

WBL Board Meeting

January 15, 2014

The meeting was held at Rose Berman's home.

In attendance: voting members Linda Marshall, Rose Berman, Richard Ferrin, Ellen Cherniavsky, Clyde Kruskal, Melissa Price, Ollie Thomas, Carole Banks, and Norman Mitchell; nonvoting members Donna Rogall and Julie Marquette; guest Bill Cole

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

Tournament Site for May Sectional

Bill Cole reported on his efforts to locate a site for the May sectional. The White Oak Recreation Center is unavailable for any possible dates. The Margaret Schweinhaut Senior Center may be willing to have the sectional there if Shawn Stringer runs it. There is another recreation center at Randolph Road and Georgia Avenue that has gym-type space that we could use for our sectional. Newport Mill Middle School would probably be available but would not have the air conditioning on (which could be a problem if the weather is warm). The Marriott on Sam Eig Highway has adequate space for the sectional and may be willing to rent it to us at an affordable rate.

We discussed the options that Bill presented, and also discussed the possibility of using the Silver Spring Civic Center. We concluded that the Silver Spring Civic Center is too expensive for our purposes, and that our first choice is the Margaret Schweinhaut Senior Center. The Marriott may work well. The other facilities are inadequate. We voted (8-1) to convey to Bill that he would try to arrange for the Margaret Schweinhaut Senior Center and, if that cannot be done, to arrange to hold the sectional at the Marriott on Sam Eig Highway if it can be rented at an affordable price. Richard Ferrin agreed to check on whether Ohr Kodesh can be used for the sectional Friday in case we need it.

Secretary's Report

The minutes of the 12/11/2013 meeting were approved without change.

Treasurer's Report

Rose Berman presented the financial report for 2013. The last sectional made a small profit. The WBL still has a significant net loss for the year. The Bulletin Committee has not yet met, and may be able to come up with some cost savings. Norman Mitchell suggested eliminating the dinner reimbursement for

board meetings and not serving dinner. We discussed this and concluded that the informal discussions that occur before the meeting during dinner are helpful.

Unit Game Report

Chris Miller circulated a report prior to the meeting. There was nothing notable to discuss.

Bulletin Report

Donna Rogall reported that the January/February bulletin will be sent later than usual because of uncertainty regarding the May sectional. Clyde Kruskal agreed to write an item about Frances Burke, who received the Nadine Wood service award. The issue will include a memorial for Mike Cappelletti. Linda Marshall agreed to furnish an article about the mentor program. Rose Berman will send out invoices to advertisers. One former advertiser still has not paid. Rose is authorized to write down that bill to what she can afford.

NLM Tournament

Julie Marquette reported on the status of the NLM sectional, which will be held on April 26-27. She and Leslie Shafer have gotten the information about running the sectional from Shawn Stringer. Julie expects attendance to be good. Leslie Shafer is publicizing the sectional at her classes. They would like to advertise locally, including reaching out to bridge teachers and bridge in schools students. The sectional may include single session swiss events on Sunday, to accommodate players for whom 49 boards is too much.

Membership Growth Committee Report

Linda Marshall presented a report from the Membership Growth Committee. The committee met, and developed a number of suggestions:

1. Send an email to people who joined the ACBL and have no masterpoints: We drafted an email offering these people a free play at the unit game. The board approved the sending of this email. Rose Berman has some suggested edits, and will circulate them.
2. Provide sectional flyers to bridge teachers: Ollie Thomas is coordinating this with Leslie Shafer.
3. Provide a lesson at the unit game that is aimed at non-LMs who are more advanced than the 0-20 group: Richard Ferrin agreed to check on getting a classroom for this, since the unit game space is too noisy before the game. We would also need staffing for this.

4. Survey players who have attended the unit game 3 times or fewer in recent years, to see why they don't attend more frequently. The Board approved this.
5. Revive the mentor program. We circulated a draft article for the Bulletin for this. The article will be in the next Bulletin. Linda agreed to coordinate with Donna on dates for recruiting based on when the Bulletin will be published.
6. Collect email addresses from non-LM players for Steve Robinson's email list. The Board approved this. We will collect this information at the unit game.
7. Have a point of contact for new unit game attendees, to welcome them. The Board approved this. We also agreed to have the director welcome new attendees by name in an announcement before the game.

The Membership Growth Committee also raised several issues:

1. Slow play in the NLM game: This is not addressed by penalties, but some people feel that pressure on players should be alleviated by pulling boards, and that the game should have 3-board rounds even when the game is large enough to support 2-board rounds, to minimize slow play.
2. It would be helpful to have additional NLM resources on the website. We are working on this.
3. Some people think a separate NLM guaranteed partner would be helpful, but Barb Doran (who is the partnership contact and runs the guaranteed partner program) and Shawn Stringer (the partnership contact for NLM players) have told us that there is no need for this.
4. We are considering whether an NLM coordinator would be helpful.
5. We support Leslie Shafer's suggestion that there should be a club director/teacher breakfast. We discussed this and noted that it would be very expensive to have this at the regional but that we could have this at a sectional or at someone's home.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on February 19th at Linda Marshall's home.

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

Respectfully submitted

Linda Marshall, Secretary

WBL Board Meeting

February 19, 2014

The meeting was held at Linda Marshall's home.

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

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

Secretary's Report

The minutes of the 1/15/2014 meeting were approved without change.

Treasurer's Report

Rose Berman presented a summary of the cash position of WBL and also the WBL Educational Foundation. Rose also reported that the January sectional made a profit of \$1730.

Unit Game Report

Chris Miller reported that attendance at the unit game has been erratic. Some games have been well attended and some have not been. Chris addressed the slow play suggestions from last month's membership growth committee report. Chris reported that the existing practice is to pull boards rather than give slow play penalties. Chris also stated that the suggestion to play 3 board rounds rather than two board rounds is only practical if there are exactly 12 tables (otherwise we would have to use boards numbered higher than 36).

Status of May Sectional

Ellen Cherniavsky reported that Bill Cole has been unable to obtain the Schweinhaut Senior Center for any of the possible sectional dates. The Marriott on Sam Eig Highway was unaffordable. We discussed the possibility of holding the sectional at Newport Mill Middle School (with Friday morning and afternoon games at Ohr Kodesh). Ellen called Bill Cole to discuss this possibility. Bill stated that Newport Mill Middle School is not air conditioned at that time of year. After discussing the conditions at Newport Mill Middle School in light of the lack of air conditioning, the Board voted (6-3) not to hold a May sectional this year. Clyde Kruskal will coordinate with Jerry Kiewe to confirm that we are set to use

Ohr Kodesh for the Thursday evening on which we were going to hold the sectional.

Bulletin Committee Report

The Bulletin Committee presented a report summarizing their recommendations for cost-cutting measures relating to the Bulletin. The committee recommends moving to four mailed issues per year and two online-only issues, and only mailing Bulletins to members who have opted in. The committee recommends adding a card-stock cover to the next bulletin, to provide an opt-in postcard. Other options include charging for a mailed Bulletin, going to online-only, moving to four issues per year, and leaving the Bulletin as is. We discussed these options. There was substantial support for not mailing the Bulletin.

The board approved a motion to deliver the bulletin electronically (and not by mail) beginning with the January/February 2015 issue (8 in favor, 2 opposed).

We discussed transition issues, but did not come to a consensus. We may still print some copies to have on hand at the unit game and tournaments. The Bulletin Committee will work on transition issues. We agreed that we should solicit email addresses so that we can notify members when a new Bulletin becomes available online. Melissa Price and Bob Stearns joined the Bulletin Committee.

The Longest Day

Richard Ferrin reported that Yuen de Anda, who is coordinating NVBA's efforts for The Longest Day, has asked for WBL's support. The Longest Day is an Alzheimer's disease fundraiser spearheaded by ACBL. On 6/21/2014 (which is the longest day of the year), participating clubs hold charity games to support an Alzheimer's disease charity. Yuen has asked WBL to promote this event, encourage WBL members to play in the event, and set out collection boxes at unit games. After discussing this request, we agreed that Richard will obtain more information on how WBL might help with this event.

New Member Orientation

Norman Mitchell stated that it would be helpful for new members to be given orientation materials, such as a board member manual and an organizational mission statement. Norman agreed to circulate samples of these documents.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on March 19th at Carole Banks' home.

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

Respectfully submitted

Linda Marshall, Secretary

WBL Board Meeting

March 19, 2014

The meeting was held at Carole Banks' home.

In attendance: voting members Carole Banks, Rose Berman, Melissa Price, Richard Ferrin, Ollie Thomas, Linda Marshall, Bob Stearns, Ellen Cherniavsky, and Clyde Kruskal; nonvoting members Donna Rogall and Chris Miller; guests Don Berman and Shawn Stringer

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

Secretary's Report

The minutes of the 2/19/2014 meeting were approved without change.

Treasurer's Report

Rose Berman presented a year-to-date financial statement. Because it is early in the year, the year-to-date financials do not provide much information.

Unit Game Report

Chris Miller reported that he has purchased 500 decks of plastic cards for the unit game at a cost of approximately \$1,000. He is phasing in their use. Chris stated that the unit game to be held on the date that was scheduled to be the Thursday of the May sectional (which has been cancelled) needs to be scheduled as some other type of game. Chris suggested a sectionally rated charity game. The Board approved this unanimously. We will need to designate a charity for this. The WBL educational foundation would be a possible recipient.

Bidding Box Status

Chris Miller reported that he plans to order new inserts for the WBL bidding boxes with worn inserts, so that we can replace the worn inserts as previously discussed. Ellen Cherniavsky and Chris Miller both indicated willingness to host a gathering of volunteers to replace bidding box inserts. We will schedule this gathering at the next meeting.

Policy Updates

Linda Marshall indicated that she will consolidate suggestions for updates to the WBL policies and circulate them before the next meeting.

Bulletin Report

Donna Rogall reported that she will send the Jan/Feb bulletin to the printer by Monday 2/24. The March/April issue will be published soon afterward.

Elections and Annual Meeting

The annual meeting will be held on May 8th. We discussed the elections to be held at the annual meeting. Norman Mitchell has indicated that he does not wish to run for reelection. Ollie Thomas and Melissa Price have terms that also expire in May, and they plan to run again. All of the officers also plan to run again. We discussed who we might recruit for the open board member slot. Carole Banks agreed to circulate election petitions to those who are running for reelection. The annual meeting will be held at Ohr Kodesh. Clyde Kruskal will arrange for a special dessert to be served at the meeting.

Relationship between District 6, District 7, and MABC

Don Berman reported that the ACBL has raised questions about the MABC and its role in running regional tournaments. The MABC is a section 501(c)(4) organization formed in 1949 and incorporated in Virginia that runs regional tournaments on behalf of District 6 and District 7. MABC is the profit center for the regionals, and MABC has cash assets of approximately \$600,000, which far exceeds the cash held by District 6 (approximately \$75,000) and District 7. The ACBL does not recognize the MABC as an organization that is authorized to run ACBL regionals. In light of questions raised by ACBL, District 6 and District 7 are discussing the possibility of running their own regionals, with the assets of MABC to be split between the two districts pursuant to a 2/3 vote of the MABC board. District 6 and District 7 might agree to keep the MABC brand for the regionals. Don and Shawn Stringer are putting together a position paper regarding this issue for District 6. The District 6 board will have to vote on this. WBL has a weighted vote on the District 6 board, and will have to come up with a position on this.

2017 July Regional

Shawn Stringer reported that the WBL will need to decide where to hold the 2017 July Regional and who will chair the regional. She discussed the issues she has encountered in dealing with the hotel where the regional is currently held.

The Longest Day

Richard Ferrin asked that the WBL Bulletin provide free publicity for this event, because our parent organization is spearheading this effort. This motion was approved, 7 in favor and 2 opposed.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on April 30th at Melissa Price's home.

President Richard Ferrin adjourned the meeting at 9:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Linda Marshall, Secretary

WBL Board Meeting

April 30, 2014

The meeting was held at Melissa Price's home.

In attendance: voting members Clyde Kruskal, Ellen Cherniavsky, Carole Banks, Melissa Price, Richard Ferrin, Bob Stearns, Rose Berman, and Linda Marshall; nonvoting members Donna Rogall and Julie Marquette; guests Don Berman and Margaret Whilden

President Richard Ferrin called the meeting to order at 8:15 p.m.

Secretary's Report

The minutes of the 2/19/2014 meeting were approved with minor corrections from Ellen Cherniavsky.

Treasurer's Report

Rose Berman presented a year-to-date report. Tentatively the WBL has a profit of approximately \$1600 for 2014 to date but that is subject to change because the NLM sectional profit has not been finally determined. The unit game has shown a loss for the year so far, but that is because Chris Miller recently incurred a significant expense to purchase supplies.

NLM Sectional Report

Julie Marquette reported that the NLM sectional went very well. There were 101 tables playing (up from 75 last year), despite the fact that the sectional conflicted with the Gatlinburg regional and with spring break for some families. Leslie Shafer got donations of bridge products, and we were able to give the players goody bags with convention cards, demo CDs, and other bridge goodies. Eight or nine middle school students played in the sectional. Many of Leslie's students attended the sectional. Bryan and Lois Geer were very helpful. Julie suggested that we work more closely with Leslie generally and also that we have more help available for NLM players at our regular sectionals. Julie agreed to join the membership growth committee. The next NLM sectional will be in September.

Bidding Box Status

Ellen Cherniavsky reported that Chris Miller has suggested some dates for a gathering to replace bidding box inserts. Ellen will coordinate with Chris to settle on a date, and then email around to see who else is available to help.

Bulletin Report

Donna Rogall reported that the March/April WBL Bulletin is at the printer and is available online. Don Berman has stopped removing the opt-out members from the mailing list because he was told someone else was doing that. We will track down the source of that understanding and figure out who is doing that. Ellen Cherniavsky has volunteered to develop a WBL email list that we will use, among other things, to notify members when the Bulletin becomes available online. The next deadline for Bulletin items is 5/5.

Tournament Chair Responsibilities Committee

Carole Banks reported that this committee plans to meet on 5/13 at Ron Zucker's home.

Bulletin Committee Report

Donna Rogall presented the recommendation of the Bulletin Committee. The committee recommends that we: (1) offer mail subscriptions to members at \$12 per year and nonmembers at \$18 per year, (2) print 500 copies per issue to start, subject to later adjustment if necessary, (3) inform the membership of these changes, (4) establish an email and membership database for, among other purposes, notifying members when the Bulletin becomes available online, and (5) switch printers to Conquest Graphics in Richmond to save money.

We discussed the first two recommendations and approved them (7 in favor, none opposed, one abstention). We agreed that the third recommendation is a logical consequence of the first two.

We discussed the logistics involved in establishing a member email distribution list. NVBA uses a commercial service for this called iContact. Don Berman maintains a member list and has many member email addresses. We approved the idea of establishing a member email distribution list (7 in favor, none opposed, 1 abstention), with logistics to be determined later. We established a committee to investigate options for this. Committee members are: Donna Rogall, Don Berman, Steve Robinson, Linda Marshall, and Melissa Price.

We approved the recommended switch of printers by unanimous vote.

May 15 charity game

Linda Marshall suggested that the 5/15 charity game benefit the Under Thirty Program at Friendship Place. We agreed to do this by unanimous vote.

Relationship between District 6, District 7, and MABC

Don Berman reported regarding the status of discussions among District 6, District 7, and MABC regarding the future of MABC. Both District 6 and District 7 want to restructure the relationship among the organizations so that the Districts run their own tournaments. The two Districts will need to split the MABC assets. The regionals will likely continue to be run under the MABC brand.

Mentor Program

Linda Marshall reported on the status of the mentor program. Only a few NLMs signed up to be assigned mentors when we recruited participants at three recent unit games.

Perfume/Cologne Policy

Richard Ferrin noted that the daily NABC bulletins now contain a stronger statement than before requesting that players refrain from using fragrances because they can trigger asthma or migraines for some players. Richard suggested that we develop a policy to cover this. We discussed this but did not reach any conclusions.

Annual Meeting

Richard Ferrin discussed final preparations for the annual meeting to be held on 5/8 before the unit game. Don Berman will prepare certificates for mini-McKenney and Ace of Clubs awards. We confirmed that the policies state that the winners of these awards receive free plays for the unit game that evening.

Bridge in Schools Program

Margarett Whilden presented an update regarding the Bridge in Schools Program. Six schools are participating in the program this semester: School Without Walls, DC Prep Public Charter Middle School, Tilden Middle School, Deal Middle School, BCC High School, and Parkdale High School. Margarett is attempting to establish programs in several other school for the fall (Walter Johnson HS, Blessed Sacrament, Farquhar MS, and Silver Spring Rec Center). Student club game discount cards will be printed shortly.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on May 28th at Richard Ferrin's home.

President Richard Ferrin adjourned the meeting at 10:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Linda Marshall, Secretary

WBL Board Meeting

May 28, 2014

The meeting was held at Richard Ferrin's home.

In attendance: voting members Bob Stearns, Carole Banks, Rose Berman, Lloyd Rawley, Melissa Price, Ollie Thomas, Linda Marshall, Clyde Kruskal, Richard Ferrin, and Ellen Cherniavsky; nonvoting members Donna Rogall, Chris Miller, and Ron Zucker; guest Steve Schatzow

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

Secretary's Report

The minutes of the 4/30/2014 meeting were approved without change.

Treasurer's Report

Rose Berman presented a year-to-date report. The WBL has a net year-to-date profit of \$419 through 4/30. The WBL Educational Foundation recently received two contributions totaling \$150.

Unit Game Report

Chris Miller reported that unit game attendance is down for the year to date, possibly because of the bad weather last winter. Attendance improved during May. The charity game was well-attended and raised over \$400. Ellen Cherniavsky, Carole Banks, and Chris got together at Chris's house the weekend before the meeting and replaced worn bidding box inserts.

Chris made some suggestions regarding directing fees for the unit game. The board agreed to discuss these suggestions in executive session.

Bulletin Report

Donna Rogall reported that she will send the May/June WBL Bulletin to the printer shortly. The next bulletin deadline is June 13. Donna will circulate an ad for the next NLM sectional soon. Alex Gretsinger has agreed to work on the unit email distribution list project.

Tournament Chair Responsibilities Committee

Carole Banks reported that the committee met on 5/13 at Ron Zucker's home and discussed options for minimizing the burden of running our

tournaments and improving tournament plans to meet on 5/13 at Ron Zucker's home.

Steve Schatzow made a number of suggestions for increasing tournament attendance and improving players' enjoyment of our tournaments. Steve has volunteered to succeed Ron Zucker as tournament chair after the August sectional.

Steve suggested that players introduce themselves to all opponents they don't know by name, to make newcomers feel more welcome and to make the game friendlier. Steve also suggested that we publicize our tournaments better to NVBA players. He volunteered to bring tournament flyers to the NVBA club games he attends, and to make announcements regarding the sectional at those games. Ollie Thomas suggested that we develop a mailing list of club directors and teachers, and have the printer who prints the WBL Bulletin also print and mail flyers to this distribution list. The tournament committee could investigate this.

Steve noted that attendance at the Friday night game is low. He would like to try having triple nickel swiss at the Friday night game (five 5-board rounds, 5 minutes per board). This event is popular at NVBA sectionals, and is a good mixer. The Friday lunch we serve is inexpensive and easy to serve. He would like to consider making it nicer. Chris Miller noted that we would need an additional director for triple nickel swiss. We would run a pair game (NLM or possibly 499er) in addition to the triple nickel swiss.

Steve would like to change the Saturday game times to 10 and 3. He noted that attendance at the later game has dropped off significantly in comparison to the earlier game since we moved the later game from 3 to 4. He has talked to a number of players about start times and has gotten feedback that many players find the 4:00 game time inconvenient.

Steve would also like to change the Sunday game time to 10:00, with the game to resume at 3:00 after a break of approximately 1½ hours. Serving lunch at the game is disruptive to those who are playing (since the breaks are staggered), the food lines are long, the food we serve isn't that popular, and there is a very good selection of restaurants within close driving distance.

We discussed the pros and cons of these recommendations. We expect that the 3:00 Saturday start time will be more popular than the 4:00 start time. The 10:00 Saturday start time will be better for some players and worse for other players. Likewise, some players will find the proposed Sunday changes to be an improvement and others will not. It is difficult to assess the net impact of the suggested changes without trying them.

The board voted on the recommendations to: (1) have triple nickel swiss on Friday evening, (2) start the Saturday games at 10 and 3, and (3) start the Sunday game at 10, with a break of approximately 1½ hours (and no lunch served). The board approved implementing these recommendations for the October sectional (9 in favor, 1 opposed).

Committee assignments

We agreed on the following committee/job assignments for the upcoming year:

Awards: Richard Ferrin
Bulletin Committee: Richard Ferrin (chair), Donna Rogall, Rose Berman, Bob Stearns, Melissa Price
Caddies: Barbara Summers
Calendar of Obligations: Don Berman (Rose will check with Don on whether we still need this position)
Carpool Assistance: Melissa Price
Charity: Linda Marshall
Cheer and Sympathy: Frances Burke
Club Relations: Ellen Cherniavsky (chair), Carole Banks, Lloyd Rawley, Lois Geer
Elections: Jim Allen (chair), Frances Burke, Richard Ferrin, Bob Stearns
Electronic Communications: Don Berman, Steve Robinson
GNT Coordinator: Ellen Cherniavsky
Historian: Peter Boyd
Holiday Party: Jim Geist (chair), Kitty Gottfried, Clyde Kruskal
Machlin Award: Jim Geist (chair), Barbara Doran, Rose Berman, Bob Bell, Paul Leopold
Membership committee: Frances and Ed Burke
Membership Growth: Linda Marshall (chair), Bryan Geer, Ollie Thomas, Melissa Price, Julie Marquette
Membership Secretary: Frances Burke
NAP Coordinator: Ellen Cherniavsky
Novice Program: Bryan and Lois Geer
Ombudsman: Adrienne Kuehneman
Parliamentarian: Ollie Thomas
Partnerships: Barbara Doran
Policy Maintenance: Ellen Cherniavsky (co-chair), Linda Marshall (co-chair), Chris Miller, Donna Rogall
Publicity and Marketing: Clyde Kruskal (chair), Lois Geer, Donna Rogall, Bob Levey, Charity Sack
Round Robin: David Ruderman (chair), Richard Ferrin, Bryan Geer, Steve Robinson, John Adams, Bill Cole, Barbara Doran, Earl Glickstein, David Marshall
Scheduling: Clyde Kruskal (chair), Barbara Doran, Richard Ferrin, Chris Miller, Ted Ying

Tournament Chair: Steve Schatzow (effective after the August sectional)
Tournament Director-in-Charge: Terry Lavender
Tournament Committee: Steve Schatzow (chair), Lois Geer, Clyde
Kruskal, Lloyd Rawley, Carole Banks, Kitty Gottfried
Unit Game: Clyde Kruskal (chair), Rose Berman, Lois Geer, Chris Miller,
Bob Stearns, Melissa Price
Recorder: Barry Bragin
Ways and Means: Ellen Cherniavsky (chair), Barbara Ames, Richard
Ferrin
Youth Bridge: Richard Ferrin, Margaret Whilden, John Goon

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on June 18th at Rose Berman's home.

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

Respectfully submitted

Linda Marshall, Secretary

WBL Board Meeting

June 18, 2014

The meeting was held at Rose Berman's home.

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

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

Secretary's Report

The minutes of the 5/28/2014 meeting were approved with the deletion of some extraneous text at the top of page 2.

Treasurer's Report

Rose Berman reported that the WBL is operating at a small deficit for 2014, with a year-to-date loss of \$440. Some of this is due to the purchase of unit game supplies. We should consider raising entry fees for the unit game.

Unit Game Report

There was no unit game report. Clyde Kruskal reminded the Board about Chris Miller's recent email request for the Board to consider purchasing new plastic boards. The new plastic cards fit very snugly into our current set of boards. This risks damage to the cards, and many players at the unit game are unhappy about the difficulty of removing hands from the board and replacing them after the end of a hand. We discussed the possibility of purchasing new boards. A number of board members have heard complaints about how snugly the new plastic cards fit into the current set of boards. We decided to ask Chris to price new boards; we will vote by email on purchasing boards after we receive this information.

Bulletin Report

Donna Rogall reported that the May/June WBL Bulletin has been mailed to the membership. Postage from Richmond is more expensive, but using our new printer in Richmond to mail the bulletins is still \$500 less expensive than what we were paying before. Donna is still missing a few items for the July/August Bulletin, even though the deadline has passed.

Email Distribution List Committee Report

Donna Rogall reported that the email distribution list committee met. Alex Gretsinger has volunteered to administer this list. He has extracted the approximately 1100 member email addresses that are available from the ACBLScore database. He is planning to use phpList, which is an open source (free) email distribution service. He and Don Berman will figure out whether it can be run on the server we use for the WBL website. If so, it will be completely free. If not, there is a small monthly fee (at most \$15) for the volume of emails we plan to send. Alex plans to send an experimental email to a distribution list consisting of Board members this weekend. Donna will list Alex as the contact for collection of email addresses in the next Bulletin. The ability to send mass emails might be useful to the Publicity and Marketing committee.

We discussed the possibility of developing an email privacy policy. Richard Ferrin will check on whether the ACBL has a model privacy policy that we might adopt. We also discussed the possibility of allowing people to opt out of receiving categories of our mass emails. Alex told us that the software will accommodate this.

Richard Ferrin reported that the ACBL recently circulated materials about creating a unit Facebook page. Alex volunteered to set this up.

Publicity and Marketing Committee

Clyde Kruskal asked to step down from the position of chair of the Publicity and Marketing committee. We discussed how to reinvigorate this committee. Donna Rogall will talk to Charity Sack and see whether she is willing to be involved in organizing a committee meeting to come up with ideas. We also discussed how changes to the WBL website might help with this. Donna, Alex Gretsinger, and Don Berman will get together after the Bethesda regional to discuss ideas for the website.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on August 20th at Ellen Cherniavsky's home.

President Richard Ferrin adjourned the meeting at 8:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Linda Marshall, Secretary

WBL Board Meeting

August 20, 2014

The meeting was held at Ellen Cherniavsky's home.

In attendance: voting members Rose Berman, Carole Banks, Linda Marshall, Lloyd Rawley, Ollie Thomas, Richard Ferrin, Bob Stearns, Clyde Kruskal, Ellen Cherniavsky and, Melissa Price; nonvoting members Chris Miller and Donna Rogall; guest Alex Gretsinger

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

Secretary's Report

The minutes of the 5/28/2014 meeting were approved subject to Donna checking the reported savings from changing to having mailing (including preparation) done by our printer in Richmond.

Treasurer's Report

Rose Berman reported that the WBL has a year-to-date operating deficit of approximately \$3,000. This includes the expense of purchasing plastic cards but does not include the expense of purchasing new boards. The cost of unit game refreshments has gone up because we are paying David Solomon to show for refreshments and also Kitty Gottfried worked very hard at finding good prices for refreshments. Donna Rogall noted that the significant difference in Bulletin costs between last year and this year is because one more Bulletin is reflected in this year's costs. Rose suggested raising entry fees in 2015. Rose will work with Carole Banks, Melissa Price and Lloyd Rawley to develop a budget for 2015.

Unit Game Report

Chris Miller reported that unit game attendance through the end of July is slightly up from last year. August has always been a slow month, and is slow this year as well. The new boards were used at the unit game last week, and were well received. Chris has retained the old boards. We may use them for preduplicated boards for GNT games.

2017 Bethesda Regional

Richard Ferrin reported that Shawn Stringer may be willing to chair this tournament if she also can train someone to take over running this tournament after 2017. Melissa Price indicated willingness to be regional co-chair after the 2017 regional. Richard noted that we have not yet resolved the location for this

regional. We formed a regional planning committee for the 2017 regional. Committee members are Richard Ferrin (chair), Melissa Price, Carole Banks and Ellen Cherniavsky. Donna Rogall asked whether Richard is precluded from being a committee chair because he is president. Linda Marshall agreed to check on this.

Bulletin Report

Donna Rogall reported that the September/October WBL Bulletin deadline just passed. Donna will circulate a list of items she still needs.

Electronic Communication Report

Alex Gretsinger reported that he is almost done setting up the unit Facebook page. He will circulate a link to the page this weekend.

Posting Unit Game Results

Chris Miller reported that, in response to requests for unit game results using the old format, he has started posting unit game results using the old format in the afternoon time slot, so that results are available both ways.

Sectional Free Plays

Linda Marshall reported on the status of sectional free plays. Steve Schatzow, the new sectional chair, had inquired about who receives free plays to our sectionals and Linda circulated a list of those individuals. Chris Miller noted that, at the last sectional, approximately 3% of the entries are free plays, so free plays are not a major expense at sectionals. Linda noted that Ted Ying and Shawn Stringer are not included in any of the functions or identified individuals who receive free plays. We discussed their status. Shawn received some sectional free plays for her work as NLM sectional chair (since she couldn't play in that tournament) but no longer chairs that tournament. She is regional chair, but the regional chair is not on the list of functions for which we award sectional free plays (instead, District 6 grants regional free plays). We noted that there was no need to resolve whether the regional chair is entitled to sectional free plays in the past because Nadine Wood chaired both tournaments. We discussed but did not resolve whether Shawn should get free plays for being regional chair. Ted Ying was club manager for an extended period and still provides a significant amount of support to the unit game. Chris Miller noted that Michael Carroad continued to receive free plays after stepping down as club manager, and suggested that the Board had granted Ted the same status. Linda reported that she had investigated minutes and emails from the period around the time Ted stepped down as club manager and found no indication of this. Linda agreed to investigate further.

New District 6 Committees

Richard Ferrin reported that District 6 is recruiting members for a number of committees relating to regional tournaments. He has circulated a list of these committees. Anyone who wants to join one of these committees should tell Richard.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on September 17th at Linda Marshall's home.

President Richard Ferrin adjourned the meeting at 8:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Linda Marshall, Secretary

WBL Board Meeting

September 17, 2014

The meeting was held at Linda Marshall's home.

In attendance: voting members Rose Berman, Carole Banks, Linda Marshall, Lloyd Rawley, Ollie Thomas, Richard Ferrin, Bob Stearns, Clyde Kruskal, Ellen Cherniavsky and, Melissa Price; nonvoting members Chris Miller, Julie Marquette, and Donna Rogall; guest Alex Gretsinger

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

Secretary's Report

The minutes of the 5/28/2014 meeting were approved subject to several minor corrections.

Treasurer's Report

Rose Berman reported that the WBL has a checking account balance of \$39,875. The WBL continues to operate at a loss. The IRS approved the tax-exempt status of the educational foundation.

Unit Game Report

Chris Miller reported that unit game attendance has been very good in September so far, averaging 1.5 tables more than last year. Attendance has been steadily improving since March. There were 15 NLM tables at the NLM game that was part of the NLM sectional. Equipment costs are up this year because of the purchase of cards and boards. Also, we are paying more for refreshments now that we are paying David Solomon to shop for refreshments (also, when Kitty purchased refreshments for the unit game, she worked hard at getting good prices). Chris will work with Barbara Summers (caddymaster) to have the caddies limit the refreshments put out toward the end of the game so that there aren't refreshments out at the end of the game. Chris asked that the score correction period for the unit game be limited to 72 hours after the game (rather than 30 minutes before the next unit game. This score correction period change was passed by unanimous vote. Chris suggested that the unit game use participate in The Common Game. He will circulate a link for this to be considered at the next meeting.

NLM Sectional Report

Julie Marquette reported on the recent NLM sectional. There were 140 tables over 3 days. The tournament was the 6th largest NLM tournament in the country for 2014. The tournament was advertised through flyers, email, and Craigslist. The tournament organizers also provided partnership assistance. Julie suggests that the unit provide more help generally to people who want to play bridge but need to find partners. Most of the tournament went very smoothly. However, there were problems with the Friday game, which was held at Mark Lavine's club game. There were 21 NLM sectional tables at that game, and the club was not prepared to handle that additional volume of players. In addition, the director was not the best choice to handle NLM player issues. We discussed the Friday game issues and agreed that it would be preferable to switch to an arrangement similar to the arrangement NVBA has with the clubs that hold sectional games, where the unit is the profit center and furnishes a director and other items, with a stipend paid to the club. Julie said that some players were very happy to have a Friday game be part of the sectional because they could not play on the weekend, so it would be preferable to keep a Friday game as part of the NLM sectional. We voted unanimously to negotiate with Mark regarding changing the business model for all of the sectional games he holds. Richard Ferrin, Chris Miller, Rose Berman, and Bob Stearns will negotiate this change.

Bulletin Report

Donna Rogall reported that the September/October WBL Bulletin will be mailed shortly. The items for the next issue are due to Donna by 10/20. Donna asked where the holiday party will be held. Clyde will check to see whether Kensington is available. The bulletin committee will need to meet before the end of the year to discuss advertising rates in light of the change to electronic distribution. Alex Gretsinger will send a test message to all membership emails on his list near the end of the year. There will be an item in the Bulletin to tell people to furnish their email addresses if they don't receive the test email and want to get notifications from WBL.

Electronic Communication Report

Alex Gretsinger reported that he and Don Berman have determined that the best way to build WBL's email notification system is through the website. Alex is working on building this. It will not cost anything beyond what we pay for the website. Alex is going to set up a system to collect email preferences so that people can opt into receiving selected types of messages.

New District 6 Committees

Richard Ferrin reported that District 6 is still recruiting members for a number of committees relating to regional tournaments. He has circulated a list of these committees. Anyone who wants to join one of these committees should

tell Richard. He would like all board members to volunteer for at least one committee.

Publicity and Marketing Committee Report

Richard Ferrin reported that he, Donna Rogall, and Charity Sack had a committee meeting by conference call. Charity suggested modernizing the website. She suggested that Bob Levey might be willing to help with the committee. Charity will assemble a questionnaire for the committee on what we would like to see on the website. We should also recommend websites that we like. The committee is going to meet again. In addition to Richard, Donna and Charity, Mellissa Price, Alex Gretsinger, Bob Levey, Linda Marshall and Don Berman (if he agrees to participate) will be on the committee.

October Sectional

Richard Ferrin reported that we can run regionally rated pair games on one day at the sectional (priced \$1 more) to support the District 6 participants in Grand National Teams and North American Pairs. We voted in favor of this (6 in favor, none opposed), to be held on the Saturday of the sectional. Linda Marshall asked about using fastresults for the sectional. We will consider adopting this for the January sectional.

WBL Educational Foundation

Carole Banks reported that Dick Wegman is starting a 6-week class and has suggested that the participants donate to the WBL Educational Foundation.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on October 15th at Carole Banks' home.

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

Respectfully submitted

Linda Marshall, Secretary

WBL Board Meeting

October 15, 2014

The meeting was held at Melissa Price's home.

In attendance: voting members Richard Ferrin, Carole Banks, Rose Berman, Linda Marshall, Lloyd Rawley, Bob Stearns, Clyde Kruskal, Ellen Cherniavsky, and Melissa Price; nonvoting members Donna Rogall and Steve Schatzow

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

Secretary's Report

The minutes of the 9/17/2014 meeting were approved subject to several agreed changes.

Treasurer's Report

Rose Berman presented year-to-date financial results. The October sectional made a small profit. The WBL is losing money more slowly than last year. The educational foundation has been receiving contributions from Dick Wegman's students.

Unit Game Report

Chris Miller circulated a link to The Common Game, and suggests using it. We will form a committee to investigate the use of The Common Game. Ellen Cherniavsky, Clyde Kruskal, and Linda Marshall will be on this committee, and will obtain input from Chris. If we cannot make a decision about using The Common Game before we need to get another 6 months of hands from Jim Coleman, we will continue with our usual procedure of getting another 6 months of hands from Jim.

Bulletin Report

Donna Rogall reported that the deadline for submitting items for the November/December WBL Bulletin is Monday, October 20th. This bulletin will be the last one to be mailed to the membership. The bulletin committee will meet or coordinate by email on transition issues. So far, approximately 20 people have subscribed to receive mailed bulletins in 2015. Richard Ferrin noted that the publicity and marketing committee is scheduled to meet on 10/17.

Holiday Party

Clyde Kruskal reported that Kensington is not available for the Thursday of the holiday party. Christ the King Church charges \$135 per hour. We could hold the holiday party at Ohr Kodesh and serve heavy appetizers for about \$10 per person, or just serve dessert there. We voted to use Christ the King Church if it is available (6 in favor, 2 opposed), so that we can hold our traditional potluck.

October Sectional Report

Steve Schatzow reported that the October sectional made a small profit. Holding the second Saturday game at 3 rather than 4 improved attendance for that game significantly, though the first Saturday game was somewhat smaller. He would like to improve Friday morning attendance. Rose Berman suggested reaching out to Maryland Bridge Association players, and volunteered to publicize the next sectional at MBA clubs.

Steve reported that he received many positive comments in reaction to the the triple nickel swiss on Friday evening. Steve would like to hold a social time on Friday evening after the triple nickel swiss and serve beer and wine. We agreed to try this for the January sectional. Concerns were expressed about the volume of slow play warnings and penalties at the game. We discussed the tradeoffs between maintaining time pressure (which is part of the event) and keeping the event fun. We may also have enough time to allow for a slightly longer break between rounds to allow teammates to discuss boards (even after we build in social time at the end). Steve will work with Chris on timing issues relating to the triple nickel swiss, and will also work with Chris on minimizing the impact of the social time at the end on the NLM pair game.

Steve would like to go back to starting the Sunday game at 11, with a short break, and sell a limited variety of sandwiches (to be ordered by the end of the first round). Mike Zane is investigating possible sources for sandwiches. The nearby Safeway is a possible source.

Steve asked whether Ted Ying is entitled to sectional free plays. Linda Marshall reported that it appears the board had not officially given Ted the right to ongoing free plays when he stepped down from his long service as club director (as was done for the prior long-time club director). We voted to officially give Ted free plays to all WBL events in recognition of his long service as club director and continuing service to WBL (8 in favor, 1 opposed).

Budget Committee Report

Carole Banks presented a report on the recent budget committee meeting. The budget committee is planning to develop a budget for calendar year 2015, and needs cost and revenue estimates for the following items: WBL bulletin

(Donna will provide this, working with Melissa and Rose), sectionals (Steve Schatzow will provide this; Carole and Lloyd will help), KO/round robin (Carole will ask Steve Robinson for this), and unit game (Carole will ask Chris for this). Carole asked everyone to provide these estimates before Thanksgiving.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on November 19th at Carole Banks' home (Lloyd will co-host).

President Richard Ferrin adjourned the meeting at 10:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted

Linda Marshall, Secretary

WBL Board Meeting

December 17, 2014

The meeting was held at Richard Ferrin's home.

In attendance: voting members Rose Berman, Bob Stearns, Melissa Price, Linda Marshall, Carole Banks, Richard Ferrin, Ellen Cherniavsky, Ollie Thomas, and Lloyd Rawley; guest Alex Gretsinger

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

Secretary's Report

The minutes of the 11/19/2014 meeting were approved subject to the correction of a few typographical errors.

Treasurer's Report

Rose Berman reported that the October sectional had a net profit of \$772 (Terry Lavender submitted a corrected report). Through the end of November, the WBL lost slightly more money than last year. We cannot have the holiday party in Kensington in 2015 unless it is in January. Richard Ferrin suggested forming a holiday party committee for the next holiday party. Clyde Kruskal will chair the committee. Rose Berman, Bob Stearns, Melissa Price, and Linda Marshall will also serve on this committee, and we will invite Jim Geist to serve on this committee.

Unit Game Refreshments

Rose Berman raised the topic of unit game refreshments. Rose and Lloyd Rawley volunteered to shop for refreshments for the unit game. Generally Lloyd will purchase sodas and Rose will purchase food. Rose will coordinate with the mashgiach at Ohr Kodesh to confirm which foods can be served at Ohr Kodesh. We agreed to pay David Solomon a fee of \$30 per week for storing tables for the unit game.

Memorial for Kitty Gottfried

Ellen Cherniavsky reported that she has discussed plans for Kitty Gottfried's memorial with her son Gary. The memorial will be held on February 15th at 2 p.m. at St. Mark's church in Potomac. The menu will include some Japanese food. Ellen suggested that the WBL contribute toward the rental of the facility. The rental cost is \$100 per hour, for 4 or 5 hours (including time for set-up and clean-up). The Board voted unanimously to cover the cost of the rental,

with further costs to be considered later when we have more information about the event.

WBL/NVBA Directory

We need more copies of the directory, and so does NVBA. Don Berman will obtain a list of WBL members and Alex Gretsinger will format the list for the directory. Rose Berman will contact Lucy McCoy for NVBA's member list. We agreed to use the same printer as for prior directories.

2015 Unit Game Schedule

Richard Ferrin presented the draft 2015 unit game schedule for the Board's approval. The Board approved the schedule by unanimous vote.

WBL Life Master List

Richard Ferrin reported that the fall 2014 WBL life master list is available online and asked for a volunteer to print copies to have available at WBL events. Linda Marshall volunteered to make 100 copies of the list. Doug Grove has been providing this list. We will need to figure out how to obtain this list next fall after Doug has retired.

Email notification list

Alex Gretsinger reported that he is prepared to send emails to the WBL member email list to notify people when the January/February WBL Bulletin becomes available. Some members have been giving Alex email addresses. We discussed possible ways of collecting additional member email addresses.

Next meeting

The next meeting will be held on January 21st at Bob Stearns' home.

President Richard Ferrin adjourned the meeting at 8:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Linda Marshall, Secretary