

Maine Bridge Association

Board of Directors Meeting

January 27, 2023

In Attendance: David Magee, David Waterman, Dorothy Kelleher, Stephen Kolkhorst, Russell Glidden, David Lindley, Audrey Thirkell, Dan Morgenstern, Ruth Kenney, Paul Sherman, Kathleen Martino, Patricia Damon, Sally Magee, Fred Letourneau, Horace Gower, and Karen Mooney.

At 4 PM, Dave opened the Zoom meeting. He stated our primary objective is to establish our tournament schedule for the 2023 year.

Treasurer's Report

Steve reports a cash balance on January 1, 2022, of \$29,314.00. We incurred a loss of \$485 and \$253 for August and September Portland tournaments. In addition we received 11% ACBL reimbursement for membership fees. Present balance \$29,986.

Tournament Schedule Discussion

Dave opened discussion regarding 2023 tournament schedule. Historically, we have had six tournaments (Spring Tonic Portland, Downeast/Tarbox Rockport, Central Maine Hallowell, Lobsterfest Portland, Indian Summer Portland, Eastern Maine Hamden) and the Maine State Championship.

In the past we have had many tournaments. Our group has diminished, so we need to cut down on sectionals, and not clear if Bangor wants one. We should consider having fewer per year plus the state championship. Dottie

Roger had difficulty finding hosts. Can we find hosts? Pat

Regarding Portland tournaments, I hosted one and will continue; I believe we can find coverage for the second. Karen

Camden is well attended, well supported by clubs, should stay. However, the school will no longer host. The school was recently renovated and no longer rents space. Ruth

With 60% of prior attendance, I think we will lose about \$1400 at Camden. It's about \$1500 total for director, ACBL fees, travel, hospitality, caddies, etc. Total depends upon rent. Steve

We have difficulty finding venues that cost less than \$400 to \$600. Russ

We can get the same deal at Woodfords as last year. They are willing to reduce table fee until numbers rise. Dave

We're looking at losses. Our opinion is that we should continue to hold tournaments. Russ and Steve

I don't have a lot of information at this time but the ACBL is trying to address the problem of small tournaments. It is possible it may not require an ACBL Tournament Director on site but use the TD to send the results to the ACBL for a small fee (\$50). Horace

Regarding miscellaneous tournament expenses (hospitality, caddies, etcetera) the major costs of a tournament are rent and director's fees. If we can reduce those, we will be okay. Not much else can be eliminated. Steve

Hosts are given about \$300 for food, coffee, etc. We usually spend around \$200. Although we facilitate getting lunches, people pay for those on their own. Karen

Last year we voted to increase registration costs to \$12 per session for sectionals. Dottie

Portland is most affordable, but we don't want to have all tournaments there. We need to have them spread out throughout the district. Augusta has interest, but rent may not be affordable. The ice arena in Hallowell was suggested but unclear if available. Pat and Dan

To summarize, it seems we might have two or three tournaments in Portland plus Camden and Augusta. Bangor does not seem interested. Dave

Dave called for a vote for a total of five Sectional Maine tournaments in 2023. The vote to support was unanimous.

Dave and Russ opened a discussion on tournament dates noting that any dates selected today would be tentative, subject to site availability and schedule clashes.

Comments - Early March is questionable because of weather; April may be good because snow birds return; avoid Mother's Day; attendance often increases when there is a Friday night session however this has not happened in Maine for many years.

Possible dates for State Sectional Tournaments:

Portland: March 25/26

Portland: August 12/13

Portland: September 9/10 or possibly move to October.

Rockland: May 20/21

Hallowell: July or August

Dave suggested putting off discussion of the State Championship until a later date. The full Board approval was received on tentative dates.

Dave suggested we start sending March tournament information a.s.a.p.

Old Business

1/27/23

Steve reports that in the past some Board members received stipends. These stipends were suspended during Covid. It was voted unanimously to eliminate all stipends. No person however should incur any out of pocket costs.

Paul mentioned that the last State tournament plaque included an incorrect name.

Dave adjourned the meeting at 5:07 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Mooney, with assistance from David Lindley

1.27.23