

**Richmond Bridge Association
Unit 109
Board of Directors Meeting
August 12, 2010**

Board Members Present: Stuart Clayman, Richard Deyerle, Harry Gellis, Ellen Hartenberg, Ed Kinlaw, Linda MacCleave, Pat McDermott, Ruth Miles, Peggy Ward.

Members absent: Paul Anderson, Steve Chaplin, Linda Seamster.

Other Unit Members Attending: George Lewis, Paul McGowan.

Guest Attending: Margot Hennings, Candidate for District 6 Representative to the ACBL Board.

Peggy called the meeting to order at 7:10, welcomed everyone, and thanked Ellen for hosting the meeting.

District 6 Director Election: Margot Hennings was introduced by Peggy. Margot provided information about the election process and highlights of her involvement with her unit and with District 6. She indicated that the election packet should arrive soon and gave the pros and cons of the two methods of voting (individual or block at a meeting). Peggy indicated that Unit 109 had selected individual ballots so each person could vote but emphasized the importance that a majority of our Board members must vote or the Unit loses it's vote.

Margot informed us that the voting period begins August 15 and ends around the beginning of October. She passed out her bridge resume and talked about her love for doing the national as well as sectionals and her involvement at all levels.

Margot gave additional information about district and unit operation within the ACBL. She complimented Richmond on our I/N and Friendly Bridge programs. Margot also gave information about the money in Bridge in Schools available from District 6. Margot also gave information on district organization. She distributed a printout from the ACBL website with information about the 25 districts and 5 regional districts and a list of types of committees and things they do.

Since we elected to vote individually, Peggy asked members to email Ruth and let her know when their ballots have been mailed.

Treasurer's Report. Richard distributed copies of the financial statements. He then responded to questions that had been raised at the last meeting about the previous statements. In response to the question regarding the differences in the amounts reported on the balance sheet (net income of \$732.08) and profit and loss statement (net loss of \$2,106.72), Richard explained that the difference is because the amounts are based on different time periods. In response to the question regarding the Christmas Mother and May dinners showing revenue less than expenses, even though there may be other contributions in the line item for the Christmas Mother Dinner, Richard explained that revenue is always less than expenses for these two events and, therefore, a loss is expected.

The question was raised whether or not money from unit charity games can be given to the Christmas Mother. George explained that the December dinner money does not go to the Christmas Mother. There is a donation can at the front for donations and the Unit pays additional money needed to fund the contribution to make it \$2000.

There were questions about the entries for rent at \$2,000 and the Bridge Center monthly fee of \$11,333.31, in light of the new deal. Richard explained that there was an extra \$833 over that period that should have been put in the month before. Other differences exist because we also pay \$50 for "What's Trumps" every other month.

In response to a question concerning website expenses listed as \$134, when it was thought that Linda was only getting \$25, Linda explained that she receives \$100 a year, not \$25 per month. The \$34 is for items such as the domain name. Linda contributed her time. In response to the Board's offer to pay her \$50 per month, she has agreed to accept \$20 per month beginning July 2010. The fees for the domain name and hosting will now be paid by Linda. Richard will send out the treasurer's report every month using PDF files.

NAP/GNT Games. In Paul's absence, Peggy gave the report on North American Pair Games. The playoffs will be held on Oct. 23-24 at the Tuckahoe Moose Lodge for B & C strata. Stratum A playoffs will still be held in Northern Virginia. Lots of people in our unit qualified and are interested in playing. There are 141 qualifications in C, 61 in B, and 73 in A. A check for \$50 made payable to District 6 should be given to Paul or placed in an envelope and given to any club manager at the Bridge Center in order to participate. Fredericksburg can mail in the checks, if interested.

Margot suggested using an email blast to remind people. George suggested that we get someone to use the directory to create an email list to send to all members with email addresses. Paul McGowan volunteered to use the spreadsheet from the directory and pull email addresses to send out the reminders.

Goodwill Committee Report. Pat passed around a list of the persons who had received cards from the Goodwill Committee and gave examples of expressions of appreciation given by the recipients. Twenty cards had been sent, only four through US mail, the others were sent through email and were animated. The privacy issue was noted by Richard as the possibility of sending the list of recipients to the board members was considered, and it was decided that the list should just remain with the committee. It was suggested that information be put in the Newsletter to let Pat know about illnesses, bridge achievements, bereavements, etc. as was done in the most recent "What's Trumps."

The issue of keeping a list of deceased members and reporting them to ACBL was discussed, and it was decided that the Goodwill Committee should keep this list and give the names to Stanley and Ruth. Ruth will be responsible for reporting the information to ACBL.

Membership Committee Report. Pat reported that the In and Out Report is used as a source of information about the status of members. Becky Duty is helping Pat on the committee, and Toni Morton will also be helping. Helen Moran, Ellen Hollands, Ruth, and Mark Gospenetic also offered to help.

It was moved by Stuart and seconded by Pat that a welcome packet with a free play for the unit, the directory, a welcome letter with URL, and a little score card be sent out to new members. The motion was carried.

It was suggested that the packets also be available at the Bridge Center. Pat suggested mailing the directory to people who can't get to the Bridge Center to pick up one.

Pat and Peggy discussed the issue of people listed on the In and Out Report as being behind in their dues. The committee decided not to contact these people, as they are notified once a month for three months in a row by ACBL and reminded again the fourth month after their membership expires. Most pay by the end of three months or once they find out their membership has expired.

Stuart wanted to know if we can do corrections to the directory once a quarter. Peggy informed him that Paul Anderson is doing a correction sheet and suggested that Stuart get with him.

Unit Game Hospitality Report. Peggy gave the report in Linda Seamster's absence. She reported that \$77 was spent for the August 14 unit game, and lots of food was left over. She indicated a need to scale down some. In July \$137 was spent for two games, one of which was cancelled. There is no limit on how much to spend. Peggy suggested smoothing it out so we don't have so much at our monthly unit games and nothing at the Sunday and Tuesday games. Peggy and Linda MacCleave complimented Linda

Seamster on the great job she does (great homemades). Peggy suggested that Linda get a committee, that it's too much for one person.

Unit 109 Name. Inasmuch as the unit represents more than Richmond, Pat suggested that the name be changed, and Margot said we have the authority to do this and suggested that we make it a board decision.

It was moved by Linda MacCleave and seconded by Richard that we explore changing the name of The Richmond Bridge Association to The Central Virginia Bridge Association, effective June 2011, with the caveat that we have to explore logistically what we have to do to make that happen. The motion was carried. Stuart will do the exploration.

Charity Games Report. Harry informed us that we can only have four charity games a year. We can have as many unit games as we want. Charity games cost the unit \$7.00 per table, while unit championships cost less than \$2.00 per table and give double masterpoints. Harry suggested that we run these when we don't have charity games. It was suggested that the entry fee be raised from \$5.00 to \$7.00 and every month give the extra \$2.00 to charity. Linda wants to keep Friendly Bridge at \$5.00. It was suggested that it be advertised and that every unit game will give \$2.00 to charity.

It was moved by Richard and seconded by Ed that the unit game fee be raised to \$6.00, except charity games will be \$7.00. The motion was carried.

I/N Committee Report. Stuart reported that there are 80 people on the I/N Newsletter list. He is trying to get a Wi-Fi card to help people sign up at The Bridge Center, using his personal computer. The Newsletter is going to be sent every other month, in opposite months of "What's Trumps." Stuart has a committee with Nancy Golden and Debra Gardner working with him on a mentoring program and starting a teacher's group where once a month or every other month they will be asking questions of different teachers to get items such as how to play this hand, as in the Bridge Bulletin.

In an effort to get the lending library started, we have gotten permission to go through the books in the front room at the Bridge Center. Pam Farrar and Glen Swann have agreed to go through the books, and Mark Dahl will be asked to be a part of the group. The committee will then find out how to let other people know to give us books and how to categorize them. Peggy suggested that we put something about the lending library in "What's Trumps." Pat suggested that we add I/N Newsletter to the welcome packet.

Sectional Hospitality Report. Ellen reported that the hospitality went very well. There were lots of compliments about the lunch served by the Moose Lodge and what people brought. Peggy complimented Ellen and Mike on what was presented and the way it was presented. George was asked to pass on the compliment to the Moose Lodge.

Educational Liaison Report. Ed reported that he has been talking with Stuart about the newsletter, in addition to teaching classes.

Tournament Report. Peggy reported that the August 6-8 Sectional went well. There were 194 tables, compared to 161 and 163 tables at the previous two. The time change seemed to work well. Friday's game went from 44 ½ to 58 tables. The overall success was attributed to the intermediate/newcomer players coming out and filling up that section and playing in the open session. The attendance for the BAM (30 tables) was lower than the Saturday morning game (40 tables), and there was discussion about continuing with the BAM as opposed to going to a double session pairs game. The consensus was to keep the BAM. Several novice pairs did not know they were supposed to get back with teammates at the end of the game, and we need to make sure they understand.

The next Sectional is September 18-19, NLM. Peggy noted that this is over Jewish holidays and apologized, but she has to work with the dates given by the district. She will make sure in 2011 we don't have that conflict. The next open Sectional is in November, the weekend before Thanksgiving.

George has Regional Tournaments fliers for people to take to Sectionals they are attending. Peggy will take some to Virginia Beach, and Paul McGowan will take some.

Change to Sheila Kleiman Congeniality Award. The motion was carried at the last meeting as to how nominations would be made at the Christmas Mother Dinner. It was noted that in the past, persons could only win the award one time. George has all of the names on the trophy from the past and will provide a list. Margaret Anderson will be asked for the current list.

Intermediate Games Capacity. Ed reported that the novice games have narrowed down to about 5 tables on Saturday and around 7-11 on Sunday. Some people moved to Sunday afternoon and Tuesday games. Classes will be starting again around Sept. 26. It was suggested that we call people who didn't continue last time. The Saturday afternoon game will not be held again. It was questioned whether or we wanted to use the money that ACBL has available for advertising. Linda commented that the article in the paper was nice but caused a problem of too many people responding. It was suggested that we rely on the list we have for the fall. It was further suggested that overflow can be sent to Henrico or Chesterfield County. The question of ACBL paying for fliers was raised, and Richard informed us that they will not pay for printing.

RBA Website: There has been recent interest in making the website interactive. Linda indicated that her first priority is to get directors to put game results on line. Stuart had some ideas for interactive access such as a partnership desk. Linda's vision is to keep some parts of the site static. A committee with Linda, Stuart, Peggy and others they will ask will work on a survey to find out what is needed for the website.

Other Business: Peggy has taken pictures of Bill and Estelle Rowland, and their daughter Laura has written an article about them. Peggy plans to send this information to the ACBL, and Linda will put it on the RBA website.

The next Board meeting is scheduled for Thursday, October 7, at Harry's office at 6:30.

Adjournment at 9:35.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ruth Miles, Secretary