

LBA Board of Directors Meeting  
March 14, 2022

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m. by Larry Federico, President. Present were Larry, Sherrie Goodman, Wayne Weisler, Jim Thornton, Diana Powell, Suzanne Cliffe, Newt Jackson, Mary LeBlanc, Lowen, and Carolyn Dubois. Arriving later was Jackie Madden.

There was a correction to the minutes from the February meeting regarding the amount of money that was to be deposited in a certificate of deposit. It had been approved for \$80,000 to \$100,000. Mary LeBlanc, treasurer, reported that Larry Federico and Sid LeBlanc had made the decision that due to anticipated rising interest rates that the money would remain in the checking account for now and possibly invested at a higher rate in the near future.

Larry called on Mary to give a report on repair work to date. There has been standing water on the roof that is being addressed. The Board room is almost finished and there is still some electrical work. There was a question as to whether the kitchen is finished and whether we have enough drawers. That is being looked into. Mary said that there are no outstanding invoices. We have paid \$126,000 and there is \$35,000 being held in reserve.

Financial and Insurance: Mary reported that there is currently no one specified to handle the insurance. Steve Romig and Sid LeBlanc have done it in the past and Sid can continue. Newt Jackson said that he would be happy to work with Sid to learn what needs to be done. The building is currently insured for \$850,000. The premium has gone up from \$15,000 in 2021 to \$22,000 in 2022. The balance sheet is basically the same as last month. Mary reported that there had been a gas leak on the property that was found because the gas bill went up to \$500/month. She immediately called a plumber who found the source of the leak which has now been repaired. She is hoping that we will get a rebate from the gas company.

Report on credit card charges: Jim and Sherrie are working on this. The charges are much higher than had been represented to us. There is a security issue that has prevented them from making changes but Jim is hopeful that some of these charges will be reversed. The Financial Report was accepted.

Maintenance: Wayne reported on gas leaks that were around the meter and also along the pipes running to the hot water heater. Those are being repaired. The outside sprinkler system has been inspected and it is fine. The alarm system panic button is underneath the desk. The directors need to know how to push the buttons to set off a silent alarm and then how to reset it. Maintenance report accepted.

Club Manager's report. Sherrie reported that the LBA needs to make a decision as to The Longest Day games for 2022 which can be scheduled any time from June 19-June 25. Diana Powell suggested that since Friday is our best attended game that we hold it

on Friday, June 24. It is also suggested that we hold a morning and an afternoon game. We will need a chairperson. Sherrie will send an email to the members asking if there is a volunteer for the job.

Sherrie also thanked those that had called their list of members and asked that the others please make those calls to encourage players to return to the club.

Sherrie has spoken to Patty Tucker, the developer of the "Learn Bridge in a Day" series. Patty would come to New Orleans and run the series for us for a cost of \$750 plus expenses and a per diem. The \$750 would include her supplies for the students. She would suggest a Saturday or a Sunday for the program, with either a 10:00 to 3:30 or 4:00 program or a 12:30 to 5:30 program. She would recommend that we charge the participants \$20 each for the day. She also said that follow up is critical to the success of the program. We could do a May program or a September program. After discussion the Board recommends that if we do this program that it be scheduled for September with beginning bridge lessons starting the week following the program.

Sherrie reminded us that the ACBL is sponsoring a Royal STaC Week for ALL Face to Face games starting on Sunday, March 27 and ending on Saturday, April 2. These games will award GOLD, SILVER, RED, AND BLACK points. The LBA will host a special game on Saturday, April 2 to give our members an additional opportunity to win their needed "colored" points.

Upcoming tournaments: Larry has notified the ACBL that the May Derby Day Tournament will be a 3 day tournament held on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, May 5,6, and 7. Saturday will be a two session bracketed Swiss team game. The July tournament will also be a 3 day tournament scheduled for July 7-9, with a team game on Saturday. The Derby Day tournament has had betting on the Kentucky Derby in the past and we will ask Sid LeBlanc to handle that again. Mint Juleps will be served. Lowen said that our tournaments are currently scheduled through 2023 but we are not able to schedule another 0-750 NLM Regional tournament because the slots were all taken. He wants to try and get us back on the schedule and if possible have it coincide with either our Spring or Fall sectionals in 2024 or possibly Fall of 2023. He will talk with the ACBL to see which dates are available.

Game time changes: Carolyn asked that we consider changing the game time on Friday from 1:00 p.m. to noon and that we set it up as two separate games, an Open and a LMP game. There was discussion as to how many players a time change might affect that want to play in a morning game online but also how many players are not playing in the afternoon currently in the face to face games because of the late ending time. It is recommended that the directors set the tables up for two separate games and collapse it into one if there aren't enough players for two games. The Board voted to leave the Friday game at 1:00 p.m. currently but to try the Tuesday game at noon to see if that would increase attendance at that game. That change will be implemented on Tuesday, March 29.

Suzanne brought up the possibility of changing the Monday and Wednesday 9:30 games to Open games. The director could still offer a lesson at 9:15 for those interested, with the game starting at 9:30. Currently there are only 3 games a week for open players and limited master point players have 6 to choose from (with the addition

of a 0-50 game on Monday mornings.) With the early starting time of 9:30, it probably wouldn't bring in many open players but by having it as an open game, it will award more masterpoints and if there is an increase in the number of tables, there will be more masterpoints awarded also. While we are trying to get as many people playing face to face as possible, it doesn't seem like it is in the club's best interest to turn any player away. Wayne said that he will talk to the players on Monday morning and see what their reaction is and Sherrie will send an email to open players to see how many might be interested. At this time, we will only look at changing the Monday game. We will discuss this at the next meeting.

By Law Changes: Larry has reviewed the proposed changes and extends his thanks to Lowen and his committee for the work they did. He would like for us to consider approving these changes before next January's general meeting. One of the changes that needs to be addressed as soon as possible has to do with the change allowing for electronic voting for Board members and By-Law changes. A general membership meeting could be held in conjunction with the May sectional on Friday between sessions. These are by-law changes for the entire LBA which includes the satellite clubs in Houma, Slidell, Covington, and Mandeville. They are eligible to vote in our elections.

Discussion of continuing the "fogging" operation for sanitizing the club once a week. It costs \$400 a month and the Board has voted to continue it through April. It will be looked at again at the April meeting.

Vaccination policy: The Board voted to continue to require proof of vaccination for entry to the club. We will follow the ACBL requirements which currently are requiring proof of vaccination for all ACBL events.

Jackie reported that there are "trunks" out on the air conditioners on the roof which have contributed to leaking. Wayne is working with the air conditioning company to replace or repair the damaged parts.

The meeting adjourned at 6:15 p.m. The next meeting will be on Tuesday, April 11.

Suzanne Cliffe  
Recording Secretary