WBL Board of Directors Meeting

May 17, 2017

The meeting was held at Ellen Cherniavsky's home.

In attendance were: voting members Ellen Cherniavsky, Linda Marshall, Lloyd Rawley, Clyde Kruskal, Carole Banks, Rose Berman, Charles Dearolf and Hadi Abushakra; and non-voting members Donna Rogall and Brad Theurer.

President Ellen Cherniavsky called the meeting to order at 7:30.

Secretary's Report

The minutes of the March 2017 meeting were approved with several changes proposed by Ellen. These changes have since been incorporated in the text of the minutes and a revised version has been approved for distribution to the voting and non-voting members of the Board of Directors.

Treasurer's Report

Rose Berman's Treasurer report was accepted. Rose explained that the unit is losing money, mainly on account of declining attendance at Sectionals. Rose asked members of the Budget Sub-Committee for ideas on how to improve the unit's financial situation. A meeting to discuss these ideas has been set for Thursday, June 15, 2017, at Ohr Kodesh.

Unit Game Report

Given the absence of Chris Miller, this item was not discussed.

Bulletin Report

Donna Rogall reported that Melanie Manfield has agreed to take over from Vince Wilmot as the NLM contributor to the Bulletin. Vince has decided to step down on account of his demanding work schedule.

Tournament Committee Report

The Tournament Committee Report was accepted. Brad Theurer briefed the meeting on certain key recommendations of the report, especially those concerning WBL Sectionals which include: (a) to continue the Friday night session indefinitely,

featuring the IMP Teams/Pairs event, plus the NLM Pairs, (b) to continue to offer the two-for-one discount to the NLM pairs; (c) to continue to offer guaranteed teammates for the IMP Teams/Pairs (by drawing on an NLM pair to fill in, if necessary); and (d) to continue granting free plays for players with fewer than 5 master points (with this showing in the tournament flyer).

Pertinent information set out in the report includes: (a) the fact that there was a substantial drop-off in attendance at the January Sectional's Saturday afternoon game, compared to the same day at the January 2016 Sectional, and (b) a recommendation by the Tournament Committee to let this experiment continue for the rest of 2017 and re-evaluate it only after the January 2018 Sectional.

The Board resolved to discuss the details of the report at a Sub-Committee meeting.

Use of Pianola for Tournament Publicity

Brad Theurer explained that the unit has a free trial of the Pianola software until the end of 2017. The idea is to test this product and decide if we should pay to acquire it. Pianola is an ACBL marketing tool that allows districts and units to provide notifications to members through "email blasts". The Board approved Brad's experimenting with Pianola, with Alex's assistance.

Website Committee Report

Lloyd Rawley and Alex Gerstinger explained that they have looked at alternative sites to replace the current website. One is BridgeWebs, a UK site geared for bridge clubs and charges a fee based on the average number of tables. A move to BridgeWebs would cost the unit about $200 per year. The Board decided to try BridgeWebs for three months before committing to buying it.

Recruitment of New Treasurer for May 2018 Election

Ellen stated that she will ask Barbara Ames for advice on a suitable candidate to replace Rose Berman as Treasurer. Ellen formed a Treasurer Search Committee consisting of Rose Berman, Linda Marshall and Barbara Ames, if the latter can help out.

Policy Committee Planning

Ellen asked Linda Marshall and Hadi Abushakra to review all of the WBL policies with a view to ensuring that they reflect current practice. Linda and Hadi undertook to brief the Board periodically on their review and bring amended policies to the Board for approval in small chunks.

No Entry Fee for Players with 0-5 Master Points

The Board agreed to a policy amendment that allows players with 0-5 master points to pay no entry fee.

New Committee Assignments

The following new committee assignments were decided:

- **0-20 Game Committee:** Clyde Kruskal (Chair), Rose Berman, Alex Gretsinger, Julie Marquette, Isabelle Thabault, Donna Rogall

  0-20 Game Coordinator: Isabelle Thabault

  Awards: Ellen Cherniavsky (chair), Hadi Abushakra, Don Berman

  Board: Ellen Cherniavsky—*President,* Linda Marshall—*Vice President,* Rose Berman—*Treasurer*, Hadi Abushakra—*Secretary,* Carole Banks ('19), Clyde Kruskal ('19), Chuck Dearolf ('19), Eileen Inglesby-Houghton ('18), Alex Gretsinger ('18), Lloyd Rawley ('18)

  Bulletin Committee: Donna Rogall (chair/editor), Rose Berman, Hadi Abushakra, Eileen Inglesby-Houghton

  Caddies: Clyde Kruskal

  Calendar of Obligations: Linda Marshall (chair), Donna Rogall, Chuck Dearolf

  Charity Committee: Linda Marshall

  Cheer & Sympathy: Eileen Inglesby-Houghton

  Club Relations Committee: Charles Dearolf (chair), Ellen Cherniavsky, Mark Lavine

  Conduct and Ethics Committee: Lloyd Rawley (chair), Rose Berman, Clyde Kruskal, Jane Dolkart ('18), David Fleischer ('18), Don Berman ('18), Barbara Ames ('19), Peter Boyd ('19), Dick Wegman ('19)

  Elections Committee: Jim Allen (chair), Hadi Abushakra, Ellen Cherniavsky

  Electronic Communications: Alex Gretsinger (chair), Don Berman, Steve Robinson

  Executive Committee: Ellen Cherniavsky (chair), Rose Berman, Linda Marshall, Clyde Kruskal

  GNT Coordinator: Ellen Cherniavsky

Historian: Peter Boyd

Holiday Party Committee: Clyde Kruskal (chair), Rose Berman, Jim Geist, Linda Marshall, Chris Miller

Liaison to Educational Foundation: Hadi Abushakra

Machlin Sportsmanship Award Committee: Paul Leopold (chair), Bob Bell, Barbara Doran (filling in for Audrey Marbach), Dick Wegman, Carole Banks, (& the Unit Game Chief Director has veto power)

Membership Secretary: Eileen Inglesby-Houghton

NAP Coordinator: Ellen Cherniavsky

Ombudsman: Adrienne Kuehneman

Parliamentarian: Hadi Abushakra

Partnerships: Barbara Doran

Policy Maintenance Committee: Linda Marshall (chair), Ellen Chermiavsky, Chris Miller, Hadi Abushakra, Barbara Doran, Donna Rogall

Publicity, Marketing, and Membership Growth & Retention: Alex Gretsinger (chair), Donna Rogall, Charity Sack, Linda Marshall, Hadi Abushakra, Eileen Inglesby-Houghton, Julie Marquette

Round Robin Committee: Dave Ruderman (chair), Bill Cole, Chuck Dearolf, Barbara Doran, Barry Falgout, Matt Lahut, David Marshall, Steve Robinson

Scheduling: Clyde Kruskal (chair), Barbara Doran, Chris Miller, Ted Ying

Tournament Committee: Carole Banks (chair), Tournament Chair: Brad Theurer, NLM Tournament Chair: Julie Marquette, Ellen Cherniavsky, Clyde Kruskal, Chris Miller, Lloyd Rawley, Donna Rogall, Coordinator: Bill Cole, Manager: Mike Zane, Partnerships: Barb Doran

Unit Game Chief Director: Chris Miller

Unit Game Committee: Clyde Kruskal (chair), Rose Berman, Chris Miller, Chuck Dearolf

Unit Game Manager: Chris Miller

Unit Recorder: Bob Bell

Ways and Means Committee: Rose Berman, Treasurer (chair), Ellen Cherniavsky, Lloyd Rawley, Carole Banks, Hadi Abushakra, Barbara Ames

Web Committee: Alex Gretsinger (chair), Lloyd Rawley, Don Berman, Donna Rogall

Web Master: Don Berman, Alex Gretsinger

Next Meeting

The next Board meeting will be held on Wednesday, June 21st, at Rose's home.