

DATE/PLACE: April 25, 2010 Meeting at House of India in Auburn Hills

PRESENT: Mary Bennett [P], Bob Chekaluk [P], Michael Crane [P], Posh Gulati [P], Jane Hall [P], Gail Hanson [E], Steve Jacob [E], Harry Jagtiani [P], Barbara Jur [P], Thomas Keenan [P], Ginny Poulter [P], Jack Shartsis [E], Henry Shevitz [P], Marianne Varion [P], Vickie Vallone [P]

GUESTS: Dave Buskirk, Bill Landrum and Grant Petersen

AGENDA: SEE ATTACHED

- 1) **Posh called the meeting to order at 11:40 AM.**
- 2) **Approval of Minutes:** Motion made by Bob C., seconded by Barbara J., to approve the minutes of the previous meeting. Motion unanimously approved.
- 3) **Treasurer's Report:** (see attached) Tom reviewed treasurer's report. Comparisons between September, 2009 and September, 2009 financial statements show that fund balance is down about \$5,000. Major causes for this decrease are increased costs for publishing the Echo; costs for publishing a new directory; GNT payments of \$1,200.00, and a \$1,000.00 donation to BBT.

Tom also noted that expenses for refreshments have increased dramatically – from \$3.00 per table to \$5.89 per table.

Too much food was ordered for the Spooktacular – enough for three times the number in attendance.

Attendance was down by 24 tables at the November 2009 sectional, and by 40 tables at the February 2010 sectional. Income from these tournaments was down by \$4,000.00 – due to lower attendance, reduced entry fees and increased refreshment fees.

- 4) **Past Tournaments:** Tournaments were well managed and organized. No complaints.
- 5) **Upcoming Tournaments/Events: Wolverine Regional** will run May 10 – May 16, 2010. Following items were discussed relating to this tournament:
 - a. Bob indicated caddies are scheduled.
 - b. Mary Bennett and Vickie Vallone indicated that the partnership desk and IM desk are covered for the tournament
 - c. Bob purchased A “SOMBA” banner that will be displayed at all SOMBA tournaments.

- d. Need picture-takers for event winners. Henry and Grant volunteered to assist with this project.
- e. Anthony has been hired to write a Daily Bulletin for the tournament, for a fee of \$50.00 - \$75.00 dollars per day.
- f. Discussed ideas for improving the atmosphere at our tournaments – such as selling ladies’ products, books, etc. Book sellers want a minimum of \$500.00 in sales, which they don’t generate at our tournaments. The board voted against selling products at the tournaments.
- g. Bill L. to check on cost of advertising SOMBA tournaments on BBO website.
- h. Discussed ideas for a “meet and greet” at the tournament. Eric Rodwell will be attending the tournament. The board decided that a general welcoming event open to all attendees following the session would be suitable.
- i. No reduced fees at Wolverine Regional (same as at MBA Regional). Henry to check on this matter.

GNT: 2009 Winners are posted in the upcoming Echo and on the SOMBA web page. SOMBA will contribute \$200.00 per person for winners to attend the Nationals. The District will also be contributing money. Barbara J. to follow-up with District.

NAP: SOMBA will continue to pay ACBL fees for one game per sanction per month for two of the 3 months (June, July and August).

Spooktacular is scheduled for 10/29 – 10/30. Program flyers to be displayed after ACBL approval.

STAC: Mike C. inquired about Unit support for the STAC games. This item will be put on the agenda for the next meeting. Posh to check with MBA. SOMBA is not currently subsidizing STAC games.

Apple Cider Sectional: Possible changes in schedule. To be discussed at next meeting.

6) District Reports: N/A

7) Old/New Business: May Echo will be sent to printer this week. Editorial board has been receiving lots of positive feedback about the publication. One negative comment concerned not including names with photos. Board discussed legalities of including names with photos and decided not to use names. Bob Cappelli will be joining the Echo staff.

Vicki V. raised idea of providing patches or stickers for players attending SOMBA tournaments (current practice at other tournaments). To be discussed at the next board meeting.

Grant Petersen provided an update on Bridge Today and Tomorrow (BTT). He explained that his program gets schools involved by offering scholarships. BTT gave out \$9,000 in scholarship monies the first year. Many kids attend classes because of scholarship money. The goal is 4 tournaments a year. Classes run from January to May, and September to December. Grant is looking for more instructors. ACBL will pay instructors \$350.00 for 16 contact hours, with one instructor teaching eight children. In addition to last year's donation of \$1,000.00, SOMBA is providing trophies for the BTT tournament winners. The board discussed making BTT a designated charity for SOMBA. No action was taken at this time.

Board discussed need for an assistant treasurer. A few names of candidates were suggested. No action was taken at this time.

8) Correspondence: N/A

9) Next Meeting: August 15, 2010 at the Unitarian Church, 11:15 a.m.

Meeting adjourned: 1:37 PM