kitty Gottfried

President Richard Ferrin called the meeting to order at 7:50.

Secretary's Report

The minutes of the 3/13/2013 meeting were approved.

Treasurer's Report

Rose Berman did not attend the meeting. Richard Ferrin raised Rose's request to move the WBL checking account from Bank of America (which has been difficult to deal with) to Capital One. Richard and Linda Marshall will provide Rose with the necessary information so that Rose can list them on the account as additional signatories.

Unit Game Report

Chris Miller presented the unit game report. He reported that attendance this year is down 4-5 tables from last year. The A/X game is consistently down 2-3 tables. Other games vary. We discussed potential changes to the starting time and determined that, although starting the game earlier might help attendance, it is not currently feasible. We also discussed the possibility of moving the unit game to a Metro-accessible location in downtown Silver Spring. This location is much more expensive to rent. Chris agreed to develop a list of players who regularly attended the unit game in the past and have reduced or discontinued their attendance.

Chris Miller presented the possibility of starting to use hands from "the common game." This is a service that provides hand records for games that are played at the same time in different locations. Statistics and hand commentary are available after the game. We agreed this may be a good option if Jim Coleman retires from providing us with hands and hand records. There was not much interest in making the switch for the present. Chris may try this once at the unit game and see whether members appreciate having the statistics and commentary available.

Bulletin Report

Donna Rogall reported that items for the Bulletin are due to her by 5/8. Linda Marshall agreed to give Donna minutes of the annual meeting shortly after the annual meeting is held. We discussed the Machlin Award committee. Millard Nachtwey, the previous winner, would ordinarily be chair but has passed away. Peter Boyd will be invited to continue as chair of the committee. We agreed to ask Peter to let Chris Miller participate in the committee as the unit game manager. Donna reported that reducing the ordered number of hard copies to 1900 is working well; there are still plenty of hard copies.

Elections

We are going to hold the annual meeting at Christ the King Church, as previously agreed by email vote (because Ohr Kodesh and Kensington are both unavailable). Carole Banks agreed to ask Steve Robinson for the election petition form. Carole will also ask Steve to publicize the change in location through a mass emailing. We will serve cake, fruit salad, and nicer snacks than usual. A \$500 budget for refreshments was approved by unanimous vote.

Sectional Hospitality

Kitty Gottfried reported that she needs help with sectional hospitality and would like to be replaced as sectional hospitality chair after the July sectional. Richard Ferrin suggested creating a sectional hospitality committee to review hospitality procedures and develop procedures for sharing the workload. Bob Stearns, Carole Banks, and Richard will be on this committee, along with Kitty. We will advertise for a sectional hospitality chair, co-chair, and volunteers in the Bulletin.

Kitty asked whether there was some arrangement she was unaware of for additional caddy pay to David Solomon. Linda Marshall said she remembered some past discussion of David's compensation but did not remember whether it extended to payment for his caddy services. Linda agreed to look through old meeting minutes for discussion of this.

Convention Cards

Ollie Thomas reported that some players in the non-life master game do not have filled convention cards available for the opponents to review. Chris Miller explained that this is a procedural violation that should be brought to the attention of the director. Chris said that penalties for this will be light for the NLM game but that he would request the players to fill out convention cards. Chris agreed to make an announcement about this rule at the start of unit games.

Volunteer Recognition

Ron Starr has run bridge in schools programs for a number of years, and will be unable to continue these. We agreed to present Ron Starr with a \$50 gift certificate from Barron Barclay along with a certificate of recognition (7 in favor, 1 abstention). Richard Ferrin will purchase the gift certificate. We also discussed the possibility of holding a special game to recognize volunteers or having a page to recognize volunteers in the Bulletin.

Trophy Pairs Event

Clyde Kruskal agreed to work on the wording of the board action to create the Steve Robinson Trophy to be awarded for winning the annual WBL Trophy Pairs event.

Sunday Sectional Bracketed Event

Bob Stearns reported that his team was prevented from playing in a bracket below the top bracket because his team had a member with over 3000 masterpoints. This is inconsistent with the advertised description of the event. Bob will discuss this with Ron Zucker.

Bridge in Schools

Carole Banks asked about getting back the Easybridge materials she had loaned to Margaret Whilden. She also asked whether Margaret or Pat Mitchell are interested in purchasing Easybridge materials. Norman Mitchell agreed to check on Carole's requests.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on May 29th at Richard Ferrin's home.

President Richard Ferrin adjourned the meeting at 10:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Linda Marshall, Secretary

WBL Board Meeting

May 29, 2013

The meeting was held at Richard Ferrin's home.

In attendance: voting members Rose Berman, Bob Stearns, Linda Marshall, Ollie Thomas, Carole Banks, Richard Ferrin, Ellen Cherniavsky, and Clyde Kruskal; nonvoting members Donna Rogall and Ron Zucker

President Richard Ferrin called the meeting to order at 8:05.

Secretary's Report

The minutes of the 4/24/2013 meeting were approved.

Treasurer's Report

Rose Berman reported that the WBL has made a slight profit for 2013 to date. The WBL's accounts total approximately \$58,000. Rose received a suggestion at the annual meeting to make the WBL's financial statements available on the WBL website. We discussed this and agreed that we should do so.

Unit Game Report

Chris Miller did not attend the meeting, and there were no unit game matters to discuss.

Bulletin Report

Donna Rogall reported that there are no items pending for the Bulletin that currently require any decisions from the Board.

Sunday Sectional Bracketed Event

We discussed the concern that Bob Stearns had raised at the last meeting about a cutoff having been imposed at the last sectional on participation in a bracket below the top bracket because one player had masterpoints in excess of a cutoff. Ron Zucker reported that Terry Lavender had imposed this cutoff by mistake because the conditions of the event had not been made clear to her in advance and that is the way that NVBA runs its similar bracketed event. We will go back to running it the way it had previously been run the next time we hold that event. Clyde Kruskal suggested the alternative of bracketing teams according to the imp scale. He will look into this and also see how our field

would have looked if this had been done. Ron Zucker will ask Terry what the minimum number of teams for the top bracket is. We will clarify the conditions of contest for this event and also clarify that stratification for all events is done by average of the partnership/team in future sectional flyers. Ron will send Donna language for these for inclusion in a new version of the July sectional flyer. Ron reported that Terry no longer intends to retire after the July sectional, and will continue to be our Director in Charge beyond the July sectional.

Committee Assignments

The Board agreed to the following committee assignments (subject to the consent of appointees not at the meeting):

Awards: Richard Ferrin (chair), Don Berman

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

Caddies: Kitty Gottfried (chair)

Calendar of Obligations: Don Berman (chair), Carole Banks, Richard Ferrin

Carpool Assistance: Ron Zucker (chair)

Charity Committee: Linda Marshall (chair)

Cheer and Sympathy: Frances Burke (chair)

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

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

Electronic Communications: Don Berman (chair), Steve Robinson

Executive Committee: Richard Ferrin (chair), Ellen Cherniavsky, Clyde Kruskal, Linda Marshall

GNT Coordinator: Ellen Cherniavsky

Historian: Peter Boyd

Holiday Party Committee: Clyde Kruskal (chair), Kitty Gottfried, Carole Banks, Jim Geist

Machlin Sportsmanship Award Committee: Peter Boyd (chair), Rose Berman, Barbara Doran, Paul Leopold, Jim Geist

Membership Committee: Frances Burke (chair), Ed Burke

Membership Growth Committee: Linda Marshall (chair), Oliver Thomas, Norman Mitchell, Bryan Geer, Bob Stearns, Gene Fisher, Barbara Summers

Membership Secretary: Frances Burke

NAP Coordinator: Ellen Cherniavsky

Novice Program: Shawn Stringer

Ombudsman: Adrienne Kuehneman

Parliamentarian: Oliver Thomas

Partnerships: Barbara Doran

Policy Maintenance Committee: Ellen Cherniavsky (co-chair), Linda Marshall (co-chair), Chris Miller, Donna Rogall

Publicity and Marketing Committee: Clyde Kruskal (chair), Bob Levey, Melissa Price, Charity Sack, Donna Rogall

Round Robin Committee, David Ruderman (chair), Richard Ferrin, Bryan Geer, Steve Robinson, John Adams, Bill Cole, Barbara Doran, Arnie Frankel, Earl Glickstein, David Marshall

Scheduling Committee: Clyde Kruskal (chair), Barbara Doran, Chris Miller, Ted Ying, Richard Ferrin

Secretary: Linda Marshall

Tournament Chair: Ron Zucker

Tournament Committee: Ron Zucker (chair), Kitty Gottfried, Oliver Thomas, Bob Stearns, Clyde Kruskal, Barbara Summers

Unit Game Committee: Clyde Kruskal (chair), Rose Berman, Lois Geer, Linda Marshall, Kitty Gottfried, Chris Miller

Recorder: Barry Bragin

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

Webmaster: Don Berman

Youth Bridge Committee: Norman Mitchell (chair), Melissa Price, Rose Berman

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on June 26th at Rose Berman's home.

President Richard Ferrin adjourned the meeting at 9:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Linda Marshall, Secretary

WBL Board Meeting

June 26, 2013

The meeting was held at Rose Berman's home.

In attendance: voting members Carole Banks, Melissa Price, Clyde Kruskal, Ollie Thomas, Rose Berman, Norman Mitchell, Ellen Cherniavsky, Richard Ferrin, and Linda Marshall; nonvoting members Chris Miller and Donna Rogall; guest Margaret Whilden

President Richard Ferrin called the meeting to order at 7:50, and welcomed Melissa Price to the Board.

Secretary's Report

The minutes of the 5/29/2013 meeting were approved.

Treasurer's Report

Rose Berman reported that the WBL financials have been posted on the website. Rose reported that year-to-date gross receipts are down approximately \$10,000 from the same time last year. Chris Miller noted that some unit game funds have not yet been deposited; also, there may have been one less unit game for this year than for last year at this time. However, there has been a decrease in unit game attendance. We discussed ways of increasing attendance at the unit game. We would like to encourage players who have taken lessons from local teachers to try the unit game. We will invite Leslie Shafer to the next board meeting to give us advice on this.

Unit Game Report

Chris Miller reported that attendance at the NLM game is up slightly, and attendance at the B/C/D game and the A/X game are down. Chris needs a new timer or a laptop to run timer software. Rose Berman said that the Bermans may have an old laptop that WBL can use.

Bridge in Schools Report

Margaret Whilden presented a report on the status of Bridge in Schools programs that she is involved with. She reported the volunteers who are working with ongoing programs at School without Walls, Tilden Middle School, and DC Prep Public Charter Middle School. She is working to try to establish programs in a number of other schools and reported on the contacts that she has made in

furtherance of this effort. She would like help with publicity and from anyone who can help to get bridge programs into schools.

Bulletin Report

Donna Rogall reported that the next bulletin is the July/August bulletin, which will contain the ad for the October sectional. We decided to run a bracket swiss on the Sunday of the October sectional. Ron Zucker had suggested eliminating imp pairs on Friday evening because the small field makes the results too random. We discussed this and decided to keep the imp pairs game for October to keep the benefit of variety for the Friday evening game.

Slow Play Policy

Clyde Kruskal reported on an incident where he felt he had received an unwarranted slow play warning. He and his partner had been playing behind a slow pair all night and only ended late this one round. The E/W pair arrived at Clyde's table late and there was a director call during the round for which there was a delay in getting a director to the table. We discussed the slow play policy and did not arrive at a decision to change it. We discussed the possibility of getting pairs to pass boards in advance of the close of the round if the next table is ready to play them, to try to minimize tables ending late. We will discuss slow play issues further at a later meeting.

April 2014 Sectional Location

We still do not have a location for this sectional. Ellen Cherniavsky reported that Bill Cole has identified a recreation center that would be a good location. However, we are not allowed to accept payment on-site at this location. In addition, we would have to be out by 8:30 in the evenings. Ellen will check to see whether the bar on payment extends to credit card payments or scrip.

Daily Bulletins at Sectionals

Ellen Cherniavsky suggested eliminating daily bulletins at sectionals. Complete overall results are posted on the wall, and are available promptly online. Eliminating the bulletins would be a helpful simplification for the head director and the tournament chair. We discussed this matter and voted unanimously to eliminate the daily bulletin.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on July 17th at Norman Mitchell's home.

President Richard Ferrin adjourned the meeting at 10:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Linda Marshall, Secretary

WBL Board Meeting

July 17, 2013

The meeting was held at Norman Mitchell's home.

In attendance: voting members Richard Ferrin, Melissa Price, Ollie Thomas, Norman Mitchell, Ellen Cherniavsky, Clyde Kruskal, Rose Berman, and Linda Marshall; nonvoting members Ron Zucker and Donna Rogall; guest Leslie Shafer

President Richard Ferrin called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m.

Sectional Report

Ron Zucker reported that all volunteer needs for the July sectional are covered.

Secretary's Report

The minutes of the 6/26/2013 meeting were approved without change.

Treasurer's Report

Rose Berman reported that she has not circulated further updates to the WBL financials, because she circulated financials recently. Most advertisers in the Bulletin are current on payments.

Membership Growth

Richard Ferrin welcomed Leslie Shafer to the meeting and stated that the WBL Board would like to find ways of encouraging bridge students to try the unit game.

Leslie Shafer distributed a handout. She has a number of ideas that she suggests we implement to encourage the participation of newer players.

Bridge University—Leslie suggests we conduct a Bridge University for bridge teachers at our regional, similar to the workshop conducted at the NABC. She suggests we hold it free of charge.

Opportunities to play with experienced players—Leslie suggests a mentor game for newer players who play frequently enough at the unit game. The newer players would have to play a certain number of times to qualify to play at the mentor game. Another possibility would be to have a unit game masterpoint race

for the NLM game, with the prize being an opportunity to play with a designated experienced player. A similar prize could also be given by random drawing, with all players who play a certain number of times in the NLM game being eligible to win.

Novice-only games—Leslie noted that the novice game is a helpful tool because the novices feel comfortable apart from the other games. She feels that novices should never be forced to play up in a game that's combined because of small attendance, and that we should run very small separate games if necessary. Directors should take a protective attitude toward novices, and we should try to make the games for newer players more social.

Quick tips—Leslie suggested having a short bridge lesson before the NLM game.

Supplies for bridge teachers—Leslie suggests we make duplicate supplies available to bridge teachers at cost. She also suggests that we publicize our subsidized bidding box program for bridge teachers.

Publicizing unit game and sectionals through bridge teachers—Leslie suggests contacting teachers and asking them if they would like to distribute flyers for these events. She also suggests designating a WBL teacher liaison. Leslie could help develop a list of teachers.

Regional-related suggestions—Leslie noted that the timing of the speaker program at the last regional was bad because it conflicted with gold rush pairs. She also suggested having a gathering for teachers at the regional.

Education materials—Leslie offered to make her old newsletters available as lesson materials for the 0-20 game. She can email them to us. This would be for unit game use only, not for other teachers.

Ask-me buttons—Leslie suggested that we have volunteers at all of our games wear ask-me buttons so that people with questions feel comfortable approaching someone to ask them.

Unit game free plays—Leslie volunteered to distribute unit game free plays, for example, as prizes for her student game.

Linda Marshall agreed to set up a meeting of the Membership Growth Committee to discuss Leslie's suggestions and also revitalizing the WBL mentor program.

Bulletin Report

Donna Rogall reported that the next Bulletin will go to the printer in about a week.

Entry Fees for Students

Richard Ferrin suggested having reduced entry fees for younger players. We noted that our policies currently provide that players ages 16 and younger play for \$1. We are not sure whether this is being implemented. Clyde Kruskal argued that \$1 is so low that players will not value it and that the age limit for reduced fees should be raised. We agreed unanimously to raise the fee to half price for all entries at the unit game (including the 0-20 game) and sectionals, and to raise the age limit for reduced entries to 25, to correspond to the ACBL junior bridge age limit. The new policy (which replaces the old policy covering players 16 and under) is: Players ages 25 and younger play for half price at all WBL unit games and WBL sectionals.

Get-together with NVBA Board

Richard Ferrin reported that Ron Kral has suggested having a get-together for the WBL board and the NVBA board. Ron has volunteered to host. Ron proposed the weekend of 9/28-29 for this. Board members in attendance were generally interested in attending. Rose Berman prefers 9/29. Other volunteers may also be included.

Unit Game Volunteers

Kitty Gottfried has been buying food, arranging for soda, and arranging for caddies for the unit game. She is ill, and we need to find volunteers for these functions. Barbara Summers is trying to recruit additional volunteers. In the meantime, Clyde Kruskal and Rose Berman volunteered to purchase food for some of the upcoming games. We discussed the possibility of having a monthly rotation of food volunteers. Clyde will try handling the caddy function and see whether this will work for him on an ongoing basis.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on September 11th at Melissa Price's home.

President Richard Ferrin adjourned the meeting at 9:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Linda Marshall, Secretary

WBL Board Meeting

September 11, 2013

The meeting was held at Melissa Price's home.

In attendance: voting members Norman Mitchell, Ellen Cherniavsky, Richard Ferrin, Melissa Price, Rose Berman, Clyde Kruskal, Bob Stearns, and Linda Marshall; nonvoting member Donna Rogall; guest Margaret Whilden

President Richard Ferrin called the meeting to order at 7:55 p.m.

Secretary's Report

The minutes of the 7/17/2013 meeting were approved without change.

Treasurer's Report

Rose Berman reported that the WBL is down a net of \$1,392 for 2013 so far. This reflects unit game rent paid through the end of September. There is a net discrepancy of about \$900 for the last sectional. Rose is trying to track down the source of the discrepancy with Terry Lavender. Rose reported that Mary Lou Guandolo and Charlie Stenger have volunteered to host dinner for the meeting of the Machlin award committee. Rose asked the Board to approve a gift of flowers to them at a cost of \$50 to \$75. The motion was approved unanimously.

Unit Game Report

There was no unit game report.

Sectional Report

There was no sectional report. Richard Ferrin noted that we will need a new tournament chair to take over after the July sectional.

Bridge in Schools Report

Margaret Whilden reported on the status of bridge in schools programs. Margaret met with Patty Tucker and other individuals involved with bridge in schools at the Atlanta NABC, and also attended a Whirlwind Bridge program there. She reported that Hank Meyer is interested in doing a Whirlwind Bridge program at University of Maryland or Montgomery College. Bridge in schools programs are in place at School Without Walls, DC Charter Middle School, Tilden Middle School, and Parkdale High School. A program will begin shortly at

Takoma Educational Center. There is a group of students who play bridge at lunchtime at BCC High School, but they may not want WBL to provide a teacher.

Margarett suggested subsidizing students who participate in bridge in schools programs at club games. NVBA does this for their bridge in schools programs. For an \$8 club game, the student would pay \$1, we would reimburse the club \$4, and the remainder of the fee would be waived by the club. The Board approved this in principle. Richard Ferrin will work on the wording of vouchers to be distributed to the students.

Margarett reported that she is working on developing a bridge in schools website and also bridge in school posters similar to posters used by NVBA.

Bulletin Report

Donna Rogall reported that the September/October Bulletin is at the printer and is posted online. Items for the next Bulletin are due 10/25, and it is due at the printer by 11/18.

Get-together with NVBA Board

Richard Ferrin reminded Board members to RSVP to Ron Kral for the get-together for the WBL board and the NVBA board that Ron is hosting on 9/29.

Non-Life Master Sectional

Ellen Cherniavsky reported that the last NLM sectional was well attended, with 51 tables on Saturday and lower attendance on Sunday. We will research our policy for providing free plays for Shawn Stringer and her volunteers at other games for work at the NLM sectional. Linda Marshall agreed to check old minutes for mention of this.

Cambridge Regional

Richard Ferrin reported that Cambridge is in the running to be a permanent regional site in place of Ocean City/Virginia Beach. MBA and NVBA have asked that we join in a joint proposal in support of this, with MBA to take the lead in running the sectional with support from WBL and NVBA. A motion to support this proposal passed unanimously.

President's Discretionary Fund

Norman Mitchell suggested that the WBL Board president have a discretionary fund for small purchases, so that the Board need not approve each small purchase. The Board approved a discretionary fund of \$200 (Richard Ferrin abstaining, everyone else in favor). The president will account periodically

for expenses paid from the fund, and will request additional funds from the Board if needed.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on October 23rd at Ellen Cherniavsky's home.

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

Respectfully submitted

Linda Marshall, Secretary

WBL Board Meeting

October 23, 2013

The meeting was held at Ellen Cherniavsky's home.

In attendance: voting members Carole Banks, Ellen Cherniavsky, Linda Marshall, Rose Berman, Richard Ferrin, Melissa Price, Clyde Kruskal, Bob Stearns, Norman Mitchell, Ollie Thomas; nonvoting members Donna Rogall and Ron Zucker; guests Richard Wegman and Barbara Ames

President Richard Ferrin called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m.

Secretary's Report

The minutes of the 9/11/2013 meeting were approved without change.

Treasurer's Report

Rose Berman reported that the WBL received a refund of \$780 from Montgomery County. The WBL has a net loss of approximately \$4000 through the end of September. We discussed reasons for this. Attendance is down and rent is up. We will consider finances further at the next meeting.

Unit Game Report

There was no unit game report.

Sectional Report

Ron Zucker reported that sectionals are breaking even. We still have problems limiting directors to the amount needed. Food costs are going down and will go down more. When Kitty was hospitality chair, she bought extra food for sectionals and used the excess for the unit game. Ron has eliminated this practice. We discussed the possibility of subsidizing box lunches for Sundays rather than provide lunch. Safeway or a deli would charge approximately \$10 per person. In addition, Ron asked the board to consider several questions:

1. Should we continue the Friday night game? It is very small (20-25 tables). It doesn't lose money but doesn't make money either. We discussed trying triple nickel swiss, which is very well attended on Friday evenings at the NVBA sectional.
2. The ACBL requests (but does not require) that units use one day per sectional as a fundraiser to benefit North American Pairs and Grand National Teams. We

would charge \$1 extra per table, and masterpoint awards would be higher. If we do this, it will probably be on Saturday. We will need to decide about this for the May sectional by January.

3. We need to find a replacement tournament chair because Ron will step down from this position after the August sectional. Ron listed some desirable qualities for a tournament chair. We will advertise for this position in the Bulletin.

Establishment of nonprofit educational organization

Dick Wegman and Barbara Ames presented a report regarding the establishment of a section 501(c)(3) educational organization to conduct youth bridge educational activities. This organization could receive tax deductible donations. Dick has been teaching a bridge class and will request his students to make a contribution to this organization. He is expecting over \$1000 in donations from this source. The organization would be able to apply to ACBL for matching funds. The Board unanimously passed a motion to have Dick and Barbara prepare the documents to establish the organization.

Bulletin Report

Donna Rogall requested information for the Bulletin for Bridge and Bowling. This will be held on January 25th. It has been moved to the weekend before the Superbowl to avoid a conflict with the MBA sectional. Donna will check with David Ruderman regarding the dates for the unit KO. The holiday party will be held on 12/19 at Kensington. Clyde volunteered to be the listed contact. He will check with Jim Geist to see whether Jim will help with the holiday party again this year.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on December 11th at Bob Stearns' home.

President Richard Ferrin adjourned the meeting at 9:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Linda Marshall, Secretary

WBL Board Meeting

December 11, 2013

The meeting was held at Bob Stearns' home.

In attendance: voting members Linda Marshall, Ellen Cherniavsky, Ollie Thomas, Bob Stearns, Richard Ferrin, Melissa Price, Rose Berman, Carole Banks, and Clyde Kruskal; nonvoting member Donna Rogall; guest Barbara Ames

President Richard Ferrin called the meeting to order at 8:00 p.m.

Secretary's Report

The minutes of the 10/23/2013 meeting were approved without change.

Educational Foundation

Barbara Ames reported that she and Dick Wegman have filed articles of incorporation for the Washington Bridge League Educational Foundation, Inc., which has been formed to support the bridge education efforts that have been supported by WBL. The Board voted to approve the establishment of this organization (8 in favor, 1 opposed). The Board also voted to donate \$2,000 to this organization (7 in favor, 2 opposed). This donation will provide sufficient starting funds that the organization can pay the \$450 exemption application fee to the IRS and retain sufficient funds to avoid a \$15 per month bank charge.

Treasurer's Report

Rose Berman presented a year-to-date profit and loss summary. The WBL continues to run at a deficit. Our biggest cost that does not give rise to revenue is the Bulletin. We discussed options relating to Bulletin costs. We agreed to discuss options relating to the Bulletin at a future meeting.

Unit Game Report

Richard Ferrin reported on the status of the unit game in Chris Miller's absence. Chris Miller has been out with a broken ankle, and the games have run smoothly in his absence. The last two games were well-attended. We used pre-duplicated boards for the last round of the recent GNT qualifier. Reaction to this was mixed.

Bryan Geer has requested that a third teacher be added for the 0-20 game, which has been growing. The WBL currently pays a total of \$125 per

week to Bryan and Lois Geer. Bryan proposed that the WBL pay \$150 per week for teaching and running the game, \$50 per teacher. This request was approved by unanimous vote.

Alternate District Director

Richard Ferrin reported that Mike Cappelletti, who was District 6's first alternate District Director, passed away recently. Steve Robinson, who was previously the second alternate District Director, is now the first alternate District Director. Richard asked that anyone with suggestions for a new alternate District Director should let him know.

Novice Book on Doubles

WBL will receive 75 copies of Shawn Stringer's book for novices on doubles. We decided to let Shawn determine how they will be distributed.

Bulletin Report

Donna Rogall reported that the Bulletin has just been mailed out. Items for the next Bulletin are due to Donna on January 2nd. Donna will solicit items by email. We discussed the location of the site for the May sectional. White Oak Community Center is a possible location but has the drawback that we cannot accept money at that location and would have to arrange alternative for receiving payment for entries. We agreed to hold the May sectional there.

Donna Rogall discussed her request for a pay increase, which has been done biannually since 2007. The Board will consider this request in executive session after the meeting.

WBL Directories

Rose Berman reported that the new directories have been printed and will be available at the unit game this week.

Nadine Wood Award

Frances Burke has been chosen to receive the Nadine Wood award for volunteerism. Clyde Kruskal agreed to announce the award and express our appreciation for Frances' efforts at the holiday party.

Sectional Tournament Chair

Richard Ferrin reported that we still need a new tournament chair for after Ron Zucker steps down from the position. We agreed to form a committee on

restructuring tournament responsibilities. Carole Banks will chair the committee. Other members are Donna Rogall, Clyde Kruskal, and Melissa Price.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on January 15th at Rose Berman's home.

President Richard Ferrin adjourned the meeting at 9:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Linda Marshall, Secretary