

**Richmond Bridge Association  
Unit 109  
Board of Directors Meeting  
June 2, 2011**

**Board Members Present:** Harry Gellis, Ellen Hartenberg, Ed Kinlaw, Linda MacCleave, Paul McGowan, Ruth Miles, and Peggy Ward.

**Board Members Absent:** Paul Anderson, Steve Chaplin, Stuart Clayman, Richard Deyerle, and Pat McDermott.

**Other Unit Member Attending:** George Lewis.

Peggy called the meeting to order at 6:30, welcomed everyone, and thanked Ellen for hosting the meeting.

**Treasurer's Report.** Richard was not present, but had emailed his financial statements to the Board. Peggy stated that she had a couple of questions on the statements and if anyone else had a question, please just email it to her and she would combine them for Richard. Linda asked what type of concerns. Peggy said nothing major just little things like categorization-- which boxes things were put in, such as the NLM Sectional rent being broken out while the Open Sectional is not. She asked Board members with questions to email them to her within a week, and she will aggregate them and send them on to Richard.

**NLM Sectional Venue.** Peggy reminded us that at the last meeting we voted to hold the NLM Sectional in the fall at Ginter Place as a test to see if it was appropriate for open sectionals. Since then, having had our first NLM Sectional with our club directors directing, she recommended that this event be kept at the Moose Lodge. Peggy had sent out an email to this effect to the Board members, and everyone agreed to keep it at the Moose Lodge and it is advertised as such in "Table Talk."

Also at the last meeting, there was discussion about having the Open Sectional in October at Ginter Place as a test to see if it might work for accommodating the usual overflow crowd in the Saturday morning game in January. The concerns expressed at the last meeting were reiterated, and there was general agreement that the problems were major enough that we should look for some other place. Peggy stated that we had tried The Place, but it is not available on Sundays. Several suggestions were given for alternative venues. They included: (1) The Comfort Inn at Innsbrook, which could be an option in 2012; (2) Holiday Inn, where we have the Regional, was ruled out primarily due to noise; (3) The Elks place near Innsbrook, which probably has facilities similar to the Eagles and Moose Lodges that have worked well for Richmond and Fredericksburg. Peggy asked that we keep our eyes open and maybe between now and our next meeting we can come up with one idea about where to have the Open

Sectional. She indicated that the sectionals are going well, and we have not had significant issues with the Tuckahoe Moose Lodge; however, she expressed the hope that in the next year or two we will outgrow it.

The matter of space requirements was brought up, and George speculated that about 4500-5000 square feet is needed in order to accommodate 45 or more tables. Also the issue of storing, setting up, and taking down tables was discussed. It was generally agreed that there is a need to write down requirements, such as square footage, restroom and parking needs, etc.

**Regional Report.** George reported that the Regional was successful, with 2149 tables, an increase from last year. Complaints were minimal, and the Mid-Atlantic was happy with the way things worked. We will be one of the few that will actually send money back to the Mid-Atlantic. He expressed that Richmond makes money because of the hospitality and the good volunteers to work it. The members that served on the various committees from the RBA were commended for doing a fantastic job. Martin's donated all of the ice cream, over \$500 worth. This donation was noted in the Daily Bulletin, and George would like to get something on the website to let members know that Martin's donation helped to make the Regional successful. George further reported that attendance in the morning knockouts was up, that there were 75 tables more on Tuesday afternoon and evening than two years ago, and the Sunday and Monday crowd was down to about one-half of that during the week. Peggy congratulated George and Jackie on a job well done.

**Unit Name Change.** Peggy brought up that we had talked at a prior meeting about changing our name to the Central Virginia Bridge Association. She talked to the ACBL, and they have approved that name as acceptable to them. Peggy also got approval from District 6. Peggy explained that there are logistics that would have to be done. (1) The bylaws have to be changed, and the membership has to vote on the change. She suggested that there are some other changes we might also like to make to the bylaws such as saying that our composition includes a past president rather than the immediate past president or the past president so that when incidences occur such as Doug leaving and George stepping in, he can become a voting member. (2) George brought up the fact that he thought we were incorporated, and a search by Peggy on The State Corporation Commission confirmed that on June 24, 2005, we were incorporated as Richmond Bridge Association, Inc.; however, we are not a corporation in good standing because we owe \$25 in fees along with a \$10 penalty. George suggested that we would have to explore what we have to do to make an entity change with The State Corporation Commission. (3) If we are not going to keep Richmondbridge.net as a web page, we would need to make the change. Linda expressed that it would be a good idea to register another domain name but also keep this one so that either name would go to the same site.

The voting process was addressed, and Linda stated that, according to the bylaws, two-thirds of the members present are required for the amendment(s) to pass, there is no vote by proxy (have to be present to vote, according to the Board's interpretation), a petition must be submitted to the secretary of the RBA at least 60 days before the membership meeting, and

the announcement of the meeting has to be made 30 days in advance. It was suggested by Harry that we send the announcement out by October 1, in order to have the vote take place at the December meeting. Linda volunteered to take the lead on writing up the changes, and Paul M. volunteered to help. She will mark up the changes, send them out for everybody to review and suggest any additional changes, and then send them to Ruth. The petition will be signed by the requisite eight members of the Board at our next meeting.

**District Six Charity Decision (Fischer House or other).** Peggy referenced an email from Margot Hennings about the District 6 charity decision, where it was proposed to donate the entire \$1000 available in District 6 as a unit to the Fischer House, which is similar to a Ronald McDonald House for veterans; and there is a presence here in Richmond. **George moved that Unit 109 vote that the entire \$1000 go to the Fischer House, and Ellen seconded the motion. The motion carried.** Peggy will report our decision at Hunt Valley.

**NAP (9/24-25) & GNT May 5-6 Southern Site.** Peggy reported that at the District 6 meeting there was discussion about the NAP and the GNT Southern site, which was held last time at the Moose Lodge. The District would like to have it hosted at the Richmond Bridge Center because it would be less expensive than the Moose Lodge, and Mimi is amenable to this. The dates are September 25, 2011, and May 5-6, 2012, which conflict with the Friendly Bridge and novice games that are held on Sunday at the Bridge Center. Both Ed and Linda expressed concern about giving up the novice games on these dates. Linda went on record as not in favor of giving up our game for NAP/GNT, while Peggy stated that it might encourage more of our "C" players to participate in the events if there was not a Friendly Bridge class on the same day. It was noted that the novice class was held during the NLM Sectional two weeks ago when Ed and Paul directed, and Linda and Bob handled the class. Harry offered that he could possibly have space available with plenty of parking but no tables and chairs. It was suggested that Ginter Park might be a good venue, and Peggy agreed to talk to Paul A. about that and then will get back with Harry.

**D6 Goodwill Nominee.** Peggy informed us that the District has asked for nominees for its Goodwill Committee, and the Unit 109 designation is Paul Anderson. He will be inducted at a reception on June 30 at the Regional in Reston. Since neither Peggy nor Ed will be there on that date, Peggy has asked Will Williams to stand in for them and do the introduction to the group at the reception, and he agreed. Harry and Paul M. volunteered to do so if Will can't make it.

**Dealing Machine.** Peggy reported that Mimi took us up on the offer to buy a dealing machine. It has been ordered and is currently being shipped. Linda informed us that Bob has the boards and cards and is very anxious to start. She will keep us informed.

**Goodwill & Membership Committee Report.** No report due to the absence of Pat McDermott.

**Charity Month and Games Report.** Harry reported that we had \$68 in charity funds for April and that he had to designate a charity immediately one day, so he sent \$100 to the National

MS Society. He talked to Paul and Linda about this and his suggestion is to split the money from the four games from which we will be able to disburse, and that we give \$100 to each of the four charities chosen. The RBA would supplement the money collected to make it \$100 and, if necessary, we could take it out of some of the money we give to the Christmas Mother so we don't exceed what we are planning to spend, if there is such a budget. **Harry moved and Linda seconded a motion to give \$100 to each of the four charities. The motion was carried.**

It was brought up that a member questioned the \$2000 check that we write for the Christmas Mother, and wanted to know why the members should contribute to the Christmas Mother at all if the Unit was going to give enough to make the donation \$2000, so that the member donations do not really make a difference. According to George, it was decided at a Board meeting 10 years ago to take up donations and add enough to it to make \$2000--this replaced fund-raising raffles that had been conducted; however, the Unit does not really have a \$2000 commitment. If the Unit wants to cut back to \$1000 or any amount, it can do so.

The Food Bank situation was discussed, and it was noted that people bring canned goods and donate money--the Unit does not give anything. The Virginia Surgical Associates contributed around \$800 to the Food Bank last year, and that's how we ended up making a large contribution. Paul M. moved that we give \$500 to each charity, and Harry seconded the motion. The motion was not carried. It was suggested that we not change what is done for the Food Bank .

Harry suggested that the Unit match members' donations to the Christmas Mother, thereby encouraging members to give. **Peggy moved that Unit 109 match contributions made to the Christmas Mother at the Christmas Mother game up to \$1000. The motion was seconded by Harry, and the motion carried.** Harry suggested that when the post card is sent about the dinner, this should be put in it along with the bylaw change notification, and the same should be put in "What's Trumps." Peggy asks everybody on the Board to be our own ambassador and tell people that beginning in 2011 the member contributions to the Christmas Mother will not be supplemented but will be matched by the Unit.

**I/N Committee Report.** Ed reported that the I/N Newsletter is on his computer, but apologized that it has not been done. He is planning on reporting the ongoing I/N games and adding Paul's Westwood game to the group. He expressed that since we haven't published for almost nine months, we can talk about what happened at the Regional and Nancy Golden being in the top 25 players. Peggy asked that he promote our NLM sectional. A target date of June 30 or July was given for publication. Linda volunteered to help Ed.

**Educational Liaison Report.** Ed said that he is just looking forward to seeing what happens after skipping a week for the Regional

**Other Business.**

- Peggy asked for an update from Harry about looking into table sizes in case we need to purchase tables. Harry, along with George, reported that the tables are all 34 inches; you can no longer find the 30 inch tables like we now have. As to how many are needed, George indicated that we need to throw away about 10-15 of the tables we now have, so we need 20-25 to get us to the 50 tables that we probably should have. Harry will go on the internet and check some more, and George will also check. Harry suggested that we approach Ginter Park about purchasing 34 inch tables for them if they would give us their 30 inch tables on a one-for-one basis. Peggy agreed to talk to Paul A. about this idea.
- Paul M. suggested that we come up with a tournament chair handbook on how we run our tournaments in Unit 109 in order to help people who take over as tournament chairs and also give consistency for all the sectionals we run for the Unit. Peggy volunteered to start that and asked Ed who has been tournament chair to help by reviewing. Linda informed us that she has an out-of-date pamphlet, "Policies and Procedures Guidelines," which we no longer use, but suggested that we start by revising this document. Peggy will look at the pamphlet as well as one on the ACBL site.
- Peggy reminded us that Bob Pustilnik and Linda MacCleave were kind enough to lecture at the NLM Sectional, Paul and Ed were kind enough to direct, and Will and Jack did the hospitality. She suggested giving these people free plays, at least for one of the sessions at our Open Sectional, July 8-10. Ed indicated that he and Paul got paid for directing. **Peggy moved that Linda MacCleave, Bob Pustilnik, and Will and Jack get free plays for the July 8-10 Sectional in thanks for doing the lectures and hospitality at the NLM Sectional. The motion was seconded by Ellen, and the motion carried, with three abstentions.**
- Linda brought up the issue that two members of the Friendly Bridge group were denied entry into novice games at the Regional because they had ABA points, and this is not applied consistently because it is dependent on the person who has the ABA points being forthcoming enough to say they have them. The question was raised as to whether or not we should be doing the same thing at our club games, where we would block some people from playing if we counted one-half of their ABA points. It was noted that this has not been applied locally, except for one person, and this happened several years ago. Linda expressed the belief that the RBA has the right to make its own decision on this kind of issue, and Peggy will research this with ACBL and find out for sure.
- George explained that when Michael is directing in the sectionals and probable ABA members want to play in the 0-500 game, he is going to take that into consideration. Linda indicated that she would like to see no ABA restrictions on people who play in Friendly Bridge games, and made a motion that regular Friendly Bridge Games 0-500 be an ACBL points only game unless we find out from the ACBL that we are in conflict doing that, and we would like to do that as a club. Harry opposed the need for a motion, and it did not proceed. The problems with games above the club level were rehashed, and it was generally agreed that a policy should be made so that everyone coming through the

director's line knows, and you don't have to ask people based on race. Peggy will ask Michael to have something on the sign-in desk at the upcoming sectional. No stand was taken tonight.

- Paul M. brought up the issue of dealing with persons who ask for partners through the partnership desk and turn out to be extremely unpleasant to the person with whom they are matched. He wanted to know whether or not we maintain a list of unpleasant people. George informed us that we cannot pass on this information to other clubs unless disciplinary action is taken. A list is maintained in District 6 of such actions.
- George brought up an issue with the Sheila Kleiman Award, that while he thought it was a good idea to have the membership vote, we should make it a requirement that the winner be a member of the ACBL.
- The next meeting will be at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, September 8, at Harry's office.
- Adjournment at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ruth Miles, Secretary