

St. Petersburg Bridge Club  
Annual Meeting Minutes  
January 28, 2020

The meeting was called to order at 5:45 pm by Joanne Wharton, President. Approximately 106 members attended, constituting a quorum based on 2020 membership to date.

1. Welcome, Joanne Wharton

Joanne thanked everyone for coming. It is wonderful to have all of you here. There is a full agenda, including what has brought many of you here tonight, the election of members to the Board of Directors. Joanne remarked that this has been a challenging year for the club, but there have also been accomplishments.

2. Election

Joanne thanked the Inspectors of the Election for their role this evening, Freida Dohrman and Leon Lyday. They will be assisted by Kathy Bortscheller, John Lounsberry, and Steve Zebos. Joanne asked Anne Person to present the candidates for the board.

Anne introduced each candidate and asked them to stand to be recognized: Dottie Baxter, Wendy Clark, Carol Garnett, Pam Gorbics, Herb Gould, Nancy Holmes, Phil Nolen, Kathy O'Connell, Sandy Peterson, Lee Taylor, Marianne Timmons, Catherine Vogel, and Joanne Wharton. She continued by asking if there were any nominations from the floor. There being none, the nominations were closed.

Anne explained the voting process and asked if there were any questions. Kim Dean asked why the voting was limited to only at night during the Annual Meeting. Joanne answered, stating that will be an issue to address for future elections. Currently the Club's Bylaws do not allow a provision for voting at a time other than during the Annual Meeting. The Bylaws will be studied and revised to address this topic and others, as well.

Anne instructed the members that voting could begin and to place the completed ballot in the ballot box. Voting will continue until time for the game, at which time, the Inspectors will begin to tabulate the vote and no further ballots will be received.

3. Charity, Susan McIntyre, Neighborly Care Network, Pinellas County

Joanne introduced Ms. McIntyre. She gave a brief synopsis of the services offered by the Neighborly Care Network and thanked the Club for the selection of Neighborly Care as the Club's charity.

4. Minutes of the January 26, 2019 Annual Meeting

On a motion by Chris Person, with a second by John Wharton, that no reading of the minutes be required and the minutes be approved as recorded. The motion carried.

5. Financial Review

John Wharton, Treasurer, reported the club had a final loss from the stolen game tickets of \$3,420. This is after recovery of \$2,500 from the insurance company. He expects an increase in net income of \$8,000 - 10,000 for 2020. The unrestricted net assets (net worth) of the Club increased approximated \$37,000 from 2018. The Club borrowed \$530,000 for the purchase of the building. In four and a half years there has been a 41% reduction of the debt. If repayment remains at this rate, the debt will be paid in full in ten years. At which point, the Club will be in an outstanding financial position.

6. Budget for 2020, John Wharton

The proposed 2020 budget was distributed. Mike Williamson made a motion, seconded by Babs Thacker to approve the proposed 2020 budget as presented. The motion carried.

7. Players of the Year: (by category)

- A. Bud Dean
- B. Jack Sieling
- C. Sheryl Hobbs

8. Joanne Wharton, Acting Club Manager Report

Joanne thanked the great Board members for all their hard work and support all year.

Sandy Adams: Sunshine Committee Chair and a voice of reason.

Bill Condeluci: Volunteer throughout the year with hospitality, plus holiday sales, and membership.

Ralph Fortson: Also a volunteer throughout the year with hospitality, plus holiday sales, and membership.

Lydia Jacobs: Handles all of the advertising for the club.

Linda Kneeburg: Handles most of the food shopping responsibilities. She helped in fundraising for the new dishwasher.

Phil Nolen: Handles maintenance. He is indispensable. Phil oversaw the purchase and installation of the new air conditioner and ducts, which included the addition of duct work in the classroom, plus numerous minor projects.

Kathy O'Connell: Always willing to volunteer. She had a prominent role with club hospitality.

Anne Person: Election and Nominating Chair. Also the Club's secretary.

Bob Thacker: Was recently appointed to serve out the remaining term of one of the board members who had resigned. He has been overseeing the preparation of the game boards and working on technical issues such as the Club's website.

Lee Taylor: Has maintained the Club's website. He and Bob are working together to improve the website.

John Wharton: Handles all the Club's accounting and financial reporting.

Judy Zebos: Responsible for the improvements in the classroom. When she sees a need for the Club, she gets it done.

Joanne continued by stating it had been a very challenging year. She accepted full responsibility for the theft of the game tickets.

The loss of Charlie, our beloved Club Manager, brought additional challenges. We are doing the best we can in his absence, with the intention to continue the operation of the Club in his way, with his philosophy.

The Club had accomplishments this year.

There are new tables, doors, chairs for the classroom. The classroom was also remodeled. Thank you to Penny Lounsberry and Judy for their hard work.

About 50% of the reserved parking places have been freed and are now available to Club members.

The membership campaign has a new online approach, thanks to Dar Webb. Many have renewed online and the funds are available immediately.

The Club hosted two successful seminars, Jack Brawner and Randy Baron; and Barbara Seagram.

The new election procedure we used tonight. We will aim to improve the process next year.

A modified and improved website, thanks to Bob and Lee.

The Club hosted three open sectionals and four 499er tournaments.

In 2019, the Club had 5,922 ½ tables of bridge.

Joanne continued by thanking:

Carol Garnett: for keeping Charlie going.

Andrew Garnett: for the same and numerous other contributions.

All the game directors, many taking on additional games: Elaine, Pam, Marianne, Gretchen, Andy and others.

Dar: serving as a sounding board, and coordinating the Barbara Seagram seminar. Whatever the need, Dar got the job done.

Sandy Peterson: Before the January 2020 Sectional, she reached out to Joanne volunteering to do anything to help with the tournament. Sandy ran the first tournament after Charlie passed away. The Club proceeds from the tournament were approximately \$4,000. Babs Thacker served as Partnership Chair.

Mike Jacobs: Makes all the Club's flyers.

Paul Friedman: Did anything that was asked of him.

Victor Malozi: Took over stocking the soda machine.

Steve Zebos: Judy tells Steve the Club has a job for him, and he gets it done.

Gretchen Funk: Reached out to Joanne, stating Marianne and I are here for anything you need. Gretchen has been indispensable in understanding ACBL rules and procedures, has served as a sounding board. These were invaluable contributions.

David Moore: Has continued to clean after games, purchasing supplies and saw the need to take over ordering bridge supplies.

Trudy O'Brien: Has served as Hospitality Chair. She coordinated and hosted 3 holiday parties, 3 tournaments, Learn Bridge in a Day, the Barbara Seagram seminar, and 2 night dinners before the game. The Club must continue our tradition of serving food. We are known for our hospitality and impressive buffet. This sets us apart from other clubs and draws players to our games.

Regarding the vacant Club Manager position, there is a search committee comprised of Joanne, Bob and Gretchen. They are revising the job description. Joanne will continue to serve as Acting Club Manager as long as the members want her to remain in the position.

Cindy Parish asked to be recognized. She feels very honored to be a member of this Club, be able to participate, and yet has no responsibilities in order to play here.

The meeting was recessed at 6:30 p.m. At the conclusion of the game, the results of the election of members to the Board of Directors will be announced.

The meeting was reconvened at 9:55 p.m.

Joanne announced that 106 ballots were cast. Two of these were invalid. The Board Members elected tonight are: Pam Gorbics, Herb Gould, Kathy O'Connell, Sandy Peterson, Lee Taylor, Marianne Timmons, and Joanne Wharton. There will be an organizational meeting of the Board this Friday at 4:00 p.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Anne Person, Secretary