

**Richmond Bridge Association
Unit 109
Board of Directors Meeting
September 8, 2011**

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

Board Members Absent: Steve Chaplin and Stuart Clayman.

Other Unit Member Attending: Barry Fratkin

Ed called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m., thanked everyone for coming, and thanked Harry for hosting the meeting.

Changes to The Board. Ed announced that Peggy, who is moving out of town and is resigning as Board President, asked him to assume the role of president, and he accepted. He further announced that Harry, by Ed's request, has agreed to assume the role of vice-president. Also, Ed announced that he has asked Barry Fratkin to serve on the Board to replace Peggy. **It was moved by Linda and seconded by several persons that The Board would accept the changes. The motion was carried.** Barry was officially welcomed as a Board member.

Peggy, who has been tournament chair for the past three years, announced that Barry and Winnie Fratkin have agreed to serve as tournament chairs for our Open Sectionals and Jack Buchanan and Will Williams have agreed to serve as NLM Sectional tournament chairs.

Treasurer's Report. Richard distributed copies of the Profit and Loss Statement for January through July, 2011, and the Balance Sheet as of July 31, 2011, and announced that he had a copy of the Profit and Loss Statement details if anyone wanted to see them. He pointed out that the profit of \$3500 for the time period reported show that we are in pretty good shape. The bank account balance as of July 31 was \$11,986.39, and we have \$17,368.99 in a CD. Richard explained that in order to keep the accounting simple for auditing purposes and to ensure that the money will never be lost, all deposits can be seen and all checks are shown in the exact amount on the Profit and Loss Statement. He addressed the question raised in his absence at the last meeting concerning why items are not broken out to show income and expense details. He explained that this is because everything presented has a check associated with it or is a net number. He emphasized that Board members can email him and ask particular questions about income and expenses, and he can go back and provide that information at any time. The Friendly Bridge accounting procedures were explained as done by Linda, Bob, and Richard.

The issue of reporting the dealing machine as an asset and handling it's depreciation was brought up by Richard. Ed, along with members of the Finance Committee, explained that according to

their understanding, the machine is owned by the Bridge Center, and if it ever ceases to exist, ownership will revert back to us. The consensus was that we do not own the dealing machine. Richard requested that someone confirm ownership of the dealing machine by the Bridge Center so that he can appropriately account for it.

Concern was expressed by Paul M. about the possibility of disgruntled members wanting to see details of items such as Friendly Bridge which is being netted out. Ed explained that Richard receives a record of the Friendly Bridge income and expenses on a monthly basis, which is going to add up to these net amounts on any month. In answer to a question about the Balance Sheet showing a loss, Richard explained that the balance sheet is only based on the fiscal year end, which is May 1 through July 31, and it always looks weird. He has changed the fiscal year so that in general it's going to match as long as the information given is matched to that period. In response to Ed's suggestion that it might be helpful if we could get a full year on the Profit and Loss Statement, Richard explained that this is done at the year's end, and he Just did it recently. **Ed moved that the Treasurer's Report be accepted, and Harry seconded the motion. The motion was carried.**

NAP (9/24-25). Paul A. reported that he doesn't know of anybody in the RBA that has signed up for the upcoming NAP competition. He explained that lots of people have qualified, but he has not pushed it as in the past and needs help if we are going to get it going. He has List of qualifiers, which he will send to Linda electronically, and she will post on the internet. The problem of making a commitment to go to the nationals being a deterrent for some players was brought up, and Paul explained that if winners do not want to go to the nationals, then the next person eligible would get to go. Paul further explained that we don't get any benefit from hosting the B and C games in Richmond, that it's Just convenient to have them here. In response to a question by Paul M. about the posting of NAP and GNT qualifying club games on our website, Linda explained that she posts the information for Friendly Bridge because she gets it from Bob, and she can only post what people give. She expressed the need to get all the information organized into a document where she can post it.

Harry suggested that we call the people who are qualified for NAP, and that the list of qualifiers would be divided among person who would volunteer to make the calls. The telephone committee volunteers were Linda, Richard, Harry, Barry, Pat, and Ed. Paul gave details of the location for the games, the cost, and the procedures for registering. He also distributed a flier with information for NLM pairs, and informed us that fliers for A and B Flights are at the Bridge Center.

Paul A. indicated that he would like to give up the NAP and GNT chairmanship. Richard volunteered to take this over. This was accepted by the group.

Christmas Mother Game. Ed noted that the Christmas Mother game will be held on Dec. 14, and reminded us that at the previous meeting, the Board agreed to notify our membership in writing of the proposed bylaws changes by October 1. This would ensure that the 60-day advance notice

requirement is met so that voting by the membership could take place at the Christmas Mother Game. The information in the mailing would include the proposed changes to the bylaws, in addition to the date and cost of the game. Ed had drafted a petition with the verbiage that would be sent out, and eight members of the Board signed the petition, as required. The signed petition was filed with the secretary.

Ed expressed that he had heard a lot of comments about the hospitality at the May dinner. He recalled that in the past the Moose Lodge had provided meats, and people were encouraged to bring a side dish. There was discussion as to the amount that should be charged for the dinner and about donations to the Christmas Mother and the Food Bank. Ed indicated the need to change the verbiage to say that the RBA is matching up to \$1000 for donations, rather than making up the difference in the money donated and the \$2000 that is given to the Christmas Mother, as that was a bone of contention last year with the membership. Linda will come up with a draft of what the post card will say and send it out to the Board for review before it goes out. **Linda moved that our cost for the Christmas Mother Game will be \$10 as it always has been. Richard seconded the motion, and the motion was carried.** Ed will check with the Moose Lodge and get a cost for providing meats and side dishes. The giving was explained again. Whatever people give goes to Food Bank. For the Christmas Mother, the RBA will match up to \$1,000 of member donations.

Goodwill & Membership Committee Report. Pat reported that it has been just about a year since things really got underway with her committee, and a total of 168 items have been sent from when they first started sending out cards, emails, and welcome packets up to now. She reported that in 2010, 55 cards (congratulations, get well, sympathy, and thank you) had been sent, 25 through email and 30 through US mail, and 54 welcome packets had been sent. In 2011, 25 cards have been sent, 12 through email and 13 through US mail, and 25 welcome packet have been sent. Pat noted that the \$50 per quarter that the Board had agreed upon to cover her expenses is not enough, as she has spent \$300 in the past nine months. She reported the cost of the welcome packets at \$1.12 each. **Linda moved that we approve \$500 a year for Pat for the Goodwill Committee. Richard seconded the motion, and the motion was carried.** Pat thanked Bob MacCleave for providing the scoring cards and pamphlets for the welcome packets, and Pat was thanked for her good service.

Bridge Tables. Harry gave a report on bridge tables. He passed around a picture of tables he had seen used in Pittsburg. They were described as 37 inches square, made of hard plastic which is easily cleanable, and will last indefinitely. Two problems were noted: (1) the size is much larger than the 30-inch tables that are no longer available, and (2) bidding boxes occasionally fall off the table. Harry indicated that he would try to buy them wholesale. He expressed the opinion that of all the places he has played, these are by far the best tables he has seen. He also found out that the tables we have now are available at Target in a 34-inch size at a cost of \$29.99 each.

Charity Month & Games Report. Harry had nothing new to report about charity games. He did report that he had learned that in DC they have a unit game every Thursday night, run as either a club championship or charity game, which raises the awards. Richard expressed concern that we

are not taking advantage of these games in Richmond, while in Fredericksburg the awards for games are significantly higher than here. Paul M. elaborated on the twice-weekly Fredericksburg games that are usually either charity or club championships. It was brought out that a club championship can be held once a month. Richard further pointed out that when we have one of these games, the higher awards are not emphasized in advance. Paul A. announced that every other game at Ginter Park is a club championship, and at the tennis club, the once monthly game is always a club championship.

Finance/Budget Committee Report. Paul M. reported that the Budget committee had a suggestion from Harry that we continue to look at spending down the surplus by purchasing vinyl coated bidding cards for all of the clubs. However, the membership of the committee did not fully accept this. Linda suggested that we have a set of them here so we could pass them around and see if there is problem with sliding across the table when you put them down or if they are going to break. Harry outlined the plan to would call everybody who runs a game and offer to give them the cards in a 60/40 or 50/50 deal, whichever is decided by the Board. The cost is \$40 for a set of 4 boxes at Baron Barkley; however, he would try to import them from China. Ed suggested that this is a matter for the finance committee not a full board discussion item. The committee agreed to meet and discuss the matter.

Peggy's Departure. As Peggy prepared to leave, we all shared in the cake that Ed had brought to celebrate her, and she said her goodbyes. Peggy was given thanks for her contributions to the RBA. Special thanks was given for her efforts in obtaining the dealing machine and making hand records available. It was particularly noted that the NLM tournaments that we have been having probably would not have come about if Peggy had not been pushing them. Peggy expressed her gratitude to the Board for being so great to work with.

I/N Committee Report. Barry wanted to know about the I/N Newsletter. Ed explained that Stuart produced a couple of Newsletters; the last was September, 2010. In March 2011, Ed volunteered to takeover, and he apologized for not doing so. Ed expressed his belief that the newsletter is useful with the information Pat sends out, but questioned the importance of sending out material on bidding. He expressed that it would be nice if everybody knew where they could find a game of bridge in Richmond or in Central Virginia. Linda explained that information about games is on the website, and she has printed out 50 copies of the games. The copies are at the Bridge Center, and Pat is welcome to have some for the welcome packets. Barry expressed that he is willing to do some things and is trying to understand the best way to communicate with the intermediate/novice group, through a newsletter or the website. He will create a document that spells out some ideas for the I/N Newsletter. He also has a resource at home with some ideas .

Lending Library. Ed explained that the lending library was started and books have been gathered; however, the books that have been collected are not on display. The location of the books is unknown. It was noted that one of the donors had inquired about the whereabouts of his books. Ed will look into this. Linda noted that the bookcase that Harry was so kind to donate is now being used to display trophies. Ed will contact Stuart and discuss this matter with him.

Other Business.

- Ellen announced that she will not be here to provide hospitality for the November and January games.
- Paul A. expressed a concern about bidding boxes, particularly their availability for NLM Sectionals. He has had to take bidding boxes from Ginter Parker and to use his own personal ones in order to have enough bidding boxes to run a tournament. He explained that for the last NLM tournament, he borrowed bidding boxes from Ginter Park and came up 10 short at the end, and he doesn't know where they went. He replaced them at a cost of \$9.00 a box and expressed the hope that he would be reimbursed because they were being used at a RBA function. Paul expressed the belief that the RBA should have bidding boxes, which he would be willing to store at his house. He gave the cost at \$1500 to purchase the 160 boxes that would be needed in order to accommodate 40 tables. Linda expressed the belief that having bidding boxes for the RBA should take precedence over having bidding boxes for all the clubs. **Linda moved that Paul be reimbursed for the \$90 that he spent to buy bidding boxes for the NLM Sectional, and Pat seconded the motion. The motion was carried.**
- Paul A. expressed that he had gotten lots of complaints at his last game about the wet floor and the mold that is developing health issues at the Bridge Center. Linda gave an update on what is going to happen. The Bridge Center is going to get rid of the water fountain and replace it with a water cooler and is going to cut out the carpet and replace it. Paul expressed a further concern that there are a lot of bridge players in Richmond who are not playing at the Bridge Center, and he doesn't know how we can reach them.
- Linda expressed a need to revisit the zero tolerance policy. Some of our Friendly Bridge players are beginning to play in open games and some of the other players not being nice to them. Suggestions need to be given to directors on ways to handle this.
- Then next meeting will be held on Thursday, December 8, 2011, at the home of Ellen Hartenberg.
- The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ruth Miles, Secretary