

Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Washington Bridge League on August 26, 2020

The meeting was held online via Zoom.

In attendance were Board members Linda Marshall, Hadi Abushakra, Herb Schulken, Eileen Inglesby-Houghton, Carole Banks, Clyde Kruskal, Lloyd Rawley, Chuck Dearolf, Alex Gretsinger, and Mary Tenenbaum. Also present were Unit Game Manager Chris Miller, Tournament Chair Brad Theurer, and WBL Novice Coordinator Isabelle Thabault.

President Linda Marshall called the meeting to order at 7:33.

Unit Game Report

Chris said that the Monday game was running to 12-14 tables and the Thursday game table count is running in the low 60s. The ACBL allows up to 15% of the players in our games to be players who had not played in a WBL or NVBA game prior to the closure of clubs due to the pandemic; however, this restriction does not apply to individuals who are playing with a WBL or NVBA player or individuals who have received permission to play from their home clubs. Chris also noted that the last week of September, the ACBL will be holding a gold point event ("Stardust Week,") where the master points players receive will be $\frac{1}{4}$ gold and $\frac{3}{4}$ black points. The entry fee will be \$6 for the Monday game and \$7 for the Thursday game. Isabelle asked how many tables we were getting in the 0-20 game, and Chris replied that we were getting 6-7 tables. He said that the table count in the Flight B game was variable; typically it is 12 tables, but it may go down to 8-9 or up to 14. He said that there is some spillover between the Flight B game and the open game.

Treasurer's Report

Herb reported that everything is going quite well; we have already broken even for the month of August and we still have a Thursday and a Monday game still to go. He said that he has \$200 he can send to the Capital Food Bank but he will wait until the end of the month and see if we can get enough to send even more. Money earned from our games comes to us directly from the ACBL. BBO takes its portion and sends the balance to the ACBL which charges a sanction fee of \$6 for every table. If we have a half table at game time, Chris can go out into the lobby and get someone to fill in; we do not charge them, but ACBL still charges us the sanction fee for a full table. We are continuing to pay our Unit Game "employees," Alan Crank and David Solomon, as we have since March, when the Unit Game had to stop because of the pandemic. We are not losing money by doing so though, since we do not have expenses for rent or refreshments. Clyde asked whether we could get our bidding boxes from Ohr Kodesh so that Alan and David could clean them during this hiatus, but it is not clear that we will be allowed to get in to Ohr Kodesh at this time. Carole asked how our online table count compares with the table count last year when people came in person. Herb noted that we share the proceeds of the Thursday games with the NVBA; we get half and the NVBA gets half. Herb said that for the last

two Thursdays the two Units had a total of 201 tables one week and 202 tables the next week. He said that in July 2019 we were running about 35 tables each Thursday and the NVBA was running 19, so this July we were running an average of 12 to 15 tables more each week than last year. Linda said that for the annual meeting, she would like Herb to prepare a financial report for the year 2019.

President's Report

Linda reported that she had gotten some potential tournament dates for next year from Lucy McCoy. She said that she will mail the dates to Chris and to her contact in the Schweinhaut Center for their input. She said that our annual meeting will be online via Zoom at 6:00 p.m., September 10, before the Unit Game. In preparation, Eileen will send her the minutes of the 2019 annual meeting, Herb will prepare a Treasurer's report, and Linda will prepare an annual report summary that she can display on the Zoom screen. Linda noted that since there were not going to be any contested races, there is no need to contract with an online voting service and pay them to send out 1400 ballots to each WBL member. She said that it would be fine to simply have an election chair with a slate of officers and ask if there are any nominations. If anyone has any, we can arrange to get a voting service but if not we can ask to elect the candidates by acclamation. Linda said she will include this information in her weekly email and will take nominations from the floor. Candidates should send pictures and bridge bios to her within the next week.

New Business – Review of WBL Policies

Linda said that she had received comments from several members and directors on the proposed revisions to our policies and had sent them around to the Board members. The Board reviewed the policies and discussed the recommended revisions and suggestions concerning them extensively; the Board then approved the modifications. Herb moved that the Board approve the revisions made to the WBL's policies, and Eileen seconded the motion. The motion was approved. The revised policies will be posted on the WBL website.

The next Board meeting will be online on October 14.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:42 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Eileen Inglesby-Houghton