

WBL Board Meeting

January 21, 2015

The meeting was held at Bob Stearns' home.

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

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

Secretary's Report

The minutes of the 1/21/2015 meeting were approved without change.

Treasurer's Report

Rose Berman reported that the January sectional had a net profit of more than \$2000. So far, 47 people have purchased subscriptions to the WBL Bulletin. The WBL is doing better this year than last year financially.

Budget Committee Report

Carole Banks presented a proposed budget. Carole reported that, because of changes to method of distributing the WBL Bulletin and changes involving sectional tournaments, the WBL is projected to earn a small net profit without raising entry fees. We will revisit the question of entry fees in 6 months after we see the mid-year financial results. Bob Stearns asked whether we need to budget any funds for the upcoming Washington NABC in 2016. Richard Ferrin replied that we will hold some fundraising games to support the NABC but will not need to provide other funds. Donna Rogall corrected an error in the proposed budget regarding Bulletin costs. She will confirm the exact number and circulate it after the meeting. The Board approved the budget subject to this change by unanimous vote.

Unit Game Report

Chris Miller reported that 2014 attendance was higher than 2013 attendance. The teaching game was up by an average of 1 table and the other games were up by a combined average of about 2.5 tables. Overall, 2014 was a successful year for the unit game. No major capital expenditures are planned for 2015.

Bulletin Report

Donna Rogall reported that she is working on finishing the January/February issue. She is still missing a few items. She has sent notes to the advertisers advising them of the revised Bulletin distribution format and revised advertising rates, and asking them if they want to continue to advertise in the Bulletin.

January sectional

Rose Berman reported that the January sectional did well, though weekend attendance was down from last year. Rose reported that more sectional volunteers are needed, particularly for serving Friday lunch. Rose asked board members to consider volunteering. Carole Banks offered to sell Sunday lunch tickets again at the next sectional. We considered and approved Steve Schatzow's suggestion to offer half price entry for the triple nickel swiss to anyone who plays Friday afternoon as well. Melissa Price questioned whether time enforcement for the triple nickel swiss gave the impression of being too heavy-handed. We discussed the pros and cons of different approaches to time enforcement.

Holiday Party

Clyde Kruskal reported that Christ the King Church was difficult to work with this year. The church imposed an unexpected charge for cleaning the room after the last time we rented it. Someone had to go to the church earlier in the day to pay and to get the access code. Also, renting the church is expensive; rental for the holiday party was \$900. We discussed options for the 2015 holiday party other than Christ the King Church. Kensington Armory is unavailable. We could hold the party at Ohr Kodesh and serve catered kosher food. However, this is more expensive and also eliminates the potluck feature of the party (which people enjoy). Ellen Cherniavsky said that the Schweinhaut Senior Center might be available for the party. She will ask Bill Cole to see whether we can rent the Schweinhaut Center for the party. We agreed that this is the preferred alternative if it is available for our use.

Bethesda Regional

Shawn Stringer reported that we do not have a contract for a location for the Bethesda regional tournament to be held in July of 2017. District 6 has authorized Shawn to negotiate a contract with a venue for this tournament. Shawn explained that a contract with a tournament venue involves three major components: the group rate charged for rooms, the number of rooms that must be rented in order to avoid charges for the playing spaces, and the amount of catered food that the tournament agrees to purchase from the hotel. The agreement relating to minimum number of rooms is contingent on the hotel not

charging a lower rate for hotel rooms than the group rate for the period of the tournament. The Bethesda Marriott is the only hotel in Montgomery County with a ballroom that is large enough for this tournament. The group room rate that the hotel is willing to charge is relatively high compared to rates for many other tournaments, which makes this tournament less attractive to players from outside the area. The tournament has been well attended when held at this site, but not enough rooms have been rented at the group room rate to satisfy the condition in the contract. In the past, the hotel has charged less than the group rate for rooms on travel websites so that we have been released from compliance with the requirement to relating to the minimum number of rooms rented at the room rate. We discussed the possibility of raising entry fees, which might allow us to commit to purchase more hotel food or possibly improve the room rate.

Ombudsman's Report

Adrienne Kuehneman reported on two matters that have come to her attention. She has received some comments from players regarding negativity in the playing area. One member suggested printing an occasional article in the Bulletin about topics such as maintaining a pleasant playing atmosphere. Chris Miller noted that the WBL has not adopted a zero tolerance policy.

Adrienne reported that she feels that the WBL unit knockout and round robin are intended to be friendly, informal events but are overregulated. She cited an example involving her round robin team, which was disqualified from competition after two of her teammates, who had played less than 50% of the round robin matches, played in a playoff match. In addition, Adrienne suggested switching the timing of the knockout and the round robin, since it is harder to schedule matches during the summer because of travel. Richard Ferrin, who is a member of the RR/KO committee, offered to pass along Adrienne's suggestions to that committee. The Board discussed the possibility of raising the fee for holding matches at the unit game, which is currently \$8 per team.

The Longest Day

Richard Ferrin reported that NVBA will hold its Longest Day event on June 21st at Beth El in Alexandria. This coincides with Father's Day. This event was very successful last year. Richard asked the Board to support this event as we did last year (i.e., advertising in the Bulletin and showing support). The Board agreed to do this by unanimous vote.

Scentsitivity

Ellen Cherniavsky reported that a member recently told her about an allergic reaction to another player's perfume. We agreed to include an item in the Bulletin similar to the item run daily in NABC bulletins regarding the

importance of avoiding the wearing of fragrances due to health concerns of some players.

ACBL Privacy Policy

Richard Ferrin reported that, shortly after we decided to publish an updated member directory at our last meeting, ACBL came out with a revised privacy policy that called into question our continuing ability to publish our member directory. However, ACBL recently came out with a revision to this policy to cover member directories. The new policy allows us to continue to publish a member directory if (1) members can opt out of being included, (2) no new information fields are added unless members opt in to the inclusion of the new information, and (3) new members are not included unless they opt in. We decided that we can go ahead with the publication of the new directory based on this clarification. We are going to revise the new member package to include instructions for opting to be included in future member directories.

Next meeting

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

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

Respectfully submitted

Linda Marshall, Secretary

WBL Board Meeting

May 20, 2015

The meeting was held at Ellen Cherniavsky's home.

In attendance: voting members Ellen Cherniavsky, Richard Ferrin, Linda Marshall, Lloyd Rawley, Clyde Kruskal, Alex Gretsinger, and Melissa Price; nonvoting members Donna Rogall and Chris Miller

President Ellen Cherniavsky called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m.

Secretary's Report

The minutes of the 4/1/2015 meeting were approved without amendment.

Treasurer's Report

The treasurer's report, received via email, was reviewed and approved without discussion.

Unit Game Report

Chris Miller reported that the most recent unit game, May 14, was larger than usual because of the annual meeting. Otherwise, attendance has been normal as the weather has improved.

Bulletin Report

Donna Rogall reported that she is currently working on the May/June issue, which is due at the printer on June 8. She needs the minutes from the annual meeting, which should be in this issue. Linda Marshall agreed to complete these minutes. She also needs data for the trophy race. Alex will provide this data, which he has calculated but which will be automated in future.

Board Business

The board has lost one member, Oliver Thomas, who is moving away from the area. The board will seek a replacement to complete Mr. Thomas' term.

Committee Assignments

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

Awards: Ellen Cherniavsky, Don Berman

Budget Committee: Carole Banks (chair), Rose Berman, Melissa Price, Lloyd Rawley

Bulletin Committee: Richard Ferrin (chair), Rose Berman, Melissa Price, Donna Rogall, Bob Stearns

Caddies: Barbara Summers, Clyde Kruskal

Calendar of Obligations: Melissa Price, Donna Rogall, Linda Marshall, Richard Ferrin

Carpool Assistance: Melissa Price

Charity Committee: Linda Marshall

Cheer and Sympathy: Frances Burke

Club Relations Committee: Carole Banks (chair), Lois Geer

Conduct and Ethics Committee: Lloyd Rawley (chair), Rose Berman, Clyde Kruskal, Eileen Inglesby-Houghton, Judy Retchin, David Marshall, Vincent Wilmot, Barry Falgout, Ron Zucker

Elections Committee: Jim Allen (chair), Frances Burke, Robert Stearns, Ellen Cherniavsky

Electronic Communications: Don Berman (chair), Steve Robinson, Alex Gretsinger

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

GNT Coordinator: Ellen Cherniavsky

Historian: Peter Boyd

Holiday Party Committee: Clyde Kruskal (chair), Jim Geist, Rose Berman, Chris Miller, Linda Marshall

Liaison to Educational Foundation: Rose Berman

Machlin Sportsmanship Award Committee: Jim Geist (chair), Bob Bell, Rose Berman, Barbara Doran, Paul Leopold, Audrey Marbach, Unit Game Chief Director

Membership Secretary: Frances Burke

Membership Growth Committee: Linda Marshall (chair), Bryan Geer, Julie Marquette, Melissa Price, Alex Gretsinger

NAP Coordinator: Ellen Cherniavsky

Novice Program: Lois Geer, Bryan Geer

Ombudsman: Adrienne Kuehneman

Parliamentarian: Bob Stearns

Partnerships: Barbara Doran

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

Publicity and Marketing: Richard Ferrin (chair), Lois Geer, Donna Rogall, Bob Levey, Don Berman, Linda Marshall, Charity Sack, Alex Gretsinger

Round Robin Committee: Dave Ruderman (chair), Richard Ferrin, Bryan Geer, David Marshall, Steve Robinson, Bill Cole, Barbara Doran, Earl Glickstein, Barry Falgout

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

Secretary: Melissa Price

Tournament Chair: Steve Schatzow

NLM Tournament Chair: Julie Marquette, Leslie Shafer

Tournament Committee: Lloyd Rawley (chair), Lois Geer, Chris Miller, Carole Banks, Clyde Kruskal

Treasurer: Rose Berman

Unit Game Chief Director: Chris Miller

Unit Game Committee: Clyde Kruskal (chair), Rose Berman, Lois Geer, Chris Miller, Melissa Price, Robert Stearns

Unit Game Manager: Chris Miller

Unit Recorder: Bob Bell

Vice President: Linda Marshall

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

Web Committee: Alex Gretsinger, Don Berman

Web Master: Don Berman

Members in District 6

The Board discussed the composition of the District 6 Board. The Board favors units being represented in proportion to their membership, such that larger units have weighted representation. The issue of attendance at District 6 Board meetings was a concern, particularly if the unit had to cover costs for members to participate. The Board's position is that participation can be electronic as well as in person, thus reducing the cost and inconvenience of traveling to meetings.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held June 17 at Clyde Kruskal's home.

WBL Board Meeting

June 17, 2015

The meeting was held at Clyde Kruskal's home.

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

Secretary's Report

The minutes of the May 15 meeting were approved with minor amendment.

Treasurer's Report

The treasurer's report was reviewed and approved. The treasurer reported that we are ahead of budget, largely on account of reduced bulletin costs and increased sectional attendance.

Unit Game Report

Two issues were presented on behalf of the absent chief director. First, a recommendation that the cost to teams playing round robin matches at the unit game be increased from \$2.00 per player to \$16.00 per team. It was so moved and seconded and carried by unanimous vote.

Second, the unit game finished the hands it had available, which were prepared by Jim Coleman. Rather than continue the arrangement with Jim, the unit game has now switched to using the Common Game hands.

Bulletin Report

Donna Rogall reported that the May/June bulletin was recently posted to the website. Alex Gretsinger reported that he will send email notifications to members this weekend. Donna noted that July 5 is the due date for contributions to the July/August issue.

TableTALK. Ellen Cherniavsky reported that the District 6 bulletin, TableTALK, will be changing. At a recent meeting, District 6 board membership voted both to move to electronic publication and to reduce the number of issues to 4 per year, from 6. Ellen asked if the board is in favor of these changes or whether we might like to recommend that they be reconsidered. Discussion followed regarding the advantages and disadvantages, financial, content-related, and technical. It was moved, and amended, that the board endorse the decision to move to electronic publication, but to ask District 6 to reconsider the decision to reduce the number of issues per year, unless it could be established that there would be significant cost savings in the reduction from 6 to 4 issues. The motion was seconded and carried.

Board Vacancy

The vacancy created by the departure of Oliver Thomas is not resolved, but the search for a replacement is ongoing.

Joint Unit Directory

The WBL has for many years published a directory jointly with the NVBA. The MBA expressed an interest in joining in a three-unit directory. NVBA at first was interested, but eventually responded

negatively, based on increased cost per unit. After discussion, it was moved and seconded that the WBL continue to publish a joint directory with NVBA and inform MBA that we can't at this time include their membership. The motion carried.

Confirmation of Committee Assignments

Ellen Cherniavsky asked if there were changes to be made to the assignments noted at the May meeting. A few changes were suggested and will appear in the bulletin and website when the update is processed.

New Sectional Site

Ellen reported that Bill Cole has been negotiating with the director of the Margaret Schweinhaut Senior Center to reach an agreement to hold the 2016 sectionals at that location, which has many advantages over the current Kensington Armory site. For example, the center has better lighting, parking, kitchen facilities, and is more reliably available. The concerns over space should be met by including the "Garden Room" in the package.

Member Letter Regarding Director Issues

Ellen reported that a letter was sent to the ACBL regarding a director whose conduct has been problematic. It requested that this director not be hired to work at local tournaments in future.

Holiday Party

Clyde Kruskal reported that Kensington Armory is not available any time during the holiday season. Ohr Kodesh is not ideal because of food restrictions. Christ the King Church is quite expensive and has other drawbacks. Discussion followed and it was resolved that Clyde will look at possibly holding the party after the end of December, when availability is not so limited.

Membership Secretary Assistance and Planning

Ellen suggested we need to recruit a volunteer to assist Frances Burke in case the burden becomes too much for her. A notice will be placed in the next bulletin asking for a volunteer.

Unit Historian Records and Function

Ellen reported that Peter Boyd is concerned about the many paper records that are currently stored in his basement and would like them to be digitized. The board resolved to look into whether a volunteer could be found or whether we might pay someone to digitize and catalog the records, possibly running an ad in an upcoming bulletin.

Calendar of Obligations

This involves ordering and presentation of medallions and trophies, an annual scheduling meeting, and other matters. The committee will look into managing this responsibility and reporting on it.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held July 15 at Linda Marshall's home.

WBL Board Meeting

July 15, 2015

The meeting was held at Linda Marshall's home.

In attendance: voting members Ellen Cherniavsky, Richard Ferrin, Linda Marshall, Rose Berman, Clyde Kruskal, Alex Gretsinger, Lloyd Rawley, Bob Stearns, Melissa Price; nonvoting members Chris Miller and Donna Rogall; guests Julie Marquette, Robert Levey, and Richard Wegman

Secretary's Report

The minutes of the June 15 meeting were approved.

Treasurer's Report

The treasurer's report was reviewed and approved. The treasurer will email out a version that includes budgeted amounts, along with 2014 and 2015 expenditures to date. The treasurer reported that we are again ahead of budget, largely on account of reduced bulletin costs. She noted that rent on Ohr Kodesh will increase from \$350 to \$375 per game beginning this month.

Unit Game Report

The Unit Game Report was approved as submitted. Chris noted that very little mention was made of the switch to Common Game hands.

Bulletin Report

Donna Rogall's report was approved as submitted. She asked for the president's message and an update on the bridge in schools program. Richard Wegman will provide it. Chris will provide a mention of the Common Game.

TableTALK. Following our decision in June to recommend that District 6 reconsider moving from 6 issues per year to 4, it was reported that the District 6 board decision was final.

Board Vacancy

The vacancy created by the departure of Oliver Thomas is still not resolved, but the search for a replacement is ongoing.

Joint Unit Directory

Rose Berman reported that she communicated our decision to continue with a joint WBL/NVBA directory that did not include the MBA to representatives of both units and that everyone accepted the decision without offense.

Regarding Member/Director Disputes

Ellen reported that various communications have taken place regarding the case that initiated the discussion. Chris provided some additional information regarding this sort of dispute. He reported that ACBL prefer local behavior issues be resolved at the unit level and can include a director or the board barring a player from unit clubs and/or the unit game. They should not ordinarily be handled by a Conduct & Ethics committee when they are a matter of player behavior at a game or sectional tournament.

Holiday Party

Clyde Kruskal recommended, based on his research, that the holiday party be held on January 14, 2016 at the Kensington Armory. It was so moved, seconded, and carried.

WBL Educational Foundation

Richard Wegman provided information regarding the status and activities of the board, whose members include himself, Robert Levey, Richard Ferrin, James Geist, Don Berman. The foundation now has a charter and Section 501(c)(3) IRS rating, thanks to the assistance of Barbara Ames. They have hired a coordinator for the bridge in schools program – Adam Gann was selected from a pool of 10 candidates. They will identify high schools and middle schools (largely in DC, Montgomery, and Arlington counties) and send their principals copies of a study done in Illinois that contrasted school performance among a baseline of non-bridge participants with that of students who participated in a similar program. A letter will go out over Adam's signature asking for a chance to present the program features, benefits, etc. They also plan to present to the Superintendent of Montgomery County Schools.

Materials and trained instructors will be provided to participating schools at no charge. The curriculum will be the one ACBL provides on its website. Stipends will be available from the ACBL for schools that maintain sufficient numbers of students. Mark Lavine has agreed to run a game for students on occasional Saturday afternoons, fees to be paid by the foundation.

At the end of the school year, the foundation hopes to hold a youth championship event at the Nationals in the District of Columbia, with a scholarship going to the winning school.

Bob Levey is in charge of publicity and fundraising for the foundation. He is preparing a piece in Bethesda Magazine along with other local papers and online news sites. As funding is essential to continuing their activities, he asked the board to consider a surcharge on 2 upcoming unit games and 2 sectional events, if possible. He is pursuing an endowment campaign as well. He also asked us to look into funds that District 6 holds that are targeted for education to see if we can request some funding from that source.

The board agreed to discuss this proposal.

Replacement of NLM Sectional Chair

Julie Marquette asked that the board find a replacement for her before the March 2016 NLM tournament. Ideally, we might find someone now who can work with Julie at the tournament scheduled for September this year. She believes this would help the new director avoid some of the pitfalls she has encountered. She asked for two volunteers to assist on September 10 – Ellen and Clyde agreed to help. She suggested we place an ad in the WBL Bulletin to recruit a replacement.

Board Discussion of Educational Foundation Request

The board noted that the charity games through the end of the calendar year are already committed to other charities. However, it was moved that the board resolve to support the educational foundation in any way we can, including financially. The motion was seconded and carried.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held September 16 at Melissa Price's home.