

Louisiana Bridge Association
Board of Directors Meeting
July 11, 2022

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

The minutes from the June meeting were approved.

Finances: The treasurer was absent but had sent the financial report prior to the meeting which was accepted.

Jim Thornton updated us on the reimbursements from the credit card company. We were reimbursed \$155.30 validation fee in May and in June there was a reimbursement of \$372.78 interchange fees. The credit card company was still working with the other credit card companies to try and get additional reimbursements.

Larry gave an update on the finances from the July tournament. He reported that we lost money again but he anticipated that it would be less than \$1000. There was a discussion as to the attendance numbers and the low attendance by the 499'ers which reduced revenue.

Maintenance: Wayne reported that we are currently only doing the necessary maintenance and janitorial. Jackie pointed out that when we have a Saturday Face to Face game, as has been approved for one Saturday a month, it will be an extra day of janitorial.

We have an estimate to fix/replace the wall fans. This was approved.

The large air conditioner in the Board room is not working. It needs new electrical as it was improperly wired when it was installed. The small air conditioner cools the room adequately so the Board voted to not fix the large unit at this time.

Hurricane repairs: Larry reported that of the two issues that remain, the ventilators in the Ladies Restroom is not the contractor's job. The other jobs are complete. Question as to how often the dumpster is picked up. It is hidden from the street and people are dumping things in it. It was suggested that we get a fake sign and fake camera saying that they are being filmed and recorded. Wayne said he would look into that.

Sherrie wants the club to start using the alarm now that the contractor is no longer coming in and out. It was agreed that the alarm would start being used in a month, to make sure that all of the work is complete. The code has to be given to JaniKing and the directors instructed to start using it. Also, the directors need to be reminded of the panic button and its location.

Jackie questioned whether the roof work was complete as there may have been some leaks on the open side of the room. Larry said that we have a 20 year warranty on the roof. We still owe the contractor \$14,000 and the Board voted to give Larry the

authority to make this final payment when he was assured that the roof work was complete.

Club Manager Report:

Sherrie reported that Kathy Plauche wants to continue the lesson on Thursday mornings and run a short, sanctioned game for the 0-20 players. This was approved by the Board.

As to lessons, the Board wants to encourage Wayne Weisler to use the back room for his lessons and to get those players playing in our club games.

Sherrie discussed with Kevin Perkins, the ACBL director, about what other clubs are doing for their tournaments in order to increase attendance and not lose money. Some clubs are still charging less per session but they are using local directors and only providing snacks rather than meals. If a local director is used, there is a big cost savings but the points awarded are only 80% of a tournament with an ACBL director.

Kevin suggested that we raise fees \$1-\$2 per session if we are going to provide meals. Another option would be to not provide meals and give them more time to go out between sessions or to bring their own lunch.

We currently have the 499'er Sectional tournament scheduled for October 6,7, and 8, and the Open Tournament for November 3,4, and 5. Newt Jackson recommended that we consider cancelling the 499'er tournament since they didn't support the July tournament. Rather than making the decision on that immediately, it was suggested that we give it consideration until the August meeting. During that time we can try and ask the 499'er players to make a commitment to support the tournament. Larry and Newt will write up a survey to the players that Sherrie can send with a link asking for a commitment.

The Board voted to raise the prices for the November tournament from \$12/session to \$14/session and continue to provide food. This will be a 3 day tournament on November 3, 4, and 5th. The game on Saturday, November 5th will be Swiss teams.

Virtual Club: Sherrie reported that Huntsville, Al has joined the virtual club and that there is a possibility that Hot Springs Village may also.

The ACBL is having a meeting with the larger virtual clubs that have been "stealing" the members from the smaller clubs to try and discourage this.

The ACBL virtual games will only pay a max of 2.5 masterpoints in the future. They are trying to encourage players to play in their face to face games which are able to award more for special games.

Eating at the tables in the face to face club has been a problem with players ignoring the rules. Signs need to be posted and directors need to enforce the rules. Handling food and handling the cards will ruin our dealing machine.

NABC: Larry reported that we still have many unanswered questions regarding the tournament and location, specifically prices. On many items we are required to go through the ACBL vendors. He has a conference call scheduled for August 3 in which he hopes to get more answers. He did determine that some of the areas will be combined such as the prizes desk and the information desk.

Jackie reported that she checked on the contract with the vending/coffee company. The original 5 year contract was signed on July 23, 2018, so it has only one more year to run. She is looking into what kind of snacks we can provide that will not be too messy for the cards.

Jim reported that he had been contacted by Copeland Tower Living and they would like to host a bridge tournament for their residents. Jim and Sherrie will follow up on this.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:55. The next meeting will be Monday, August 8, at 4:00 p.m.

Suzanne Cliffe
Recording Secretary