

The Villages Duplicate Bridge Club Minutes April 24, 2018 Board Meeting

Call to Order: Bob Matthews called the meeting to order at 4:30 pm at Carol Ketter's home because of no rooms available at a recreation center.

Members Present: Alex Booke, Donna Brown, Carol Ketterer, Jeff Koltenuk, Bob Matthews, Beverly Parrish, and Gordon Pfeiffer. **Guests:** Rick Gauthier, Mike Lotti, Paul Matheson, and Charlie Showalter.

Minutes from Previous Meeting: The minutes of the March 24, 2018 meeting were unanimously approved.

Financial Report: Mike Lotti presented the monthly financial report. March finished with a net gain of approximately \$790. The first quarter showed a net gain of \$1604 which flowed into the Members' Reserve. The table count in March was 1592.5 compared to 1432 in March of 2017, an 11% increase. Year to date the table count is 4711 tables compared to 4290 in 2017 for a growth rate of 9.8%. The IRS form that the VDBC must file has changed from 990EZ to 990 because of an increase in gross revenues. The form will be sent to the board for a final review and filed prior to the May 15 deadline.

Head Director's Report: Rick Gauthier has met with two members who are considering becoming directors and will hold the classes in the near future. Marilyn Schmidt, who Rick knew in Massachusetts, will become a director for the club and will direct the Wednesday morning game. Caroline Davies will direct the Laurel Manor limited game on Monday afternoon and Janet Matthews will direct the Lake Miona open game on Saturday afternoon. Rick has decided that games with 16 or more tables will be split into two sections with a by-stand and relay when needed. This makes the game more equitable as more boards can be played and each pair plays as many other pairs as possible. The Zero Tolerance card situation has been reviewed and these will be purchased and placed in all boxes.

Compensation: Rick Gauthier did an excellent study of director compensation across the state of Florida. Many options were discussed at length as well as how many directors go "an extra mile" by providing food, teaching before or after games, coordinating schedules, etc. The decision to have a \$3 increase in the base pay was changed to increase the salary by \$10 from original base for directors. The additional pay for tables greater than 13 remains the same. There will be a maximum of \$120 per game with salary and extra table fees. This change will take effect on May 1st.

Compensation for Webmaster and Club Recorder: Tom Bush does an excellent job as webmaster for the VDBC and after discussion the decision was made to provide compensation of \$100 per month for his work. He will no longer receive free plays since he will now receive a salary. This is effective retroactively to March 1, 2018. The Club Recorder compensation was tabled until the free play policy is discussed at the next meeting.

Incorporation of VDBC: Alex Boone, Bob Matthews and Charlie Showalter met with Pam Henry of the Villages Recreation Department about incorporation. There is no liability protection provided by the recreation department. Pam indicated that The Villages has no problem with our club incorporation plans and indicated that several other “clubs” in The Villages are already incorporated. It was determined that attorney fees for handling incorporation would be approximately \$1000. Alex Boone as Club Manager can handle filing the incorporation with a status of 501(c)(7) with minimal fees.

Regional Tournament and Desk for Rohan and Southern Section VDBC Games: Charlie Showalter also discussed our desire to host a Regional Tournament with Pam Henry. She will check with the Entertainment Department to see if they will consider the ACBL paying that department the fees for hosting a tournament. Pam was also asked about the desk for Rohan but no final decision has been made. Pam was also asked for clarification about what The Villages expects as to games in the southern sections of The Villages. They do not want a game there until the regional recreation center is completed. They would like us to provide lessons there in the fall to introduce bridge to residents there.

Upcoming Sectionals: Bob Matthews has sent the flyer to top ten closest bridge clubs. Claudette Fraime will be in charge of the food this year at the open sectional. The ACBL asked for the non-member fee to be added to flyers for the Open and Limited Sectionals.

Other Business: Future Membership Appreciation Weeks were tabled until Mike Lotti can determine how this revenue loss affects the VDBC in light of the recent salary increases etc.

The Longest Day Fund Raiser for The Alzheimer’s Association in conjunction with the ACBL will take place after the Open Sectional and continue until Wednesday, June 20th. Tickets will be sold for \$5 each or \$10 for 3 tickets. Half the proceeds will be given to the winning ticket holders and the other half will go to The Alzheimer’s Association.

A guest speaker for 2019 is still to be determined. Several suggestions were made and Alex Boone and Bob Matthews are contacting prospective speakers.

Alex Boone will contact Pam Henry about a date for the Savannah Center for the Spring Gala in 2019.

Rick Gauthier will contact The Daily Sun about publishing an article about the VDBC being the second largest bridge club in the United States.

The ACBL is changing the convention charts for tournaments but the conventions allowed for the formal club chart probably will not change. Therefore, this should not affect our club games here at the VDBC.

Next Meeting: The next meeting of the Board will be June 2, 2018 at 9:30 am. The meeting to follow that will be July 14, 2018 at 9:30 am. Both meetings at a site to be determined. The meeting was adjourned at 6:15 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Beverly Parrish, Secretary

Addendum: An electronic reservation system that is in the development stages for future use was discussed. After a demonstration for board members at a later date, the decision was made to pilot the system at a very limited number of games in order to have member and director input. A decision as to the use of this system for all games will be made after the input is gathered and evaluated.