

LBA Board of Directors Meeting  
May 8, 2023

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 by Larry Federico, President. Present were Larry, Sid LeBlanc, Wayne Weisler, Sherrie Goodman, Jennifer Holmes, Lowen, Kathy Logue, Newt Jackson, Quin Bates, and Suzanne Cliffe. Jackie Madden was absent. (Jackie did come in later.)

The first order of business was an address to the Board by Jennie Flynn Sauviac, who is in charge of the game directors. She would like there to be a stated policy on when the game directors can fill in a game. Jennie has posted the names of three people at the desk who are frequently available to fill in when called on short notice. Before the director plays with the person looking for a partner, he/she must first try to find a "fill-in". Jennie recommends that a director can only fill in when there are no more than 6 ½ tables and the director will fill in to make an even table. The director can never fill in when directing two games. The director cannot fill in with the same player more than 2 times within a 6 month period. If there is a "fill-in" available to play and the person looking for a partner doesn't want to play with the "fill-in" then they can't play with the director. The person that comes to fill-in does not pay, the person looking for a partner does pay. The playing director and player can get masterpoints. A motion was made to accept the recommendations which passed by a vote of the Board.

The April minutes were approved.

Finance – Sid LeBlanc distributed the P & L statement for April, 2023 as well as the Year to Date. He also distributed a comparison of our costs versus the Baton Rouge club since several people had indicated that Baton Rouge has been able to keep their playing fees down and aren't losing the money that we are. The maintenance on our old building versus their newer building is major (29% of our budget vs. their 2%), as well as our cost of insurance is double. We pay our directors significantly more than they pay theirs, we have credit card fees, and our janitorial is higher. Just these areas would cause our fees to be more than double theirs.

Sid would like to discuss possibly reducing our number of cleanings per week from 5 to 3, but would like to do that when Jackie Madden is present since she is in charge of janitorial.

The BBO virtual income has seen an increase and based on that as well as our face to face increase in players. There is an ongoing annual loss of approximately \$20,000. The Finance report was accepted.

Club Manager – Sherrie Goodman reported that we need a chairperson for The Longest Day, the ACBL day of charity supporting the Alzheimer's Association. It is scheduled for Friday, June 23. Quin Bates will find a chairperson for the event.

Sherrie reported that in May we will have 2 weeks of ACBL Grass Root Fund Games which will be \$9.00 games and 2 weeks of Club Championship games which are \$8.00. The NAP games will be scheduled June-August. The virtual club will have one week of Grass Roots games and 2 weeks of NAP games, the dates will be announced.

Sherrie also said that Kathy Plauche has been working on a new game that she wants to hold on Thursday mornings and Thursday evenings. It will be a short game, only 12 boards, but open to all level of players. Kathy said that her hope is that there will be some “open” players that will come so that will introduce the newer players to playing with and against the experienced players. Her thought is that it will reduce the “intimidation” factor when the newer players play in regular games. She will offer a lesson and also discuss the hands played. Since it will be a maximum of 12 boards, there will probably not be that many open players that participate but it is open to them if they want. The Board said that if Kathy wants to do it, the club will support it. Sherrie said that the previous virtual Sunday Swiss that Lil Range runs had a record number of 38 tables. Lil has done a great job of developing and running this game. Sherrie said that Monroe, LA has also joined our pool of clubs in the virtual club, bringing our total to 18.

Larry said that in his President’s Message in the June Kibitzer he will encourage people to play in our club games rather than in the ACBL games. Our club receives no benefits from our players playing in the ACBL games.

Maintenance – Wayne Weisler said that the lights outside the building have been fixed. We haven’t spent any other money this month. There was a discussion of major problems in the building that should probably be addressed in the future. Lowen made the suggestion that should be decide to address any of those that we could ask the membership for donations or have a fundraiser specifically for those issues. There was also a discussion of whether we should develop a 5 year plan to address the problems.

NABC Report – Larry said that we have not received our final bill from the ACBL which would include how much we owe for parking, coffee, food, and novice receptions. He guesstimates that it will be in the vicinity of \$14,000, but until that is finalized we don’t know the final financial impact. The major donations towards the expenses were \$10,000 from the LBA, \$20,000 from District 10, and \$20,000 raised by Jennie Flynn Sauviac for “naming” rights for games. Money not spent from the district donation must be returned to the district. There was a general discussion about the success of the NABC and what an excellent job our chairpersons, Larry Federico and Jackie Madden did as well as all of the committee chairpeople and volunteers. The LBA will host a Pro-Am game on Friday, May 12, honoring those who made Life Master during the NABC as well as those that made it since then, in addition to a thank you for all of the work by our volunteers. Larry will arrange the food for the game which will be free to the members. Kathy Logue, Jennifer Holmes, and Lowen will arrange the matching of the players. There will be no pre-arranged partnerships. It is to be a SAYC game. Larry will arrange a sign honoring those new Life Masters and there will be a Q & A after the game. Wayne will direct.

By-Laws Committee – Lowen said that the committee had met and he has sent a final revision to the members. He is waiting for them to review and return to him. He will have it for the next Board meeting on June 12. If it is approved by the Board, we will send a notification to the membership of the General Membership meeting that will be

held in conjunction with our July tournament. If there is a general membership meeting held, it will be held on Friday, July 7, between sessions of the tournament. The proposed changes to the by-laws will be sent electronically to the members prior to the meeting.

Lowen will offer 4 weeks of lessons to the members starting in June. They will be held on Friday mornings beginning on June 9 from 9:30-11:30.

Concessions – Suzanne said that she had spoken with both the current coffee and vending machine company to determine cost on all products. She has also spoken with Community Coffee to find out what they would charge for their product. The current coffee company has a contract that expires on July 23, 2023 but they must have a notice of cancellation 30 days in advance or it automatically renews for one year. Suzanne will notify the current company of our intent to cancel and give them a chance to offer us better pricing.

Publicity – Jennifer Holmes read a letter of what she said the bridge club has meant to her since returning after Covid shut down. She thinks that the sense of community is what has been so important at the bridge club, both in the past and going forward. Her committee has worked very hard to bring in new people and foster the sense of community. Jennifer and her committee are working to increase play at the club and bring new players and “old” players back, hoping to stem the monetary losses the club is experiencing. By having access to the entire data base, Jennifer feels that her work in bringing people back to the club would be more effective. She would also like to be an electronic contact person for the ACBL. Sherrie said that she will give her access to the entire database that she has with the exceptions of certain people that have asked not to be contacted. Sherrie will remain the electronic contact with the ACBL. Jennifer said that as of this time, she has not received the data base information. Sherrie said she will provide that when Jennifer indicates that she can work with the information less the few people that have asked not to be included. This discussion will be tabled. The Publicity Committee Report is attached with the minutes.

Tournament Coordinator – Larry said that Susan Beobay does not want to be the tournament coordinator but that she will continue for the immediate future. Larry said that he has frozen some food from the May tournament that can be used for the July tournament. Charlie MacCracken is scheduled to be the tournament director for the July tournament as Kevin is booked. Sherrie said that if we had a local director it would save the club both directing fees as well as the travel expenses, her estimate is approximately \$1300. Currently we don't have a director that would be qualified to direct a tournament. This discussion was tabled.

There was a discussion of whether to continue the Covid vaccination requirement. The general thought is that while we may gain a few people, we could also lose some that would be uncomfortable if the requirement is dropped. We have continued to follow the ACBL guidelines. Discussion tabled.

The suggestion box had a recommendation that we have an open game on Wednesdays at 12:30. We would need a director and we can't afford to start another game that doesn't make. Sherrie will check with Iype, who directs the Wednesday morning game to see if he would be interested.

The meeting adjourned at 6:20. The next meeting is scheduled at 4:00 p.m., June 12, 2023.

Submitted by,

Suzanne Cliffe  
Recording Secretary