

Monday August 14, 2023

Meeting called to order 4:10p

Suzanne Cliff absent. All other board members in attendance.

Education Report:

Kathy Plauche, educ chair, gave a report on the activities of the education committee. She has had great success with recruiting and retaining students. She starts her 4th class using ACBL Boost program next month. She asked for Board Support in attending lessons, chat games, and circle bridge as mentors and as show of support for the newer players. She passed around a sign up sheet with dates of classes for board members to commit to being mentors during the fall series (Tuesday 9A/Tues 6:30p 9/12 - 11/19)

She described several specific education opportunities in the works with an ongoing rotation of scheduled events to come

One of her students has offered to donate a printer. This was followed by a discussion over how to best coordinate including being mindful of maintenance requirements. Kathy will investigate further with Sherrie.

Wayne praised the success of the newcomer programs but expressed some concerns and suggested board consider pro/cons of players getting points in games not commensurate with their expertise level.

JULY MINUTES:

Motion to accept July minutes by Newt. Seconded by Kathy Logue. Motion passed with No opposition.

FINANCE:

Sid passed around p&l statements. Club finances continue to improve. No major recommendations or concerns. He has looked into feasibility of changing tax status from 501c7(current) to 501c3. Sherrie has done a lot of work and research including speaking with other clubs who have changed their designation. After looking further into issue Sid now feels it is feasible. Jennifer said she felt it was important to consider unintended consequences of any tax status change and questioned whether the benefits would be sufficient. Printouts of IRS guidelines were distributed. Sherrie offered to send info she has accumulated to board members for review. Lowen suggested a committee be formed before voting on proceeding with any changes. Will consider all for further discussion in upcoming meetings.

Larry said that a member has offered to solicit donations for LBA. Larry declined the offer for now but told the member he would mention at board meeting to address feasibility of same for later discussion.

Motion made to accept finance report - all approved.

Maintenance/Janitorial:

Wayne reported that things are looking good right now. The A/C has been working well. Larry reported that the vents in men's room were replaced. He asked whether ladies' room vents needed replacing - ladies present said no.

Jackie reported on the state of the fence between our property and the adjacent property along the back of our parking lot. The fence was cut/vandalized by someone. This allows unauthorized people to access LBA property via the cut fence. A police report was made. Police asked whether we had cameras which prompted discussion of installing them. Some back and forth between board members whether fence should be repaired and/or whether the gate should be removed altogether. Several noted that the gate was put to good use in past when we needed overflow parking and that we hope to be in that situation again at some point. The feasibility of cameras including cost, installation, and maintenance was discussed. Motion made and passed to buy cameras. Sherrie will get at Costco and Wayne will arrange to have installed.

Jackie also made a request to get an official legal opinion on recommended policies and procedures @ LBA to be applied for any party wishing to rent our building. (Chess club, neighborhood association, social event, etc.) Specifically she would like guidance as to liability insurance requirements and arrangements, alcohol policy, items to be included on any policy and procedure document, what situations require police presence, and any other state or local laws that may apply. Larry will speak with a lawyer and report back.

Club Mgr Report:

Sherrie Goodman reported on several topics happening at the club.

*LBA has an opportunity to participate in an "Instant Matchpoint Game" on October 25th. This is one of the few opportunities members have to get Gold Points at face to face games at their local. Sherrie is committed to bringing as many Gold Point opportunities to the club as she can. The ACBL guidelines require this game to be held in the afternoon. All agreed having the game was a good idea and a discussion ensued on how to arrange our regular games to accommodate the IM Game. It was decided that the regular 9:30 <750 game will be held at its normal time. The afternoon open game will be canceled and replaced with the Instant Matchpoint Game which will start at 12:30. The director for the 9:30 game that day will be encouraged to keep players on a tight schedule to allow morning players to also play in the IM 12:30 Gold Points game if they like

*Our Ride Share Program is up and running. Sherrie explained the concept and showed the flyer for distribution. Sue Guarisco will be the point person - her name and number are on the flyer. We've already had some success in getting the program up and running.

**"Eight is Enough" is a Swiss game with a point count twist. It is designed to bring together players of different expertise levels. Jennifer spoke with Lil Range about the possibility of coordinating a game at the club Saturday October 28th @ 1p. Lil agreed with the caveat that all board members would commit to playing and to sponsoring a four-person team. Jennifer asked

for a show of hands of who was willing to make this commitment. All board members present signaled yes. (- Lowen will be out of town but will recruit players to play.) The date and time was confirmed.

*Sherrie will be out of town from 9/9 - 9/24. Unlike other times when away from the club she will not have her usual ability to be as responsive to requests for email and website action items. Because of this she is arranging for either Keenan or Diana to be her primary backup. Board members will be advised of which one shortly. Her backup will be the contact person for any email or website needs until Sherrie returns.

She also requested that any issues that arise with directors be referred to either Suzanne or Jennie.

She has updated all sanctions and other ACBL correspondence needed during her absence except for the Circle Bridge game. She again stated her concern that the game needed to be adjusted to be in accordance with ACBL bylaws. Larry stated that her concern had already been noted and while he respected her right to disagree the matter had been settled and the game should continue to run as it is currently. Sherrie will update the Circle Bridge Sanction per these guidelines. This completes all anticipated club mgr business that can be handled in advance.

*There are changes coming to the virtual games that will hopefully favor the smaller clubs. Other clubs continue to approach Sherrie about merging but she doesn't think this is a good idea. We are #5 in the country, a great achievement. She reiterated the important message that LBA does not receive ANY funds from players playing in regular BBO or ACBL online games. We DO receive funds when our players play in our virtual LBA club games. She reported that BBO/ACBL-BBO will sometimes send out news to club managers re: general game opportunities available to all BBO players. It was agreed the only online activities we want to put energy toward are those that directly and specifically relate to our virtual club.

Bylaws update:

Lowen consulted with David Wright, the attorney who served on the bylaws committee, to confirm the proper formatting of the bylaws before publication. The document remains the same with exception that the final page, which discussed a previous amendment, should be removed as the reference to the amendment in the now updated document is legally sufficient. This also makes the document cleaner overall and easier to understand. David also advised Lowen that he spoke with the Secretary of State's office and confirmed that we do NOT need to send updated bylaws to their office. If we ever change our articles of incorporation that will need

to be provided to SOS office. The updated copy will now be sent to ACBL and serve as our official bylaws.

Publicity Update:

Jennifer reported on several upcoming activities including:

*LBA will be hosting an I/N Sectional Tournament on October 12-13.

Motion was made and approved to name the Tournament in honor of John Onstott. It will now be called "The John Onstott Memorial I/N Sectional Tournament" . Flyer will be updated and

distributed shortly.

*Our partner finder program is continuing to improve. Jennifer distributed the new flyer and showed where it has been posted by the door along with cards w Deborah Skorlich ph#. Carol Jambon will be Deborah's backup while she is on vacation. Jennifer encouraged board members to assist with partner finder efforts and will be hosting a new round of pianola partner finder tutorials for anyone interested.

Our last minute partner finder system for players who show up onsite without a partner continues to be tweaked with the goal is that no one should have to forego a game because they couldn't find a partner.

*We have a new calendar person - Beth Bayer. A wall calendar has been ordered and will be hung in the hallway. Beth will work with Jennifer and Sherrie to set up the calendar and then be in charge of keeping it up to date.

*Jennifer discussed efforts to better establish the new Wed Open game. She recommended board members commit to spreading the word via phone calls. She gave examples of Carol Jambon success getting a game established shortly after LBA re-opened and Lil Range with her Swiss Game. She feels direct publicity via word of mouth that starts with the board is likely to have the biggest impact on getting the game established.

*She continues to look into the feasibility of social media for LBA. She is using the ACBL tutorials and templates and will report back with suggestions at our next board meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

Motion made and approved to allow Nancy Gates to use her 1 free play/week lottery winning from The Longest Day drawing. She will pay any extra fees for "special" games when \$1 etc goes to ACBL. Otherwise she is now entitled to once a week free play excluding tournaments. In future years the details and financing of the free play award will be spelled out to prevent any confusion over how it should be accounted for.

Motion made to nominate Kathy Plauche as the Goodwill Member of the Year. Jennifer Holmes agreed to write the nomination letter and asked for all board members send her what they think makes Kathy such a worthy recipient.

Suzanne submitted a written request to change the time allowed to ask directors to correct hand results caused by improper entry in the bridgemate change from 24 hours to 20 minutes. This was tabled for more consideration at future meetings.

Meeting adjourned 6:15

Respectfully Submitted - Jennifer Holmes acting secretary in place of Suzanne Cliff