

**Richmond Bridge Association
Unit 109
Board of Directors Meeting
March 31, 2011**

Board Members Present: Paul Anderson, Steve Chaplin, Stuart Clayman, Richard Deyerle, Harry Gellis, Ed Kinlaw, Linda MacCleave, Pat McDermott, Paul McGowan, Ruth Miles, and Peggy Ward.

Board Members Absent: Ellen Hartenberg.

Other Unit Members Attending: George Lewis and Alice Prior.

Peggy called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m., thanked Paul for hosting the meeting, and welcomed Alice Prior and thanked her for meeting with us.

Sectionals. Peggy spoke about the Moose Lodge, where we currently hold our Sectionals, as a place which for some time has been wonderful logistically and has been very accommodating to us in many ways, including storing our tables and providing any supplies that we might need. However, some people don't find it aesthetically pleasing, and we are growing to the point where on Saturday morning at our last Sectional, when we had 40+ tables, there were problems with available space, as well as tables and chairs. The Moose Lodge has given some indication of problems handling the large numbers with the parking situation as well. Peggy expressed the need to look around for options. One option she looked into was The Comfort Suites at Innsbrook, which would meet our needs, but they are unwilling to accommodate us at this time or to lock in. Another alternative is at the condominium community, Ginter Place, where Alice and David Prior live.

Alice provided information about Ginter Place, the renovated Richmond Memorial Hospital on Westwood Avenue. Two rooms are available; one is a large room about 50 by 50, and the other one is about one half that size. Both of these rooms, along with and a visitor's suite, could be used for free as long as one of the residents reserves it and would be there the entire time. Several issues were discussed. (1) There are only two bathrooms with single seats across from the meeting room, and two others could be made available, for a total of four. There is also the possibility of using one of the vacant condos with two bathrooms. (2) While there is plenty of parking available, handicapped parking is a bit of a problem as an access card is needed to enter the space, but Alice assured us that it can be accommodated. (3) Free storage space would be available for tables and chairs, but they would have to be transported back and forth between the Moose Lodge and Ginter Place, and chairs would have to be purchased or rented (we now

use chairs from the Moose Lodge--the tables belong to us). George suggested that some of the tables need to be replaced and maybe we should look into replacing them, ten at a time. (4) We would probably have to pay someone to set up and take down the tables and chairs as well as clean up afterwards; however, money would be available since there is no daily charge to use the space. (5) The owner and real estate agent did not want to commit to more than one time to see how it goes. (6) Tournament dates have to be given months ahead of time, so there is a problem with not knowing in advance about scheduling sites for future Sectionals.

There was considerable discussion about whether or not to try Ginter Place for one of the upcoming Sectionals. The pros and cons of trying out with a small NLM Sectional as opposed to the very large January Open Sectional were discussed, along with the issue of meeting the deadline for scheduling a second one without knowing whether or not Ginter Place would be available. George stated that he thought that the Moose Lodge would probably be willing to accommodate us if we needed to go back . **It was moved by Linda and seconded by Ed that we try the September NLM Sectional at Ginter Place. The motion was carried.** In regard to the January Sectional, Steve suggested that we lock in the date at the Moose Lodge in case Ginter Place does not work out. Peggy will give Alice the September and January dates for Ginter Place. **The logistics of the NLM Sectional at Ginter Place will be on the agenda of our next meeting.** Harry volunteered to investigate the rental of chairs, and George will get more information on the purchase of replacement tables.

Treasurer's Report. Richard had emailed the financial reports to the Board. He distributed copies of the Balance Sheet and P & L Statement. Several questions were raised. (1) Regarding the \$1100 for Christmas Mother Rent, Richard explained that the amount includes expenses other than rent and will look at the details to provide information about the specific expenses. (2) Regarding Christmas Mother printing costs, he noted the difference between cost for the small postcard sent for the May Dinner meeting and the larger one sent out for Christmas Mother dinners and asked George the difference in pricing. George agreed to look into it. (3) In response to Peggy's question about the difference between the net income reported on the two statements, Richard explained that different fiscal years are used. Peggy suggested that the same fiscal year be used for both financial statements. (4) About RBA income, Richard explained that it shows any money that is put in the bank and the amount deposited is net of hospitality expense. Hospitality is shown only if there is a check written for it. Richard explained that the amounts on the financial statements match what is on the bank statements, so there is no hidden money. He further noted that while his accounting system is kept simple so that it is easy to audit, it does not do a good job of breaking it down into categories.

May Meeting and Game. Peggy referenced the email she sent out regarding providing dinner this year at the May Meeting, and there were enough positive responses to go ahead with dinner at the Moose Lodge as a compromise between using The Place with a full dinner and The Moose Lodge with primarily desserts and drinks. She stated that she wanted to bring it up for discussion by the Board because she had some dissents, and some options were offered. Harry brought up the issue that it was decided by the Finance Committee that we would not subsidize the food, and Paul M. further explained that the Financial Committee decided not to subsidize meals and the Board agreed. If we subsidize the meal, it would have to come out of the budget and not surplus. Peggy remarked that we do subsidize food at every event so it is really a matter of the amount of the subsidy. **Pat moved that we have pizza and desserts at the May Meeting, and Steve seconded the motion. After discussion about the pros and cons of providing pizza or dessert or dinner, the motion was amended to have pizza, dessert, soft drinks, tea, and coffee at the May Meeting supplied by the Moose Lodge at an expense of about \$500, and the motion was carried.**

Finance Committee Report. Paul M. reported that the committee has not met since our last meeting. He has gotten a call from Mimi, and The Bridge Center expressed interest in taking us up on the offer for a dealing machine. She was given contact phone numbers and indicated a willingness to talk with the contacts. We might have to provide her with an extension on time, but that is no problem. Peggy has sent information to every club manager she was given a name for, but Linda expressed concern that some directors, including Paul Anderson, did not get the email. Peggy will make sure that all managers get the information by sending the email to Linda and Paul for their review for any persons that were missed.

GNT Report. Paul A. reported that the games are over, and Peggy reported that we had more people in the "C" strata registered to play at the Southern site than the Northern site had on the Friday before the event.

Goodwill & Membership Committee Report. Pat reported that there were seven cards sent out in January, four cards in February, and four cards in March. Congratulations were sent to Marguerite Crews (Silver LM) and Geoffrey Mallette (Diamond LM). The welcome packet was a problem because she did not have time to make up 20 easy score sheets and laminate them, and we did not have an I/N Newsletter. She made calls to people and gave them Linda's site, and left messages for people to call her. Instead of doing easy score, Bob MacCleave is supposed to order pamphlets, "How to Be a Good Partner", to be included. Linda will check on whether or not they have been ordered. Pat gave thanks to Ann Burrus for donating a large number of cards.

Charity Month & Games Report. Harry reported that April is ACBL charity month, and he will come up with a schedule for other charities. Linda reminded us of the extra dollar for the RBA monthly game has been designated for charity, and suggested that we keep track of how much we have accrued and then give it to a charity at the end of the year.

I/N Committee Report. Stuart reported that he and Debra are in the process of looking at the purchase of a bookcase. It does not need to be enclosed--just needs shelves. Because of limited space--it needs to be 48-50 inches wide. Harry volunteered to donate a bookcase. It was noted that we have tons of books. Stanley has about 200 to give. Ed agreed to take over the newsletter, noting that there are lots of good things to report, for instance Nancy Golden's top ranking nationally. Linda volunteered to help get the newsletter out. Stuart expressed the need for an I/N partnership chair; however, Linda informed us that partners are always provided in the Tuesday and Sunday games. If no partner is available, Linda (Sunday) or Richard (Tuesday) will play.

Regional Report. George informed us that all jobs at the Regional had been filled and that hospitality will be provided for people only on the day that they are working. If anyone wants to set up a vendor's table, they must get in touch with George.

Educational Liaison Report. Ed reported that the new Friendly Bridge class started on Sunday evenings a couple of weeks ago with 47 people and was up to 54 the second week. Things are going well, and there are lots of helpers. During the first few weeks, extra helpers are needed for people who have not played bridge before. Sanctioned games begin the fifth week of class, and people who are social bridge players can come in at any time and play. The time is 6-8:30. The classes start in mid-March and mid-September for about 20 lessons. A decision has not been made on when to start the Saturday morning workshops due to the Hampton Roads Trophy, Regional, and other considerations.

Hampton Roads Trophy. Ed reported that we are set to defend the Hampton Roads Trophy. There are four brackets: open; under 2000; under 1000; and, NLM. He has already filled one of the "B" teams, and has a standing team with Mark Rosenbloom and George who did not get to play last year. No other efforts have been made to find teams. The game will be held in Williamsburg, near the Kingsmill Marriott. Unit 109 will pay the entry fees for the players, and free lunches will be provided. The Sectionally rated game is a contest against two other units from Hampton roads. It is a one-session event, beginning at noon and lasting 3 to 3 1/2 hours. We won last year! Persons interested in playing should let Ed know--he will not play. Four Board members expressed an interest in being on one of the teams.

Other Business. Paul reported that he has been approached by Stanley, and Stanley is getting tired of being the Recorder. George explained that the recorder handles complaints only for our Unit games, not for other club games. Peggy will talk with Stanley because she is the one who asked him to stay.

The next meeting is scheduled for June 2 at 6:30 p.m. at Ellen Hartenberg's if the date is convenient for her. If not, Harry has volunteered to host the meeting.

Adjournment at 8:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ruth Miles, Secretary