

LOUISIANA BRIDGE ASSOCIATION
Minutes, December 11, 2023

The meeting was called to order by the president at 4:00 p.m. Present were Larry Federico, Jackie Madden, Sid LeBlanc, Newt Jackson, Suzanne Cliffe, Kathy Logue, Wayne Weisler, Lowen, Sherrie Goodman, and Quin Bates. Jennifer Holmes attended by zoom.

The minutes from November meeting were approved as distributed.

Financials: Sid LeBlanc brought up the discussion of the club filing for 501c3 status. There was much discussion of how we proceed at this time if it means that we need to separate the club and the unit. Sherrie would like more time to look into how this is done with the ACBL and how it would affect our operations. Sid, Larry, Jackie, and Newt all thought more time was reasonable. There were no objections. Newt recommended that the next step is to hire a local tax attorney. Larry also questioned that if we separate the unit and the club if we need separate by laws for each organization. Having a local tax attorney would answer these questions. Newt recommended that we give Sherrie the additional time to see how other ACBL clubs have done this and how the ACBL then proceeds with two separate organizations. This discussion will be tabled until a later date.

The next discussion regarding finances has to do with the insurance on the building. Sid has looked into whether we should drop our wind and hail and hurricane related coverage. At this time this would be a savings of about \$20,000 to drop all building related insurance, or approximately \$13,000 if it were only wind and hail. If we dropped it, we would set the \$20,000 aside annually. If there were another major event requiring large repair expenses, the club would have to decide at that time whether to repair or sell and move. Moving would involve finding a convenient location that has adequate parking for the members which is a big problem. Newt wants to evaluate the deferred maintenance and see what kind of money is involved in getting some of those repairs done. There are no quotes being given now. Our next annual payment is February 14 and Sid anticipates that we will have the quotes before then from our current carrier. Jennifer is proceeding with getting other quotes. This will be discussed in January.

Sid also discussed the November P & L statement. The investment gain on the capital the club has invested was about \$4000 for the month. Combined, the NLM tournament, the Eight is Enough game, and the Rosenbloom sectional tournaments made about \$1000. The Face2Face club numbers have dropped off a little from September to October to November. The Chess Club that rented the club for a function was very happy with the space but that is only an annual event. Our Holiday Lunch held on December 8 had 28 tables, almost like "old times."
There was a motion passed to accept the Financial Report.

Maintenance/Janitorial: Jackie reported that there has been nothing new with janitorial, that Jani-King has continued to do a good job for us. The cameras haven't been

installed and the alarm is not being set. Jennifer said that she will get the cameras installed when she gets back. It is also recommended that the alarm is in working order so that it can be set. We are paying a monthly contract on the alarm and it should be working. Wayne will look into that.

There have been some electrical issues since there was a power outage in November. The electrician found some deficiencies that need to be addressed. Newt will follow up on that when working on deferred maintenance. There has also been a problem with the phone wiring shorting out. Cox says that is an electrical issue so that will also be followed up on.

Club Manager's Report: Sherrie reported that our July tournament, which is scheduled for Wednesday, July 4 through Friday, July 6th, would not be dates that we could have Kevin Perkins as our director. She will see if Charlie MacCracken would be available and if not, John Smalley would be a possibility. She will report back on that.

Based on attendance and participation in our NLM tournaments, It is recommended that we cancel the Spring NLM tournament which would have been in March. Instead, we would move the October NLM tournament to September so it isn't on top of the November Open tournament. Sherrie will try and get the third week of September for it and report back on that.

Sherrie reported that in 2024 there are 10 "Pop-Up" Special games that pay ½ black points and ½ red points. Do we want to do them on Saturdays? She said that some will also have some gold points awarded. If we have them on Saturdays, they will start at 1:00 p.m. She said that 2024 will not have as many special games as the past two years have.

Publicity: Jennifer would like to change our email system to something more "eye catching" if possible. Sherrie said that there is another option instead of Pianola. They will look into it before the next meeting.

Jennifer reported that a member wants to organize a work day at the club to clean the bridgemates and also replace the cup holders. There is a special way to clean the bridgemates and they will set that up. There is no decision on cup holders at this time.

Election Committee: Larry has appointed himself, Jackie Madden, and Eileen Bagnetto to handle the ballots and voting in the first week of January during the tournament. They will also count the votes on Saturday and report to the Annual meeting between sessions on Saturday.

The January tournament flyer was not given to the President and Vice President for approval before being distributed. They must always be approved prior to distribution.

Sherrie questioned whether we wanted to continue to spend \$20-\$25 each on the large posters that are being tacked up in the room promoting the tournaments and special events. It was voted that we continue to post these in the playing area.

Deferred Maintenance: Newt Jackson has volunteered to look into the areas of deferred maintenance at the club to try and determine how much we should spend and what needs to be done. He is happy for any help. Jackie, Wayne, and Larry have all volunteered to help him.

Wayne brought up whether we should continue to use credit cards or go back to cash for game entries. The cost of the credit cards is more than anticipated. After discussion the Board voted to keep credit cards.

The question of Absentee Voting in our January election was brought up. The new by-laws will permit it but the club has not made provisions at this time. It is thought that there would be more time required to put it into place for the January election, so it will not be permitted this year. The Board will look into whether they want to make it available in 2024.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:45.

The next meeting will be held on Monday, January 8, 2024.

Suzanne Cliffe
Recording Secretary