Minutes

WBL Board Meeting

January 17, 2007

The meeting was held at Ellen Cherniavsky's house.

In attendance: Don Berman, Ellen Cherniavsky, Richard Ferrin, Fred King, Clyde Kruskal, Shlomit Rind, Steve Robinson, and non-voting members Donna Rogall, Ted Ying, and Nadine Wood. Steve Forsythe also attended a portion of the meeting.

President King called the meeting to order at 7:50 PM.

Secretary's Report

Without objection, the board approved the minutes, as amended.

2006 Year in Review: Novice Program

Steve Forsythe presented a report on the novice program. (See Attachment 1.) The Thursday night 0-300 novice game has grown significantly. We need to work in 2007 to build a new group of 0-20 newcomer players. Steve will be teaching novices Wednesday night in Rockville. The Sunday WBL-sponsored novice game at the Methodist Home in DC is growing as well, now averaging about 13 tables. 13 tables is about the break-even point financially.

In response to a question from Fred King, Steve Forsythe noted that the Methodist Home is undergoing some renovations, and that will require cancellation of one Sunday game in February. Clyde Kruskal asked about the conditions of the room in the basement of the Christ the King Church for the Thursday newcomer game, to which Steve replied that the room is still stuffy, but the mold problem has improved somewhat. Fred stated that he would ask the Church to run the de-humidifier more often.

Steve Forsythe asked whether the WBL planned any newcomer programs for the July regional in Bethesda. Nadine Wood replied that there will be newcomer events, but the details have not yet been planned. The Board then discussed the cross-scheduling of the Instant Bridge Player program, the May WBL sectional, and the second weekend of the 0-5000 Grand National Teams, all of which had tentatively been scheduled for May 5-6.

2006 Year in Review: Unit Game

Ted Ying reported that attendance at the Unit Game has stabilized. (See Attachment 2.) All the playing cards have been replaced. Barbara Shaw cleaned and resorted the cards for the bidding boxes. We still need to repaint the boards. The dealing machine (the replacement from Florida) is up and running and we expect to pass out pre-sorted boards this week.

Fred King asked how close we were to capacity. Ted Ying replied that the main playing space in the Church could hold 63 to 64 tables, but only if we took away space from other things, such as the refreshment table. The largest table count of the year was 59 tables (which occurred both in the Annual Meeting and at the Holiday Party). On nights where the table count is high, we no longer have the option of bringing Steve Forsythe's newcomer players into the main room. (This had been done in the past when Steve cannot be there and there is no certified director to take his place in the newcomer game downstairs.)

2006 Year in Review: Sectionals

Nadine Wood reported growing attendance at the WBL sectionals, particularly the last tournament in January 2007. (See Attachments 3 and 4.) Nadine did note that the January traditionally had been one of the best-attended tournaments of the year. Richard Ferrin added that good weather boosted attendance at the January 2007 tournament.

Nadine observed that the overall average WBL sectional attendance total for 2006 was the best since 2000. Having an excellent playing facility helps.

Looking forward, Nadine Wood said that sectional tournaments for 2008 were tentatively scheduled for January 3-6, March 27-30, August 7-10, and October 2-5. Organization for the July regional will begin soon. She noted that the Senior Team Trials will run concurrently with the Bethesda regional. Ted Ying suggested various people who live near the new regional playing site that would be good resources for the restaurant guide.

Fred King stated that we need somebody to transport tables for the sectionals. Ted Ying said that he knew somebody who might be willing to do it.

2006 Year in Review: Financials

Steve Robinson presented a year-end 2006 financial report. (See Attachment 5.) The WBL overall netted approximately $1,600 in 2006, although a few additional bills could trickle in. The Unit Game netted nearly $20,000. Ted Ying noted that the Unit Game makes money every week except for the week of Hunt Valley, because the table count drops to about 28 tables that week. He added that the WBL should still hold the Unit Game that Thursday to make those people happy who choose not to go to Hunt Valley.

Fred King asked if the WBL still plans to get the sponsor money pledged by Michael Chelst. Steve Robinson agreed to send Michael an e-mail. Fred noted the significant income (approximately $5,000 in 2006) from membership fees. That is money sent back to the unit from the ACBL headquarters for the players' dues.

Fred King asked about the line item for administration. Steve Robinson replied that this includes expenses for Board meetings, and certain free plays. Ted Ying added that this category includes expenses for all free plays except for students, section tops, and fill-ins.

Fred King asked about the low figure for Bulletin income. Steve Robinson noted that we need to collect from several advertisers.

2006 Year in Review: Round Robin and Unit Knockout

Steve Robinson reported that the Round Robin Committee has made several changes to improve the Unit Knockout event, including reducing the length of the event by changing the format from double knockout to single knockout. In response to a question from Fred King, Steve noted that attendance in the A/X flight of the Round Robin and Unit Knockout events are decreasing every year. Fred asked how the WBL could boost attendance in these events. Steve replied that it was hard to do, particularly because of the closure of Jim Allen's club. Several teams scheduled at least some of their matches at his club, but now that the club is closed, the only alternative when the game cannot be played at the home of a team member, is to schedule the game at the Church the night of the Unit Game. That is an unattractive alternative, because most people do not want to give up their regular Thursday night game.

2006 Year in Review: Trophy Winners, Membership, and Calendar of Obligations

Don Berman reported that the trophy winners were determined and awarded faster this year than in the past. Don has also gotten a volunteer to help clean up his online list of WBL members to update for deceased players, people moving out the area, etc.

Richard Ferrin asked when the WBL planned to issue a new telephone directory. Fred King said that he is conferring with President Leo Cardillo of the NVBA about that. Ted Ying commented that the WBL should have a paper copy, and not post an electronic copy, because of electronic privacy concerns.

Don Berman reported that WBL membership is dropping. Another measurement of activity within the WBL is the number of players in the unit who earned points in the Lovenberg Cup race: 627. Fred King noted that the WBL appears to be losing members at the rate of about two percent per year. He contrasted that with the NVBA which, according to Leo Cardillo, increased from 1450 to 1525 members. What about the ACBL as a whole? Nadine Wood

replied that the ACBL is running somewhere between even and a one percent annual loss. Ted Ying observed that 95 percent of people who participate in WBL tournaments are ACBL members.

2006 Year in Review: School Bridge Program

Fred King noted that Shawn Stringer, the WBL's school bridge coordinator, submitted a report. (See Attachment 6.) Shlomit Rind explained that Shawn's biggest concern is getting more teachers who are interested in the program. Shlomit Rind stated that another concern of Shawn Stringer is that it is difficult to get students to participate and to find a good time to schedule bridge.

Ted Ying said that Elliott Turley, a high school student, plays about once a month in the Unit Game. Elliott is interested helping get a bridge program started in his high school. Clyde Kruskal stated that he has contacts at Eleanor Roosevelt High School. Steve Robinson asked Clyde whether the University of Maryland had a bridge club. Clyde replied that he did not know. Ted Ying said that at times in the past, the University of Maryland had a bridge club, but that it has been difficult to keep the program going. Fred King stated that he is planning to visit the program at Thomas Jefferson High School in Northern Virginia. The advantage of that program is that bridge is scheduled during a school period.

Dealing Machine

Steve Robinson explained that the WBL's dealing machine broke, and the WBL sent it back to the producer (in Australia) for repair. The company sent the WBL a machine that was in Florida as a temporary replacement. The company offered to give to the WBL as a replacement for the broken machine sent back to Australia, at no additional charge. If the WBL declines the offer, the company estimates the cost of repairing the old machine would be about $800. When the machine from Florida arrived, it was initially jamming repeatedly, but now the machine seems to be working satisfactorily. The NVBA has expressed interest in purchasing the machine from Florida.

Ted Ying suggested determining the age of the machine from Florida, and whether it is under warranty. He expressed concern that if the machine had been in heavy use for an extended period of time while in Florida, the swap proposal would be less attractive. Ted suggested asking Alan Crank (the person who currently makes the boards with the machine) about his impression of the condition of the Florida machine with the original one currently back in Australia for repairs.

Don Berman suggested splitting the use of one machine with the NVBA. Fred King noted that the NVBA has raised donations from members to purchase a dealing machine. The NVBA, however, thinks that the Scandinavian-designed machines work better. Ted Ying cautioned that the Scandinavian machines use the bar-coded cards, which are expensive, and that the Scandinavian machines require special boards. Fred explained that the NVBA nevertheless is likely to go for the Australian-designed machine, but they are unsure whether they want the refurbished machine, or a new machine, and have Alan Crank do the duplication. If the NVBA purchases a second machine to be used cooperatively with the WBL's machine, then NVBA should be charged the same $9 per box that the WBL is charged currently.

As a side note, Fred King reported that the NVBA is moving the site of its sectionals after its last Spring sectional because the Knights of Columbus demanded a steep increase in rent.

Bridge and Bowling

Fred King reported that the event will occur on Saturday, February 3. Bowling is at 1:30 PM, bridge at 7:30 PM, with dinner in between. In response to complaints from some bowlers, we looked for alternative bowling alleys with better lanes, but the problem is that the nearest alternative bowling alley is at least 15 miles away from the Laurel Bridge Club site for the bridge portion of the event. As a result, we decided to stick with the bowling alley in Laurel.

Ted Ying suggested that dinner be scheduled at Sullivan's. The Board should notify Barbara Israel of the event, because she runs a club nearby, and therefore she could be a potential source of additional players.

Building Fund

Due to the long agenda, discussion of this item was deferred until the next meeting.

Bulletin

Donna Rogall asked who would be running for Board positions. Fred King explained that last year, Barbara Ames and Barbara Summers had volunteered to run for the Board positions expiring in 2007, and they would probably not be running again. If Bob Levey is going to be teaching at Vanderbilt, Fred will suggest that Bob wait to serve until some point in the future when he has more time to devote to Board business.

Proposed Modifications to Trophy Rules

Don Berman moved to include Steve Forsythe's novice game in the Lovenberg and associated WBL trophy races. Fred King seconded the motion. Clyde Kruskal objected, on the grounds that it would force people competing in the race to attend more events. Ted Ying replied that the nature of the event is to encourage people to play in WBL events. Donna Rogall commented that the proposed change ordinarily would affect only the Woolridge and Tubbs awards. The Board then voted 6-1 to approve the change, Clyde Kruskal dissenting.

Don Berman also moved to eliminate the reference in the Trophy Rules that had included the Thursday morning Washington Bridge Center game. The consensus of the Board was to leave the language alone with respect to that item.

Kensington Armory

Fred King reported that the new Mayor of Kensington expressed interest in the WBL coming back to the Kensington Armory, for the Unit Game and/or sectionals. (See Attachment 7.) Nadine Wood stated that the Kensington Armory is bigger than the WBL's current space at Christ the King Church, but is not as big as the Schweinhaut Center (current site for WBL sectionals). Nadine expressed concern about the location of the kitchen downstairs, making it difficult to serve food on the main floor. Parking is a problem. If the WBL were to move to the Kensington Armory for the Thursday Unit Game only, we would still need a site for the Friday sectional events. Ted Ying added that the Kensington Arts Theatre uses the Armory some Thursdays for rehearsal, possibly eight Thursdays during the year.

Fred King commented that there was no great need for the WBL to make a move right now, but the Board should consider the Kensington Armory as a possible back-up. Clyde Kruskal suggested exploring the scheduling issues further, and volunteered to follow up.

Upcoming Meeting

The next WBL Board meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, February 28 at Richard Ferrin's house.

The board thanked Ellen Cherniavsky for hosting the meeting. Whereupon, the public session of the meeting adjourned at 10:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard Ferrin, Secretary

Minutes

WBL Board Meeting

February 28, 2007

The meeting was held at Richard Ferrin's house.

In attendance: Barbara Ames, Don Berman, Ellen Cherniavsky, Richard Ferrin, Fred King, Clyde Kruskal, Steve Robinson, Dick Wegman, and non-voting members Kitty Gottfried, Donna Rogall, Ted Ying, and Nadine Wood.

President King called the meeting to order at 7:50 PM.

Secretary's Report

Without objection, the board approved the minutes, as amended.

Treasurer's Report

Steve Robinson reported that the WBL current has $17,149.04 in its checking account. It had $12,920.33 as of December 31, 2006. Ted Ying noted that the latest figures do not include the February unit game.

Bridge and Bowling

Fred King reported an incident that occurred in the bridge portion of the event. One person left after two matches. She thought that her teammates were not supportive, and that she was "out of her league". Ted Ying said that he asked Peter Boyd for his advice, and Peter said that no sanctions were necessary at this time. However, the situation should be monitored. More caution should be taken in matching up inexperienced players. Clyde Kruskal commented that this appeared to be a rare situation.

Fred said that 27 people attended the bowling event. Last year the number was 35. There is a clear downward trend in attendance at this event. He queried, if the WBL wants to continue this event, how can we increase participation? Fred noted that one problem is that this event is scheduled opposite the Baltimore sectional. Donna Rogall and Ted Ying agreed, observing that attendance seems to be lower at a Maryland site than at a Northern Virginia site. Nadine Wood commented that the Baltimore sectional does not pose a serious conflict, since that sectional is poorly attended anyway. Don Berman speculated that the increasing age of the WBL may be hurting attendance at the bowling event. Richard Ferrin suggested that the poor quality of the lanes at Laurel may be keeping attendance down.

Several people suggested alternative bowling alleys, such as Strike in Downtown Bethesda (suggested by Dick Wegman, combined with bridge at the Methodist Home in DC), Bowl America at Shady Grove (suggested by Barbara Ames), and White Oak (suggested by Ted). Ted pointed out that the biggest problem with changing the bowling location is that it should be close to the bridge site, and sites other than the Laurel Bridge club would be costly. Barbara Ames replied that the WBL should subsidize the event, if necessary.

Fred concluded the discussion by suggesting that the bridge and bowling event be placed in the Calendar of Obligations for next September, so that there would be plenty of time to consider these issues before next year's event.

Unit Game

Steve Robinson proposed changing the directors' salary structure. He proposed lowering the salary by $37, but compensating by adding in a $32 per diem and $5 travel expense component. Such a breakout would be beneficial from a tax standpoint.

Ted Ying explained further that director salaries currently are broken out in IRS Form 1099 into salary, per diem, and travel. Ted Ying proposed that the Chief Director assign the total compensation package, and break it out into salary,

per diem, and travel components. Ted also requested that the change be made retroactive to January 1, 2007. Richard Ferrin moved that the board adopt Ted's proposal, and Ellen Cherniavsky seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Ted Ying reminded the board that it needs to review the lighting situation again this summer, because of the rate of breakage of lamps.

Dick Wegman reported that issues concerning the functioning and cleanliness of the bathrooms at the Church still have not been resolved. Ellen Cherniavsky agreed, noting the cold temperatures, bad lighting, and the fact that there are only two stalls in the ladies' room. Clyde Kruskal complained that the hot water in the bathrooms did not seem to work. Steve Robinson suggested raising money to fix the problem by holding a unit charity game with the Church as beneficiary. Dick Wegman said that he would discuss the bathroom problems with the Church Rector.

Dealing Machine

Steve Robinson reported that the WBL's "old" dealing machine has been fixed. It is now in Australia, awaiting transport back to the United States. Ted Ying said that Allen Crank recommends that the WBL stay with the old machine, instead of the "new" machine from Florida. Fred King moved to authorize Steve Robinson, on behalf of the WBL, to pay the Australian company for the repairs. Steve Robinson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Fred King stated that the NVBA's minutes of January 2007 concerning their possible purchase of a dealing machine do not describe accurately his understanding after having talked with Leo Cardillo (NVBA President). Leo Cardillo found people who have offered to pay for the NVBA to acquire a dealing machine; the funds would not come out of the NVBA's budget. Fred said that he understands the NVBA has not yet decided what to do.

Calendar of Obligations

Don Berman suggested adding the regional tournament and elections to the Calendar of Obligations. Fred King suggested adding the Ace of Club awards. Don Berman added that the Mini McKinney should be added, including making sure that the WBL receives the medallions (which are now supplied by Baron Barclay). Dick Wegman suggested adding the President's awards to the Calendar of Obligations.

Kensington Armory

Fred King recalled the discussion at the last board meeting that a Kensington town representative approached Dick Wegman to see if the WBL would be interested in returning to Kensington Armory for the unit game and sectionals. Fred noted that the consensus at the last meeting was that the Schweinhaut Senior Center was a better location for WBL sectionals than the Kensington Armory. One problem in particular with the Kensington Armory is the location of the kitchen. However, a backup location would always be nice.

Dick Wegman said that he was aware of a possible conflict at Kensington Armory with theater productions, and was unsure whether any scheduling conflict could be accommodated. He said that the Kensington official thought that the parking situation would be better this time. He also noted that we would have access to several rooms in the downstairs portion of the Armory, and those rooms would be vastly better conditions than the basement of Christ the King Church. Also, he noted that the Kensington Armory bathrooms have been refurbished. Dick suggested holding the Unit Game there on April 5, since Christ the King Church is not available on that date. Steve Robinson and Fred King said that it would be too much trouble to move all the tables just for that one night.

Kitty Gottfried said that the location of the kitchen would not be a problem if the Unit Game were relocated there. She did express concern, however, that Kensington Armory does not have a caretaker, so she would have to lock the door as the last person out. Kitty said that she would prefer to be at a site where there was a caretaker on hand to lock up.

Dick said that he would raise all these issues and discuss the possibilities further with the Kensington officials.

Regarding April 5, Don Berman asked whether Laurel Bridge Club could hold an open game that evening, since the

WBL Unit Game would not be held that night. He said that if the Church next door to the Laurel Bridge Club is available, he could accommodate some 30-odd tables.

Sunday Novice Game

Dick Wegman reported that the Sunday novice game at the Methodist Home is thriving, now drawing up to 18 ½ tables. Clyde Kruskal reminded the Board that the WBL trophy race rules should be updated to reflect the Board's recent agreement to count points earned in the Sunday Methodist Home novice game in the trophy races.

Steve Robinson stated that the WBL needs to define "non-life master" for purposes of the Tubbs trophy. He suggested that an eligible player be a non-life master with under 500 masterpoints, consistent with the ACBL's demarcation for non-life master events. The Board agreed to Steve's suggestion, effective January 1, 2007.

Planning for Regional

Fred King reported that he and Nadine met with the hotel, and with Steve Forsythe, to plan for the tournament. Most of the tournament jobs have been filled. Nadine Wood said that we still need a prizes chairman. Richard Ferrin volunteered to serve in that position. Nadine said that she will be sending out e-mail advertisements, and is trying to line up speakers. The Mid-Atlantic Bridge Conference has set an attendance target of 2400, although Nadine expects the total to be significantly higher than that. Fred King reminded the Board of the need to encourage people to attend the speakers' events; in the past, the lectures have not always been well attended, and speakers are less likely to speak the next time if the audience is too small.

Don Berman asked about parking at the hotel. Nadine replied that the hotel would charge $8 per day for parking, with and-and-out privileges. Parking for hotel guests would be free.

Don volunteered to help Helene Bauman with the dining guides. He asked whether they should approach local restaurants and propose discount deals. Fred suggested that we might as well ask. Nadine reminded Don to get copies of menus, and days and hours of operation.

Dick Wegman asked whether we should advertise in the Washington Post. Nadine replied that ads in local journals and gazettes tended to be more cost-effective.

Don Berman stated that other districts have asked whether the WBL would add a link to its web site to their tournaments, and raised the possibility of making a reciprocal advertising deal with districts that are close to ours.

Elections

Fred King noted that Jim Allen will chair the election. We need a list of eligible voters. Don Berman agreed to generate that list. Frances Burke will be in charge of ballots.

Round Robin

Steve Robinson noted that the deadline to register in the Round Robin is May 17. The entry fee will be $50 for A/X teams and $40 for B/C/D. Steve also discussed complaints about one slow player in the B/C/D home events.

Upcoming Meeting

The next WBL Board meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 28 at Steve Robinson's house.

The board thanked Richard Ferrin for hosting the meeting. Whereupon, the meeting adjourned at 9:40 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard Ferrin, Secretary

Minutes

WBL Board Meeting

March 28, 2007

The meeting was held at Steve Robinson's house.

In attendance: Don Berman, Ellen Cherniavsky, Richard Ferrin, Fred King, Clyde Kruskal, Shlomit Rind, Steve Robinson, and non-voting members Donna Rogall, Ted Ying, and Nadine Wood. Steve Forsythe also attended a portion of the meeting.

President King called the meeting to order at 7:52 PM.

Secretary's Report

Steve Robinson stated that he thought that the definition of "non-life-master" for purposes of the trophy races, effective January 1, 2007, was presented and approved by the Board in the February meeting. Without objection, the board agreed, and approved the minutes, as amended.

Treasurer's Report

Steve Robinson reported a balance of $17,842.72 in the WBL's checking account. He also reported that the WBL had investments with a value of $36,050 in a money market account, as of December 31, 2006. The Board approved the Treasurer's report, without objection.

Dealing Machine

Steve Robinson reported that the WBL received its old machine back from repair in Australia. He paid the Australian vendor AUS$1,000 for repairs. Fred King asked if the vendor had given any instructions on what to do with the borrowed dealing machine from Florida. Steve replied that the vendor has given no instructions regarding disposition of that machine. Barbara Summers suggested that the WBL seek instructions soon, to avoid risk of breakage while the machine is in the WBL's possession. Steve Robinson agreed to follow up with the vendor.

Bridge in Schools

Fred King stated that while in St. Louis, he spoke with a person in Atlanta who said that many schools in the area have altered their curriculum to require a course in "values". League.org has developed a curriculum that has been accepted by several schools. Part of that curriculum teaches the rudiments of bridge. Fred will ask Shawn Stringer to contact the appropriate people in Atlanta to learn more about their program.

Barbara Summers commented that she tried to establish a program at Redland Middle School, but no teacher was willing to sponsor the program. Barbara said that she would check on the availability of grants from the Gates fund for the schools program.

Kensington Armory

Dick Wegman reported that the assistant to the new mayor of Kensington approached him about the possibility of the WBL returning to the Kensington Armory. They discussed the possibility of moving the Thursday night unit game (but not the sectionals) to Kensington, and the issue of possible conflicts with theatre groups. The mayor's assistant explained that sometimes the theatre groups have performances on Thursday nights, but perhaps an arrangement can be worked out. Kensington is committed to its schedule this year, but is interested in welcoming back the WBL next year. Dick told the mayor's assistant that the WBL currently pays $275 per night at Christ the King Church. She thought that the rent Kensington would charge would be "in the ballpark". Kensington could make available the meeting rooms downstairs for the novice game, and the conditions of those rooms would be far better than the

conditions of the basement rooms at Christ the King. Kensington also would supply a custodian to set up and take down the tables. One possible drawback would be that sometimes there would be an extension to the stage set up on Thursday to get the space ready for Friday theatre performances.

Steve Robinson suggested that the Board inspect the space. He also noted that the WBL might need the space not only for Thursday, but for Friday of the WBL sectionals (the weekend sectional events would still be held at the Schweinhaut Center). Dick Wegman suggested waiting until the mayor's assistant reports back with details. Dick will provide further details at the next WBL Board meeting.

Bulletin

Donna Rogall reported that the next issue of the Bulletin would go to the printer next Monday. The Bulletin would advertise the May WBL Sectional, WBL elections, and the July 4th Regional. The Bulletin would also feature a remembrance of Robert Gunnell.

Unit Game

Fred King noted that there was a temporary problem with the Unit sanction, because of missing the deadline to renew the sanction, but now it has been corrected. The deadline for renewal of the sanction should be put on the Calendar of Obligations. The renewal fee is due January 1.

Dick Wegman passed along word from Bruce Reeves and Jim Kirkham that the ACBL may be placing a limit on the number of unit and club championship games that any unit can run. This could affect the WBL. Fred King will confer with Nadine Wood about this issue.

Clyde Kruskal reported that the WBL's cell phone has disappeared. Don Berman suggested that it was time to get a new one anyway. Don will inquire as to cost, etc.

Calendar of Obligations

Don Berman noted that a committee needs to be formed in connection with the elections, including conducting the meeting and counting the votes. Fred King will discuss with Jim Allen (Elections Chair). Don Berman noted that Frances Burke gets the voter list. Don Berman will generate that list from ACBL. Kitty Gottfried will make food arrangements.

Don Berman reported that the Mini-McKenney awards are due to be distributed at the annual election meeting. Fred King has the medallions. Fred will generate award letters. Fred also has the Ace of Clubs certificates.

Regional

Fred King reported that the Bethesda regional will include a director's course, and a Teacher Accreditation Program course. Leslie Shafer made a proposal for the novice program, and needs the WBL's help. The Board agreed to support Leslie's efforts. Steve and Sandy Forsythe will hold an Instant Bridge Player program. Fred noted that the budget for the Bethesda Regional will be due at the time of the Gatlinburg regional. Dick Wegman suggested getting flyers for the Bethesda Regional up to the Wilmington regional for distribution.

Bridge Brochure

Barbara Summers reported that she is not sure if the brochures were placed in the public libraries; they may have gotten pitched. She is willing to try placement at the libraries again if the WBL will arrange for another printing. Dick Wegman reminded the Board that ACBL reimburses two-thirds of the cost of printing the brochures. Barbara Summers said that she can also print more postcards.

Steve Robinson suggested putting a free play on the brochure, so that the Board could better track the dissemination of the brochures.

Fred King suggested that the brochure be updated to make sure the club information is all up-to-date. Barbara Summers agreed to update the brochure. Dick Wegman agreed to locate the master CD and printer. He suggested that the NVBA will also want to update the information for their clubs. Barbara Summers will work on updating that information as well.

Unit Directory

Don Berman will discuss the unit directory with the NVBA. The NVBA is already working on one. Clyde Kruskal and Don Berman suggested creating the unit directory on the internet. Concerns were raised about privacy issues, as was the case the last time an online directory was proposed.

Upcoming Meetings

Ted Ying will host the next WBL Board meeting on April 18th. The May meeting will be held May 30th at a location to be determined.

The Board thanked Steve for hosting the meeting. Whereupon, the meeting adjourned at 9:25 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard Ferrin, Secretary

Minutes
WBL Board Meeting
April 18, 2007

The meeting was held at Ted Ying's house.

In attendance: Don Berman, Ellen Cherniavsky, Fred King, Clyde Kruskal, Shlomit Rind, Steve Robinson, Barbara Summers, Dick Wegman, and non-voting members Donna Rogall, Ted Ying, and Nadine Wood.

President King called the meeting to order at 8:02 PM.

Secretary's Report

Minutes from the previous meeting were conditionally approved, provided they are corrected to reflect actual attendance.

Treasurer's Report

Steve Robinson reported a balance of $25,000 in the WBL's checking account which includes $12,000 in money for the regional. He also reported that the WBL had investments with a value of about $36,050 in a money market account with A. G. Edwards. The Board approved the Treasurer's report, without objection.

Dealing Machine

The money for the dealing machine was sent, but apparently not received. Steve Robinson is working on this problem.

Bridge in Schools

Schools in Georgia are required to have a course in "values" as part of their curriculum. A course has been developed that meets these requirements, and rudimentary instruction in bridge is part of it. This course has succeeded in Atlanta. Shlomit Rind will talk to Shawn Stringer about contacting the appropriate people in Atlanta to learn more about their program.

Barbara Summers reported that the Gates money for bridge is being provided to the League.org (alternate website Leagueworldwide.org).

Kensington Armory

Dick Wegman reported that the assistant to the new mayor of Kensington was supposed get back to him on the issue of whether we could have every Thursday (that is, whether the issue of possible conflicts with theatre groups could be resolved). The assistant has not done so. No further action is suggested at this time. Kensington is slightly but not significantly larger than our current location at Christ the King church.

Unit Game

Dick Wegman passed along word from Bruce Reeves and Jim Kirkham that the ACBL may be placing a limit on the number of unit and club championship games that any unit can run. This could affect the WBL. Ted Ying will contact Bruce Reeves about masterpoint issues.

A cake was provided by Barbara Shaw in honor of Yi Zhong's going away. It was suggested that there should be a process to go through so that other WBL members are not slighted, and that such celebrations should be coordinated through the Unit Game Chair, Club Manager, and Hospitality Chair. It was agreed a policy is needed.

Elections

Candidates for the Board have been identified. Steve Robinson will make up the petitions and circulate them at the

Unit Game. Fred King will follow up with Bob Levey as to whether he will be able to serve on the Board next year.

Don Berman reported that certificates for winners at the last sectional will be presented at the annual meeting.

Calendar of Obligations

Don Berman reported that certificates for winners at the last sectional will be presented at the annual meeting.

Unit Directory

Don Berman working on a joint NVBA-WBL directory. It seems best because of privacy issues to publish the directory as a hard copy, and there are many options that would be less expensive than our previous joint directory. Don will get cost estimates for various options

Regional

Sample flyers for the regional were distributed. It was suggested that brochures for tourism in the Washington area could be available at the information desk. The need for volunteers was discussed, as people are needed at different times. Barbara Summers will coordinate the volunteers, and Nadine will send an email of what she needs.

The senior trials will be held at the regional, and will be on Bridge Base Online.

Don Berman has collected a list of over 100 restaurants convenient to the regional.

Bridge Fiesta

Leslie Shafter has proposed a Bridge Fiesta to introduce new players to the mechanics of duplicate, such as bidding boxes. Shlomit will volunteer to help, and Steve and Sandy Forsythe will direct.

Upcoming Meetings

Donna Rogall will host the next WBL Board meeting on May 30th. Barbara Summers will host the June meeting which will be held June 27.

The Board thanked Ted Ying for hosting the meeting. Whereupon, the meeting adjourned at 10:02 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Ellen Cherniavsky, in place of Richard Ferrin, Secretary

Minutes

WBL Board Meeting

May 30, 2007

The meeting was held at Clyde Kruskal's house.

In attendance: Carole Banks, Don Berman, Ellen Cherniavsky, Richard Ferrin, Fred King, Clyde Kruskal, Linda Marshall, Shlomit Rind, Steve Robinson, and non-voting member Nadine Wood. Bob Stearns also attended a portion of the meeting.

President King called the meeting to order at 7:55 PM.

Secretary's Report

The Board approved the minutes from the April 2007 WBL Board meeting, without objection.

Treasurer's Report

Steve Robinson reported a balance of $10,182.40 in the WBL's checking account. This does not include $9,000 allocated to the WBL for the July regional. Fred King commented that the WBL basically broke even last year. The WBL is liquid, but not building up reserves. The Board approved the Treasurer's report, without objection.

Unit Game

Fred King reported that the Bridgemate scoring system will be tested at the next Unit Game. Nadine Wood reported that there was a motion before the ACBL Board to decrease the limits on awards at unit games. That motion failed. There is another motion pending before the ACBL Board to limit the number of charity game awards with sectional ratings to one in four. This limitation would only be for charity games held in months other than charity months designated by the ACBL.

Preparation for Regional

Fred King said that we need volunteers for the hospitality suite. Nadine Wood said that we need volunteers to operate the viewgraph computers for the senior team trials. Nadine added that Barbara Doran will be Partnership Chairman, and Richard Ferrin will be Prize Chairman.

Regarding the senior team trials, which will be held concurrently with the regional, Nadine reported that District 6 and the Mid-Atlantic Bridge Conference have contributed $500 each to the Senior Trials hospitality. The WBL will contribute the use of its dealing machine.

Calendar of Obligations

Don Berman reported that the regional and the start of the WBL Round Robin are the only events occurring around this time.

Bridge Festival

Fred King reported that Leslie Shafer has 200 students and will run a "mock" sectional for one session. The date is June 19-20. Steve Forsythe and Mike Henderson will direct. Shlomit Rind noted that Leslie is asking, in connection with the event, for the WBL to pay for booklets for the students, "Adventures in Bridge". The booklets cost $5 each. Ron Kral has 40 extra copies which he will sell at $3 each. Baron Barclay will provide a 10 percent discount. Leslie

thinks she will get around 200 people for the event.

Ellen Cherniavsky suggested that the WBL subsidize the books, but not pay 100 percent. She suggested a $2 resale price. Fred King agreed. The Board will make that proposal to Leslie.

Bridge Fiesta

Fred King reported that Steve and Sandy Forsythe's game at the Methodist Home has become so big that the Home wants to cut it back to once a month. The concern is that participation would be likely to drop off significantly if the game were run only once a month, and so perhaps the solution is to change the location. Shlomit Rind suggested that the Kemp Mill synagogue may be available. Fred King suggested that Guy Mason Center is a possibility.

Brochure Regarding Bridge Clubs

Fred King reported that a new printing of the Bridge Club brochure should be back from the printer next week. Barbara Summers has taken the lead in distributing the brochure. The printing cost is $700, and ACBL will reimburse 75 percent.

Don Berman reported that a person who works at the National Press Club building in Washington wants to start a game there. Fred King suggested that the WBL do whatever is necessary to support the game.

Goodwill Nomination

Fred King noted that Eileen Osofsky, Chair of the ACBL's Goodwill Committee, contacted Fred to remind him that nominations for ACBL Goodwill Member of the Year. Nadine Wood noted that nominations are due by October.

Committee Assignments

The Board discussed committee assignments for all committees except the Conduct and Ethics Committee (C&E Committee members are chosen in Executive Session). The Committee assignments are listed on the attachment.

Next Session

Barbara Summers is scheduled to host the next meeting at June 27 (Richard Ferrin will host if Barbara is unable to do so.) Fred King will host on August 1.

The Board thanked Clyde for hosting the meeting. Whereupon, the public portion of the meeting adjourned at 10:12 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Richard Ferrin, Secretary

Washington Bridge League
Board and Member Responsibilities
May 2007 - May 2008

Awards	Fred King, Barbara Shaw
Bridge in Schools	Ellen Rosenthal, Shawn Springer, Elaine Conway
Bulletin Editor	Donna Rogall
Bulletin Committee	Don Berman (Chair), Richard Ferrin, Donna Rogall, Steve Robinson, Nadine Wood
Calendar of Obligations	Don Berman
Car Pool Assistance	Don Berman

Charity	Linda Marshall
Cheer & Sympathy	Frances Burke
Club Relations Committee	Elle Cherniavsky (Chair), Carole Banks
Conduct & Ethics Committee	Richard Ferrin (Chair), Carole Banks (Board), Ellen Cherniavsky (Board), James Geist (elected '07), Noble Shore (elected '07), Peter Boyd (elected '07), Jerry Miller (elected '06), Mark Feldman (elected '06), Kathy Hilbers (elected '06).
Education	Steve Forsythe, Clyde Kruskal
Elections	Jim Allen (Chair), Richard Ferrin, Shlomit Rind
Electronic Communications	Steve Robinson, Don Berman
Executive Committee	Fred King, Steve Robinson, Don Berman, Richard Ferrin
Historian	Peter Boyd
Membership Committee	Ellen Cherniavsky, Frances Burke, Ed Burke
Membership Growth	Dick Wegman (Chair), Shlomit Rind, Barbara Summers, Ellen Rosenthal, Carole Banks
Membership Secretary	Frances Burke
Novice Program	Steve Forsythe
Ombudsman	Ann Lindley
Parliamentarian	Richard Ferrin
Player Achievement (Trophies)	Don Berman
Publicity and Marketing	Ellen Rosenthal, Linda Marshall, Charity Sack
Recorder	Don Berman
Round Robin Committee	Steve Robinson, John Adams, Barbara Doran, Earl Glickstein, Dave Ruderman, Fred King, Bill Cole, Richard Ferrin (Chair), Arnie Frankel
Scheduling	Fred King, Don Berman, Ted Ying
Special Events Coordination	
GNT (unit level)	Ellen Cherniavsky
NAP (unit level)	Ellen Cherniavsky
Other	Ellen Cherniavsky
STAC Coordination	Ellen Cherniavsky

Tournaments	
Committee	Nadine Wood (Chair), Richard Ferrin, Kitty Gottfried
Caddies	Kitty Gottfried
Chief Director	Millard Nachtwey
Hospitality	Kitty Gottfried
Partnerships	Barbara Doran
Volunteers	Barbara Summers, Shlomit Rind, Clyde Kruskal
Unit Game	
Committee	Fred King (Chair), Clyde Kruskal, Don Berman
Caddies	Kitty Gottfried
Chief Director	Ted Ying
Church Liaison	Fred King
Facility Operations	Clyde Kruskal
Hospitality	Kitty Gottfried, Ellen Cherniavsky
Annual Meeting	Kitty Gottfried, Nadine Wood, Millard Nachtwey, Ellen Cherniavsky
Holiday Party	Kitty Gottfried, Nadine Wood, Millard Nachtwey, Ellen Cherniavsky
Manager	Ted Ying
Partnerships	Barbara Doran
Ways and Means Committee	Fred King (Chair), Don Berman, Barbara Ames, Steve Robinson
Webmaster	Don Berman

Minutes

WBL Board Meeting

June 27, 2007

The meeting was held at Barbara Summer's home.

In attendance: Carole Banks, Don Berman, Richard Ferrin, Fred King, Clyde Kruskal, Linda Marshall, Steve Robinson, Ellen Rosenthal, and non-voting members Donna Rogall and Nadine Wood.

President King called the meeting to order at 7:50 PM.

Secretary's Report

The Board approved the minutes from the May 2007 WBL Board meeting, without objection.

Treasurer's Report

Steve Robinson reported a balance of $10,651.42 in the WBL's checking account. This does not include an additional $2,000 allocated to the WBL for the July regional. The WBL has $36,405.32 in a money market account. The Board approved the Treasurer's report, without objection.

Preparation for Regional

Nadine Wood noted that she is still trying to resolve an issue regarding prices at the snack bar. Supposedly the hotel has agreed to reduce the prices, but that still is unclear. She also noted that she has gotten many calls from novices (particularly people who are not yet members) asking about tournament details.

October Sectional

Fred King recalled that the Board had agreed to introduce a bracketed team game. Nadine Wood questioned whether that would be an appropriate format for the October tournament, since that team game would award the Eynon trophy. She suggested moving the bracketed team game to January. Fred agreed, suggesting a regular Swiss for the Eynon trophy in October, scheduling the bracketed team game in January, and the BAM for March or August.

Donna Rogall confirmed that the Friday night event will be an IMP pairs. Between sessions on Saturday, there will be a panel show and presentation of the Machlin award.

2009 Nationals

Nadine Wood updated the Board on organizing activity for the 2009 Summer North American Bridge Championships, which will be held in Washington. Currently, we are looking for an advertising slogan. There will be no need for additional fundraising, unlike 2002, because we have $30,000 in reserves from 2002. Margot Hennings will chair the tournament.

Committee Assignments

Fred King reported that all three persons elected to the Conduct & Ethics Committee (Peter Boyd, Jim Geist, and Noble Shore) agreed to serve.

Three non-board members are on the list of various WBL committee assignments, and Fred will confirm that they will serve.

Bridge at Schools

Fred King commented that he had conferred with his counterparts in the Atlanta area, who have informed him that the Bridge at Schools program in Atlanta has been very successful. He suggested that we examine what lessons could be learned from their experience. Barbara Summers stated that she will confer with the person who was instrumental in obtaining funds from the Bill Gates foundation for bridge programs in New Jersey schools.

Bulletin

Donna Rogall reported that the next Bulletin will be received toward the end of July. For the following issue, she needs the President's letter, and a report on Leslie's bridge festival. She raised the issue of the suspension of the Sunday Bridge Fiesta, and asked whether a note should be inserted into the Bulletin. Also, she suggested adding a note about nominations for the Machlin award. The deadline for submissions to the following Bulletin is August 6.

Unit Game

Fred King raised the issue of the need for additional directors to assist Ted Ying in the Unit Game. Carole Banks suggested having one director focus on the non-life-master game, where less director experience is required. Fred said that he would check with Millard Nachtwey about possible new directors who are taking his upcoming director course. Steve Robinson explained that Ted needs permanent more-or-less "permanent" directors, not people who only want to be occasional directors.

Calendar of Obligations

Don Berman reported that the only upcoming item on the agenda is the beginning of the cycle for the WBL/NVBA trophy race.

Elections for District 6

Fred King noted that the election forms require providing Memphis with an up-to-date list of the Board Members. The list of WBL Board Members is correct as of today, but Shlomit is moving, which will create a vacancy before the WBL votes on the District 6 director. He also discussed the schedule: the election materials will be mailed by August 15, and the ballots must be received by ACBL headquarters by October 4. This means that the Board can vote during its September meeting.

Steve Robinson suggested that the Board invite the candidates to the August board meeting. After discussion, Fred noted that there appeared to be a consensus in favor of that approach. Therefore, the vote will take place at the September 19 meeting, to be held at Donna Rogall's house.

Report on Bridge Festival

Fred King reported that Leslie's Bridge Festival went well. There were 20 tables Wednesday night, and 19 Thursday morning. The WBL should compensate them if the event does not break even.

There were a few minor glitches: the Adventures in Duplicate Bridge books were not delivered in time for the Festival. There was also some confusion with ACBL regarding the nature of the sanction for the event, although that will be cleared up.

Carole Banks asked if there were any plans for a pro-active follow-up with the students. Fred King noted that Leslie will send out a follow-up letter to the students.

Sunday WBL Bridge Fiesta

Fred King reported that Steve and Sandy Forsythe are moving out of the area, probably in July. He asked for ideas on

replacing them: (1) find replacements for the Thursday and Sunday novice games; (2) possibility of holding the Sunday game with one person conducting a lesson, and another person running the game; or (3) doing nothing. The Board discussed possible replacements. Mike Henderson is a possibility, but he travels frequently. Leslie and Charlie Shafer would be good, but may not be interested. There is also the issue of the location; some of the current attendees strongly prefer the Sunday game continue to be held in the District.

Donna Rogall suggested contacting the American Bridge Teacher's Association. Fred replied that Leslie Shafer is President of the Association, and she did not have any immediate suggestions as to a replacement. Steve Robinson said that he would send out a broadcast e-mail seeking volunteers. Donnar Rogall asked if we should put something in the Bulletin (the issue going to the printer this Monday) regarding the Sunday game. The Board agreed that it was difficult to put in much information, since the plans were up in the air. Donna also suggested adding a note of appreciation in the Bulletin for all of Steve and Sandy's contributions, to which the Board agreed.

Other Business

Don Berman reported that club director Carol McNeill complained about inaccurate information on the clubs in the directories. Don said that he would create an insert sheet listing clubs, and update that insert monthly.

Next Meeting

The next WBL Board meeting will be held August 1 at Ellen Rosenthal's residence. Donna Rogall will host on September 19.

The Board thanked Barbara and Jim Summers for their hospitality.

Whereupon, the meeting adjourned at 10:33 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Richard Ferrin, Secretary

Minutes

WBL Board Meeting

August 1, 2007

The meeting was held at Ellen Rosenthal's home.

In attendance: Carole Banks, Don Berman, Ellen Cherniavsky, Richard Ferrin, Fred King, Clyde Kruskal, Linda Marshall, Steve Robinson, Ellen Rosenthal, and non-voting members Donna Rogall, Nadine Wood, and Ted Ying. Mike Cappelletti, Mike Henderson, Mark Lavine, and Barry Lieberman.

President King called the meeting to order at 7:52 PM.

Secretary's Report

The Board approved the minutes from the June 2007 WBL Board meeting, without objection.

Treasurer's Report

Steve Robinson reported a balance of $12,276.84 in the WBL's checking account. The WBL has $36,833.30 in a money market account, as of June 30. The Board approved the Treasurer's report, without objection.

Novice Game Future

Fred King explained that with Steve and Sandy Forsythe leaving, the WBL needs to consider the direction of the Thursday night and Sunday novice games. The Sunday game attendance was so high that the Methodist Home wanted to cut back to one Sunday per month. Ted Ying added that the Methodist Home residents complained about lack of parking, clean-up problems, etc. Mike Henderson added that there thus far appeared to be few recruits from the Sunday game at the Methodist Home that have started playing regularly at the Unit Game.

Fred noted that Mike Henderson and Barry Lieberman, and Mark Lavine expressed interest in assisting with the novice game in some capacity. Leslie and Charlie Shafer initially expressed interest in the Sunday game, but have not yet followed up. Mark Weiner and Herb Behre have also expressed interest. Mark Lavine will run the novice game tomorrow, Mark Weiner will run it the following Thursday, and Herb will run it the week after that.

Mike Henderson presented a handout summarizing the general approach that he and Barry suggest. We need to have a good venue, and prepared lesson materials (in case a substitute is needed). The loss of venue at the Methodist Home is the biggest risk to the Sunday game, so he suggested that finding a new location should be a priority. Mike and Barry again stated their willingness to assist with the novice program.

Ted Ying stated that the WBL has made available two sets of boards for the Sunday game, and the WBL is paying for the boards to be pre-duplicated. Regarding Thursday night, there is no lack of certified directors; the game is under Ted's direction, even if he is not physically in the separate room with the novice game. However, Ted said that we do need a certified director for the Sunday game. Rotation of various directors might be feasible, but it would be important to have a single teacher for each game (as opposed to several teachers on a rotating basis) for purposes of teaching consistency.

The Board then discussed various ideas regarding possible new venues for the Sunday game.

Mark Lavine stated that he is available to fill in, as needed. He has taken a teaching course, and currently directs three games per week, although he has not actually taught classes to date. Regarding a venue, Mark suggested that the board consider renting a space that both could be used for the unit game, plus various club games. He and perhaps others

who run games in the area might be willing to join in. The challenge is finding a place with sufficient parking. Mark estimated that it could cost $60-70,000 per year for about 6,000 square feet of warehouse space. Ted added that with the additional cost for renovations, the annual cost might run about $85,000 for suitable spaces.

The Board thanked Mike Henderson, Barry Lieberman, and Mark Lavine for their presentations and willingness to help with the novice program.

Later in the meeting, the Board continued discussion of the Thursday night and Sunday novice game. Fred stated that he was pleasantly surprised at the number of people volunteering to help with the Thursday night game. The board needs to consider the financial arrangements. We agreed to pay a total of $150 for Steve and Sandy, plus one half of the profits after we covered costs. They charged $5 per person, half price for anybody bringing in somebody new. The break-even point is about 8 tables. For Sunday, we paid Steve and Sandy $300, plus one half of the profits after covering costs. But costs for the Sunday game were higher, including lunch. Steve and Sandy charged $10 per person for lunch, a lesson, and play. The break-even point is about 11 tables.

Ted Ying noted that Steve and Sandy were drawing about 16-18 tables on Sunday at the point that they stopped. Ted emphasized that overall WBL membership numbers are good because of the large number of new players, approximately 60-70 per year.

Fred asked the Board whether it wants to continue the same financial arrangements with Steve and Sandy's replacement. Ted commented that the Forsythes had a well-developed novice teaching program. The key is good instructors week after week. The Forsythes had an e-mail list, followed up on masterpoint and other novice liaison issues. Don Berman stated that the Forsythes were irreplaceable, but we do need an overall coordinator. Ted stated that we need to have a fee structure for the coordinator, director, and teacher. We should figure out the cost structure after settling on the right people.

Carole Banks raised the possibility of having rotating teachers. Ted Ying emphasized that the key to success of the program is having the right teacher. Fred noted that we have substitutes for the next three weeks, and we should ask the participants how they did.

Steve Robinson asked if anybody is willing to conduct the program every week. Fred replied that most of the people expressing interest cannot commit for every week. Richard Ferrin commented that one advantage of having two people teach/direct the novice group is that one can serve as a fill-in. Ted Ying replied that finding the right teacher is the highest priority, logistics second.

Steve Robinson stated that we need to compensate the substitutes scheduled for the next three weeks. The board agreed on a fee of $75 for the teacher, plus $50 for a second (if we can find one), with the understanding that this is just an interim arrangement.

Fred appointed himself, Richard, Carole, Ted, and Mike Henderson to a committee to follow up on the intermediate-novice program, including a site for the Sunday game. Ted agreed to pull together lists and proposals. Ted will e-mail results to the novices.

<u>Election of District 6 Director</u>

Mike Cappelletti and Nadine Wood, the two candidates for District 6 Director, spoke with the Board about their past activities and plans if elected.

Mike compared efforts at promotion of bridge to the highly successful promotion of poker tournaments. He discussed the possibility of cooperating with poker tournament promoters to present a package to ESPN, and then possibly to the International Olympic Committee. Mike thought that one possible approach to marketing bridge for television would be to take the five or six best hands from a tournament, and condense it to a watchable segment. Nadine Wood noted that ESPN did make inquiries some time in the past, but the then-CEO of the ACBL did not follow up. Mike also discussed promotion of bridge at the college level.

Nadine stated that she is currently working on the Bridge at Schools program. She favors targeting middle school students, planting the connection with bridge with children at an early age. Even if they do not continue with bridge through high school and college, their early exposure can give them a springboard to become more involved later in life. The ACBL also has revived the collegiate program, and is trying to build that program. Every year more colleges participate. The ACBL is planning a National Youth Bridge Tournament next year. Nadine complimented Mike's good ideas for promotion and welcomed his involvement, but she cautioned that election to the Board of Directors will not accomplish those objectives. Currently, the board is focused on sale of the ACBL headquarters. ACBL will initially rent back the space while it looks for new headquarters space. She is urging ACBL to move to a different city than Memphis. She is also working on revising board regulations, and organizing the regulations logically, instead of by date. Nadine noted that she writes a report to District 6 after every NABC.

Fred King thanked the candidates for speaking, and stated that ACBL will send election materials in August. The WBL Board will vote in its September meeting.

Report for Regional

Nadine Wood reported that the WBL has 35 new members, most from the regional, and from Steve and Sandy's game. Mike Cappelletti asked if we send them free plays. Nadine replied that we do, along with a welcome letter.

Nadine also reported that the hotel bill only listed the caddy's room. Apparently the hotel provided the other rooms complimentary, leaving us with $2000 left over from the tournament budget. She said that the hotel room usage was good because of the Senior Trials, and because of the director's course. In 2010 (the next year the regional will be in Bethesda), there will be no Senior Trials, because the world event that year is an open tournament.

Ted Ying suggested that the pre-tournament advertising should mention that parking is free for persons staying through the evening session. Nadine replied that it would be unwise to include that in the advertising, because the hotel could always keep the parking attendants late and continue to charge people exiting after the evening session.

Fred King noted that the table county was 74 or 75 less than last year's tournament in Alexandria. He noted, however, that tournament attendance tends to be at its lowest point in years where the 4th of July falls on a Wednesday.

August Sectional

Nadine Wood passed out flyers for the sectional. She has not yet settled on a menu for the between-session meals. She noted that there has been an accounting issue between the Senior Center and Montgomery County with regard to the tournament.

Ted Ying reported that Jim Geist will handle table setup, along with David Saloman. Fred King noted that the tables have to be broken down and loaded immediately after the end of the tournament for transportation to Hunt Valley.

Fred stated that the Friday night event is a bracketed pairs/BAM event. Saturday will feature two one-session games, and Sunday we will have a normal Swiss teams event.

Nadine stated that she needs helpers Friday and Saturday morning for bagels, etc. She also needs assistance with storage and transportation of breakfast food.

Bulletin

Donna Rogall reported that the next Bulletin will be the September-October issue. These should be delivered by about September 20. The deadline for the issue is this Monday. The Bulletin will advertise the holiday party.

Donna asked if there will be a 0-20 game. Fred King replied that a 0-20 game at Christ the King Church will continue. Plans for the WBL's weekly Sunday novice game are unclear. Fred will write something about this for the Bulletin.

Unit Game

Ted Ying reported that attendance at the Unit Game is stable. The stop-clock needs to be replaced sometime in the next 9 months. He estimated the cost would be $300 to $400. Don Berman and Mike Cappelletti suggested that it might be cost-effective to coordinate with the Mid-Atlantic Bridge Conference on a purchase. Ellen Cherniavsky moved to authorize purchase of a clock as soon as possible. Clyde Kruskal seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Don Berman will research prices.

Calendar of Obligations

Don Berman reported that Margot Hennings will host a meeting on August 26 for joint scheduling with the WBL and NVBA, plus host a separate meeting later that day planning for the 2009 Summer NABC in Washington.

Don also noted that it is time for ACBL Goodwill Committee nominations. Nadine Wood stated that she is happy to consider nominations. Appropriate nominees should display goodwill at the table, and volunteer. The position is honorary. She noted that District 6 set up a district goodwill committee, with two people nominated from every unit.

Finally, Don Berman noted the October sectional is on the Calendar of Obligations.

Bridge at Schools

Fred King noted that the Thursday bulletin at the Nashville NABC had an article on youth bridge. Patty Tucker of the Atlanta area is promoting a youth NABC. The first one will be next year, and the second one will run concurrent with the DC NABC in 2009.

Ellen Rosenthal raised the idea of starting a youth-oriented online bridge room. Ellen also stated that the Bridge at Schools Committee is targeting middle schools. The Committee listened to taped sessions; we should try to get a copy of that tape and market it. Ellen has talked to six people, and made a presentation at Montgomery Village. Everybody is positive about the program. The Committee is working on lining up schools and volunteers. We need to find people who might be interested in volunteering. Clyde Kruskal stated that Mark Rosen is in charge of that, and the Committee should check with him.

Fred stated that we need more volunteers if we are now shifting toward targeting middle schools more than high schools.

Ellen stated that she contacted Julie Greenberg of ACBL, who sent us educational materials. The schools start programs in October. Fred suggested that Ellen confer with Ron Starr. Carole Banks suggested that we see if it is possible to hold a Saturday game at a school.

Other Business

The Board also discussed possible replacements for Shlomit Rind, who has moved away from the area.

Next Meeting

The next WBL Board meeting will be held September 19 at Donna Rogall's residence. Fred King will host on October 17. The November meeting will be held on November 14, location TBD.

The Board thanked Ellen Rosenthal for her hospitality.

Whereupon, the meeting adjourned at 10:50 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Richard Ferrin, Secretary

Minutes

WBL Board Meeting

September 19, 2007

The meeting was held at Donna Rogall's home.

In attendance: Carole Banks, Don Berman, Ellen Cherniavsky, Richard Ferrin, Jim Geist, Fred King, Clyde Kruskal, Linda Marshall, Steve Robinson, Ellen Rosenthal, and non-voting members Donna Rogall, Nadine Wood, and Ted Ying. Dave Hankins also attended a portion of the meeting.

President King called the meeting to order at 8:10 PM. He welcomed the Board's newest member, Jim Geist.

Secretary's Report

With one amendment, the Board approved the minutes from the September 2007 WBL Board meeting, without objection.

Treasurer's Report

Steve Robinson reported a balance of $8,657.51 in the WBL's checking account. The WBL has $36,833.30 in a money market account, as of June 30. Steve noted that he has obtained an ATM card from the Bank of America for the WBL's checking account. Ted Ying noted that the WBL netted $2,200 in the August sectional. Nadine Wood noted that the WBL should get another $2,000 for its next regional; this and other details are set forth in her Regional Report, which she will distribute to the Board. The Board approved the Treasurer's report, without objection.

October and January Sectionals

Nadine Wood reported that Dana is no longer helping her with shopping. She needs help Friday morning and Saturday morning loading, and Tuesday (Oct. 2) or Thursday (Oct. 4) shopping. Fred King said he would approach David Solomon regarding helping Nadine.

Nadine stated that Gary Grossman wants to run the Instant New Player Program. The Board should have the WBL underwrite the cost of renting the room. Ted Ying suggested asking the Gates Foundation for funding. They focus on high school and college, but we can ask them anyway. Ted also stated that the WBL should agree to cover expenses and a fee for Gary, and split anything over the breakeven point with Gary. In the alternative, we could negotiate a flat fee for him, and have the WBL pay for everything else. Fred King asked how many tables the Instant New Player Program attracted last time, and the fee charged. Ted replied that it drew 20-35 tables, and Steve's and Sandy's fee was about $150-$200. Ted also suggested that the Board appoint a liaison to Gary's program. Clyde Kruskal volunteered as liaison.

Nadine stated that we have finished the ad for the January sectional. We will have a cake for the new Life Masters. We need to get the Lovenberg, Cohen, and Tubbs trophies back. Sunday will feature a new team event, a bracketed Swiss. The Board then discussed the events for Friday nights of Sectionals, and settled on alternating between Barometer Pairs and IMP Pairs.

Request for Waiver from North American Pairs Eligibility Requirements

Nadine Wood stated that Millard Nachtwey forwarded a request by Raghavendra Rajkumar, who plays regularly with Prahalad Rajkumar. Raghavendra was in India during the Summer and was unable to qualify for the District Finals. He asked for an exception to be granted to allow him and Prahalad (who traveled with Raghavendra to India but was able to qualify just before the trip in June) permission to compete in the NAP district finals. Nadine noted that as

District 6 Director, this was her call, but she asked the Board's advice.

Steve Robinson opposed the request. He noted that when Peter Boyd was in the hospital with cancer, he didn't ask for an exception from the NAP qualifying requirements. Ted Ying agreed, noting that at a minimum, Raghavendra should have asked permission before he left for India.

Nadine stated that she would take these comments under advisement.

I-CARE

Dave Hankins spoke about an organization he chairs entitled the International Cancer Alliance for Research and Education (I-CARE). Its promotes a new approach to cancer treatment and research, with the goal to create an information flow to extend patients' lives. It involves doctors, scientists, and patients. I-CARE organizes communities around high schools and other groups, including bridge groups.

Steve Robinson suggested supporting I-CARE by holding a unit game in memory of Rossi Lindstrom, with donations on the side. Ted Ying commented that the WBL could convert a local unit game to a charity game any time, because we have already held a sufficient number of charity games for the ACBL. Ted suggested that the best date for such a game would be November 15. Steve moved to hold a charity game on November 15, dedicated to the memory of Rossi Lindstrom, with a portion of proceeds from the game going to I-CARE, plus a table set up at the game to accept additional donations. Richard Ferrin seconded the motion. The motion passed 9-1 (Ellen Cherniavsky dissenting).

Steve also suggested combining I-CARE with a Bridge-at-Schools pitch. Dave should speak with Ellen Rosenthal about this idea. Ellen explained to Dave that the WBL's Bridge-at-Schools program was an after-school program, where the WBL is working through school coordinators.

Novice Game Future

Ted Ying reported that we've had interim teachers teaching on Thursday night since the Forsythe's move from Washington. We have gotten plenty of feedback. We need a coordinator to make sure teaching is consistent. Ted suggested that Shawn Stringer coordinate the Thursday night novice game and lesson. Shawn would coordinate the teachers, and structure a curriculum. This would be a paid position. Ted suggested a fee of $150 per month for the coordinator, and $50 per week for the teacher. Shawn has gotten very positive feedback. Mary Baxter is willing to be an assistant every night.

Carole Banks moved to offer Shawn Stringer the position of coordinator for a fee of $150 per month. The teacher would be paid $75 per week, and the assistant would be paid $50 per week. The motion passed 9-1 (Clyde Kruskal dissenting).

Regarding the Sunday novice game, Ted stated that this should remain on hold until the Thursday night novice game is stabilized.

Bridge Brochure

Fred King noted that the Bridge brochure need to include the Tuesday night IMF game, and the Tuesday game at Guy Mason Center. The Guy Mason game is on the WBL's web site, but not in the brochure. Don Berman will contact the Wegmans regarding a brochure update.

Cheer & Sympathy

Fred King stated that Frances Burke inquired about the WBL's policy for sympathy when Rossi Lindstrom died. Fred appointed a committee consisting of Jim Geist and Linda Marshall to confer and make recommendations to the Board at the next meeting.

Bridge & Bowling

Fred King reported that Richard Veach volunteered to coordinate this event for 2008. This probably means that Laurel Lanes will be the bowling site again.

Bulletin

Donna Rogall stated that November 6 is the deadline for the November-December issue. That issue will advertise the January and March sectionals. Ted Ying noted that the B/C GNT district finals will be held on February 9-10.

Unit Game

Ted Ying explained that he had researched the cost of a new clock. A new clock would cost $395, with an additional $20 for a second hand. Ted reminded the Board that the old clock is starting to fail for some parts, and he wanted to have a new one ready to go when the old clock fails completely. Don Berman will order the clock.

Fred King stated that people are complaining about the condition of the cards. Ted stated that Allen Crank can replace the cards. Fred will confer with Allen Crank to replace the cards as necessary. Also, Fred noted that some of the boards are so worn that it is difficult to tell the dealer and vulnerability. Ellen Cherniavsky stated that Baron Barclay has sets of adhesive tabs to apply to boards. Ted Ying suggested coordinating with Allen Crank to work into his duplication schedule some fix for the boards (either tabs or hand painting). Fred suggested asking David Solomon to do it.

Next Year's Unit Game Schedule

Fred stated that we are awaiting a final draft from Doug Grove.

Bridge in Schools

Ellen Rosenthal stated that she held a meeting of 14 volunteers. Mark Rosen did a seminar on the Kitty Cooper method. We thought we would start with this. In Montgomery County, we have 10 middle schools, plus Tilden High School (where Mark taught). Montgomery County requires fingerprinting of all teachers, at a fee of $36. Ellen Cherniavsky suggested that the WBL pick up that cost, as well as the cost of supplies. Ellen Rosenthal replied that the ACBL has already paid him, and he used the money for supplies.

Ted Ying suggested that if we are doing this as a unit, we should ask the Gates Foundation to cover the cost of fingerprints and supplies. Ellen Rosenthal agreed, and noted that ACBL is cutting back stipends for volunteers. Ted Ying noted, however, that we are not talking about individual stipends.

Ellen Rosenthal stated that the ACBL provides a book and teaching manual. We need cards, card holders (because children's hands may be too small to hold 13 cards), plus the cost of fingerprint fees. Clyde Kruskal thought that card holders were an unnecessary expense. Ellen Rosenthal asked if we should have teachers pay for supplies out-of-pocket and have the WBL reimburse them. Ted Ying stated that he could purchase the cards.

Jim Geist asked if there were a specific number of students in each school. Ellen Rosenthal replied no, volunteers are assigned to schools, and will make their own assignments.

Ted Ying suggested that each volunteer be given advance authorization for out-of-pocket expenses up to $50 or some fixed number. Steve Robinson moved to reimburse reasonable fees of teachers in the program up to $75. Ellen Cherniavsky seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Fred King explained that to approach the Gates Foundation for funding, the WBL should approach Sharon Osberg through Dick Wegman.

Fred also suggested that Board members look at the Atlanta Regional notices on the Mid-Atlantic web site. The bulletins had lots of information regarding Bridge in Schools. Patty Tucker of Atlanta is willing to provide advice to us in our Bridge-At-Schools program. There will be a national school championship in 2008, with the second annual occurring in DC in conjunction with the Summer NABC. We should have a junior bridge championship in the March sectional.

Machlin Award

Fred King stated that 11 or 12 names have been mentioned for the Machlin award this year. The Committee consists of Fred King, Charlie Stenger, Millard Nachtwey, Carole Banks, and Ellen Cherniavsky. Fred asked the Board whether the Committee should consider posthumous nominations; Fred's view was that it should not. Steve Robinson moved to allow the Committee to consider posthumous nominations for the Machlin award. Clyde Kruskal seconded. The motion failed 2-6-2 (Ellen Rosenthal and Steve Robinson voting in favor, and Don Berman and Carole Banks abstaining).

ABA/ACBL Event

Carole Banks passed out a handout regarding possible dates for a joint event between the local units of the American Bridge Association and the ACBL. Carole moved to set the date as January 5, the first session Saturday of the January WBL sectional. Jim Geist seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Fred King suggested inviting an ABA member to the panel show between sessions. We should ask the ABA for a suggested panelist.

District 6 Election

The Board proceeded with the secret-ballot vote for District 6 Director. Ballots are returned sealed directly to Memphis.

Next Meeting

The next WBL Board meeting will be held October 17 at Fred King's house. The November meeting will be held on November 14, location TBD.

The Board thanked Donna Rogall for her hospitality.

Whereupon, the meeting adjourned at 10:55 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Richard Ferrin, Secretary

Minutes

WBL Board Meeting

October 14, 2007

The meeting was held at Fred King's home.

In attendance: Don Berman, Ellen Cherniavsky, Jim Geist, Fred King, Clyde Kruskal, Linda Marshall, Steve Robinson, Ellen Rosenthal, and non-voting members Donna Rogall and Nadine Wood.

President King called the meeting to order at 8:15 PM.

Secretary's Report

The Board approved the minutes from the September 2007 WBL Board meeting, without objection.

Treasurer's Report

Steve Robinson reported a balance of $13,762 in the WBL's checking account. The WBL has $36,833.30 in a money market account, as of June 30. The Board approved the Treasurer's report, without objection.

Sectionals

The Board discussed the events for Sundays of Sectionals. It was decided that we would wait for the reaction to the bracketed teams in January before deciding if we would have this event twice a year. In March a regular Swiss is planned, while in August there will be a Board-A-Match. The food theme in March will be Italian.

Cheer & Sympathy

Jim Geist and Linda Marshall presented a proposed alternative to the current policy, which is:

"Seriously ill member should be sent a card. The Chairperson is responsible for mailing such cards. In the case of the death of an active WBL member or anyone deemed appropriate by the Chairperson or the Board, the choice of a tribute not to exceed $50.00 should be left to the discretion of the Chairperson. Congratulatory cards arL members or anyone deemed appropriate when brought to the attention of the Chairperson, i.e., weddings, new arrivals, etc."

Suggestions were made for revisions to the proposed alternative, and Jim Geist and Linda Marshall agreed to present a revised version for consideration at the next meeting.

Bridge & Bowling

Richard Veach volunteered to coordinate the alley for 2008 but will not attend. The event will be held February 2nd and Laurel Lanes will be the bowling site. Don Berman will coordinate the dinner.

Bulletin

We will be holding a joint game with the ABA at the January 5 sectional. Carole Banks will supply information for the ad. Fred will supply information on the 0-20 game.

There was some discussion on including material such as limericks in the It Takes a Village column.

Unit Game

The new clock has been received and was used at the last Unit game. Cards will be replaced. Boards will be repainted: Barbara Shaw has volunteered to do this. Replacement cards for the 1C card in the bidding boxes will be ordered; this will be coordinated with Don Berman. Steve Robinson and Alan Crank will coordinate to get the dealing machine to Lee Jensen for cleaning.

The Christmas Party will be the 13th of December. Millard, Nadine and Kitty will be in charge.

Bridge in Schools

Ellen Rosenthal said that it is hard to know how things are going, as different schools have different start dates for after-school programs. She will report more next time. Nadine said that the ACBL's Bridge at Schools has about $12,000 earmarked for District 6. Volunteers should write down how much they paid and for what, e.g. fingerprinting and bid boxes, and they can be reimbursed from this fund.

Next Meeting

The next WBL Board meeting will be held November 14 at Linda Marshall's house. The December meeting will be held on either the 12th or 19th, location TBD.

The Board thanked Fred King for his hospitality.

Whereupon, the meeting adjourned at 9:48 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Ellen Cherniavsky, for Richard Ferrin, Secretary

Minutes

WBL Board Meeting

December 19, 2007

The meeting was held at Ellen Cherniavsky's home.

In attendance: Don Berman, Carole Banks, Ellen Cherniavsky, Richard Ferrin, Jim Geist, Fred King, Clyde Kruskal, Linda Marshall, Steve Robinson, Ellen Rosenthal, and non-voting member Donna Rogall.

President King called the meeting to order at 7:55 PM.

Secretary's Report

The Board approved the minutes from the November 2007 WBL Board meeting, without objection.

Treasurer's Report

Steve Robinson reported a balance of $13,517.74 in the WBL's checking account. The WBL has approximately $37,300 in an investment account. The Board approved the Treasurer's report, without objection.

Bridge and Bowling

Fred King stated that the date for Bridge and Bowling will stay February 2. Although a different date would have been better to avoid a conflict with the Baltimore sectional, the alternative January date did not work because a bowling alley was not available. 10 lanes have been reserved for 2 PM. We need to let the bowling alley know if will not have enough people to fill 10 alleys. Don Berman will take care of the dinner (at Sullivan's) and the bridge part.

Bulletin

Donna Rogall stated that January 22 is the next deadline. Steve Robinson noted that some advertisers still have not paid. Fred King stated that we need to make a better effort to collect. Ellen Rosenthal suggested adding a half-page ad to announce a school-wide tournament at the end of spring. Fred said that we will make room for it. Donna reported that Ted may do a unit game manager column. Clyde Kruskal suggested adding a historical column, such as an old column from Machlin or Cole.

Unit Game

Don Berman reported that the final unit game schedule for 2008 has been finalized and published. Copies are available for pickup at the unit game.

Calendar of Obligations

Don Berman noted that the Lovenberg, Cohen, Tubbs, and Woolridge trophies will be awarded at the January sectional. Steve Robinson noted that the Unit Knockout will begin in January. The format will be the same as last year.

Bridge in Schools

Ellen Rosenthal reported that she is checking with schools that did not begin programs in the Fall if they would be willing to begin programs in the Winter or Spring. There will be a county-wide tournament next Spring. She has gotten positive feedback in anticipation of the tournament. Fred King noted that there are two schools in southern

Virginia that have a program; perhaps a joint tournament in Richmond should be considered.

Fred asked if all of the participating schools were in Montgomery County. Don Berman noted that one of the schools, Eleanor Roosevelt, is in Prince George's County. Ellen then commented that we need a coordinator for the Bridge in Schools efforts in Prince George's County. Clyde Kruskal suggested Brad Tash, who teaches at Eleanor Roosevelt and occasionally plays at the unit game (along with Howard Tash).

Ellen stated that the program needs a scholarship fund, entries for tournaments, and teaching materials, including textbooks. She noted that ACBL is no longer providing books. Jim Geist asked whether District 6 could be asked to provide funds for winners from the local tournament to attend the national youth tournament in Atlanta. Barbara Summers is trying to contact the people associated with the Bill Gates foundation for bridge.

Cheer and Sympathy

The board considered revision of the WBL's cheer and sympathy policy. The existing policy is as follows:

Seriously ill members should be sent a card. The Chairperson is responsible for mailing such cards. In the case of the death of an active WBL member or anyone deemed appropriate by the Chairperson or the Board, the choice of a tribute not to exceed $50.00 should be left to the discretion of the Chairperson. Congratulatory cards are also sent to active WBL members or anyone deemed appropriate when brought to the attention of the Chairperson, i.e., weddings, new arrivals, etc.

Revision was suggested in previous board meetings. Linda Marshall summarized the suggested revision as follows:

Seriously ill members and members experiencing the death of a close family member should be sent a card. The Chairperson is responsible for mailing such cards. When appropriate, such a card may be brought to the unit game to give those in attendance an opportunity to add their good wishes to the card. In unusual cases involving the death of a WBL member who has contributed in a particularly significant manner to WBL, the Chairperson will send a tribute the value of which is not to exceed $___ [amount subject to further discussion] upon the approval of a member of the Executive Committee. Congratulatory cards are also sent to active WBL members or anyone deemed appropriate when brought to the attention of the Chairperson, i.e., weddings, new arrivals, etc.

Fred King relayed a recommendation from Ted Ying that sympathy tributes should not be limited to WBL members per se, but should reflect persons, WBL members or not, who contributed in a significant manner to the WBL. Fred and Ellen Cherniavsky jointly proposed that the cap on the tribute be set at $100. Richard Ferrin seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The new policy reads as follows:

Seriously ill members and members experiencing the death of a close family member should be sent a card. The Chairperson is responsible for mailing such cards. When appropriate, such a card may be brought to the unit game to give those in attendance an opportunity to add their good wishes to the card. In unusual cases involving the death of an individual who has contributed in a particularly significant manner to WBL, the Chairperson will send a tribute the value of which is not to exceed $100 upon the approval of a member of the Executive Committee.

Congratulatory cards are also sent to active WBL members or anyone deemed appropriate when brought to the attention of the Chairperson, i.e., weddings, new arrivals, winning the Spingold, etc.

New Business

Regarding the upcoming January sectional, Don Berman stated that Nadine Wood will order the cake for new Life Masters. Linda Marshall suggested having a third cake saying "Welcome ABA". Fred King noted that the first Saturday session will be a joint game with the ABA. We should promote the event and encourage WBL members to play in the event with ABA members. Carole Banks stated that we are having trouble getting an ABA member to

participate as a panelist in the panel show between games. She will ask an ABA representative to speak before or after the session, to discuss the ABA, its schedule, and promote its games.

Membership Directory

Don Berman stated that the NVBA proposes a joint directory with the WBL. Lucy McCoy sent him a list of NVBA members. The board then discussed the split of expenses. Don will check on the prices for the directory and send an e-mail to the board. Fred King proposed a 50-50 split for the cost of generating the joint directory.

Building Fund

Steve Robinson promised to send materials to the board concerning this issue.

Compensation for Donna Rogall

The board considered Donna's request for an adjustment in compensation for preparing the Bulletin. The Board agreed to adjust Donna's compensation to $202 plus $19 per page. The Board will review this compensation every two years.

Next Meeting

The next WBL Board meeting will be held January 23, 2008 at Clyde Kruskal's house. The February meeting will be hosted by Carole Banks on February 20.

The Board thanked Fred King for his hospitality.

Whereupon, the meeting adjourned at 10:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Richard Ferrin, Secretary