

Northwest Tucson Bridge Club
BOD Meeting, March 8, 2023

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 by President Pamela Thaut.

In attendance: BOD Members - Pamela Thaut, Donna DePesa, Jim Volz, Bob Hertzog, Gayle Covey, Greg West, Jim Wolf; Treasurer George Harger; Kay Afdahl

- 1 Minutes from the last meeting were accepted.
- 2 Kay presented Director/Special Game Issues.
 - A When there are 2 sections in Matchpoint play (Fridays), a playing assistant would be helpful.
RESOLUTION: We will continue as we have been, with helpful volunteers. Kay will ask the Friday Directors to reach out for help as needed.
 - B When there are 2 section in Team play (Saturdays), a non-playing assistant would be helpful.
RESOLUTION: We will all look for people to volunteer for team games. We will offer a free play (an \$8 BridgeBucks) to the volunteer. Gayle will do March 18; Greg will do April 29.
 - C There has been substantial Director attrition. We need more!
RESOLUTION: Pamela will write a letter to the various people we know who are Certified Directors and ask them to occasionally step up.
 - D There are many special games we could run. We should schedule something!
RESOLUTION: We will run a Series in April. Kay will provide details to Jim W for the website. Each month at our BOD meeting, we will address another special game for the following month.
- 3 The Common Game: Yes or No?
DISCUSSION: There appears to be no downside to running the Common Game. The upside is the expert analysis.
RESOLUTION: We will return to participating in the Common Game. Steven Devico has taken over (from Randy Wentross) coordinating the Dealers. We asked Steven to make this happen as soon as possible (probably starting 3/13).
- 4 Bob presented an Education Report.
 - A A Beginners Series (taught by Bob, in person, NWTBC) starts 3/9 – Thursdays, 9:00, \$100; ?? lessons. He has 3 students; more would be good.

- B A Play and Defense Series (taught by Bob, in person, NWTBC) starts 3/16; 1:00; \$60; 6 lessons. He has 13 students.
- C Monday Mini-Lessons (taught by Bob, Zoom) continue at 9:15; average attendance 7-9.
- D Intermediate Lessons (taught by Paul Shalita) will begin soon. \$10 lesson; dropins for individual lessons; 2 hours; day unknown. Bob will nail it down with Paul. **RESOLUTION:** Paul will donate all proceeds to NWTBC; as long as his series of lessons is ongoing, he will play for free at NWTBC.
- E **DISCUSSION:** Party bridge (i.e., shuffle and deal) on Thursdays, supervised, either free or nominal charge. Reach out to Sun City, Splendido, SaddleBrooke.
ISSUE: Advertising does not seem to work.
RESOLUTION: Too much going on now to inaugurate. Put on schedule to discuss again at next meeting. In the meantime, get the refund from Sun City for prepaid advertising.
- F **DISCUSSION:** Steven DeVico had 36 people at his last lesson and received a lot of positive comments. He would be glad to do more on a regular basis, and would like to do it on a day when there are Open Players.
RESOLUTION: Too much going on now to schedule as permanent offer.
- G We WILL continue once a month offering an 'Advancing Player Lesson by club experts.'" Schedule will be worked out and posted; Peter is doing one on 'My Favorite 3 Conventions;' Greg and Bob may also be offering the lessons in the future.
- H Adverting all scheduled classes.
RESOLUTION: Bob and Paul should provide information to Jim W asap so he can advertise on NWTBC website.
- 5 Jim V presented an I/N Report.
- A I/N Committee (Jim, Gayle, Donna, Bob, Sheri met 2/23 at NWTBC.
- B Jim V asked Jim W to change the NWTBC website to make the 'Join ACBL' button more attractive. This has been implemented.

C **RECOMMENDATION:** Give 2 free plays (\$8 NWTBC Bridge Bucks) at the completion of Barb Sullenger's Beginning Bridge Classes (SaddleBrooke) and at the completion of Bob H's Beginning Bridge Classes (NWTBC).

RESOLUTION: Yes.

D **RECOMMENDATION:** Keep the Friday 499er Game at \$5 until end-of-year.

RESOLUTION: No. Rather, raise to \$8 in April. (There was lack of consensus on this; raising the rate back to \$8 passed 4 to 3.)

E **RECOMMENDATION:** Reach out to new ACBL members and existing members transferring to NWTBC. Send them a welcome letter (from Prez Pamela) and a free play (\$8 NWTBC BridgeBucks). Include info about our website. This would only go to members who live in Tucson or Marana; it would NOT go to returning snowbirds.

DISCUSSION: Based on analysis of 3 months of data, there would be 24 new players a year and 40 transferees a year. The 'cost' ($64 \times \$8 = \512) is an investment in introducing people to our Club.

RESOLUTION: Yes. Gayle will assume responsibility for the mailings. She will work with Pamela on letter; she will ask Joyce to make special BridgeBucks. The BridgeBucks should include the person's name and a 6-month expiration date. We will start with January 2023.

F Clarify the mentor and mentee eligibility guidelines.

DISCUSSION: According to Joyce Honorof, a couple of people that are LMs (300-499) felt that they were ineligible for either side of the table and were disappointed they could not participate.

RESOLUTION: Mentees must be NLMs with 500 or fewer points. Mentors can be any players who feel qualified.

G Name Tags.

DISCUSSION: They are good to have....and even better if they identify the player as a member of NWTBC.

RESOLUTION: Jim V and Jim W will pick a 'standard' name tag – one for players, one for Directors. (Cost will be in the \$10 range.). Jim W will put a form on the website. Pamela or the Director of the Day will mention it in opening comments before each game, and we will have a sign-up sheet. (Gayle will make one for the Director's Desk.). We will order in April. Payment does not have to be made until the name tags arrive.

H Advertising.

DISCUSSION: Jim V presented the cost of the various community newspapers.

RESOLUTION: As in item 4G, BOD felt advertising simply didn't work. So we won't.

DISCUSSION: Banner ad on BBO. (Thanks, Peter Godfrey!).

RESOLUTION: Good idea; Jim W and Jim V will work with Peter on what we might do.

DISCUSSION: NWTBC Website Advertising.

RESOLUTION: It's good!!!! But anybody involved in a special event MUST present details to Jim W. We should not add to his job tracking this down... 6
Gayle presented Recognition Committee Report.

- A Recognition Committee (Gayle, Donna) met 2/23 at NWTBC.
- B Gayle and Donna volunteered to maintain the 'NW STARS' Panel.
- C **RECOMMENDATION:** Recognize 60%+ games by posting on NW STARS panel.
DISCUSSION: Jim W will provide us the names of people who had 60%+ games and he will post.
RESOLUTION: Yes.
- D **RECOMMENDATION:** Recognize Rank Advancements with a congratulatory letter from Prez Pamela and a free play (\$8 NWTBC BridgeBucks). **DISCUSSION:** Every month we get a list of people who have advanced in rank. Looking at 3 months (attempting to extrapolate 12 months), 13 of the 32 rank advancements were members of our club (i.e., in our Directory). Almost all of these are newer players, advancing through the lower ranks. It would create good will and incentive.
RESOLUTION: Yes. Gayle will assume responsibility for the mailings. She will work with Pamela on letter; she will ask Joyce to make special BridgeBucks. The BridgeBucks should include the person's name and a 6-month expiration date. We will start with January 2023.
- E **RECOMMENDATION:** Recognize Mini—McKinney and Ace of Clubs winners from our Club with a Recognition Day. Maybe cake and balloons.
DISCUSSION: There are 15 categories in each; 30 winners. There are 14 individuals who are members of NWTBC.
RESOLUTION: Donna and Gayle should flush this out for a more specific recommendation.
- 7 THANK YOU, JOE OLIVIER, for your work to keep the facility in such great shape.
DISCUSSION: Replace/repair lights?
RESOLUTION: Absolutely!

- 8 Speaking of GREAT VOLUNTEERS, Pamela suggested a Volunteer Party.
RESOLUTION: Absolutely! More to come....
- 9 Because of the shortness of time, we did not include a Treasurer's Report. George said we were in fine shape; we will make sure to include his report at next meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:20 PM.

Submitted by,
Gayle Covey, Acting Secretary