

**Board Members Attending:** John Meinking, Steve Moese, Barry Wauligman, Nalin Mehta, Peter Outcalt (Member-Elect). Steve Messinger. Larry Newman (Education Chair).

John Meinking called the meeting to order at 5:40 PM. There was no quorum at that time. John discussed the progress accomplished by the Board during his 4 years as President. The Bridge center is under lease for 8 more years, capital improvements inside and outside have been completed (\$70,000).

Steve Moese discussed how the Unit Bridge Center and the nearby games give us all a very inexpensive way to have fun compared to the rest of the country. Steve mentioned that the Unit needs volunteers, teachers for beginner bridge players, and Directors. The District will work with Unit 124 to host a Best Practices Teaching Workshop during the evening sessions of the Flying Pig Regional in June (3-9). Specifics are not yet firm. There has been some discussion about charging the standard \$125 per person for 12 hours of training. There is a test to qualify and a test to certify at the end of the training. Unit 124 will reimburse any unit Teacher who teaches two classes or 10 Supervised Play or Come and Play sessions at the CBC. The District and the Unit will work to keep costs to the teachers as low as possible.

Steve also mentioned that District 11 is hosting the NABC Tournament in March 2020. We will be asked to volunteer and provide monetary support.

The floor was opened for members to express their concerns and ideas:

Harriet Edwards mentioned that this Bridge Center has a reputation in the Unit for being unfriendly toward novice and newcomer players. Harriet asked everyone to make a special effort to be nice at the table and to welcome players we don't know by introducing ourselves when we arrive.

Others commented that a pair that continues to review hands between rounds without acknowledging their new opponents at the table are rude. Rude behavior is what drives people away from the Bridge Center.

Jusie Clendening mentioned that rude behavior extends to how people call the director, especially when the pair at the table is inexperienced. She gave several examples of behavior at the club where errors by newcomer were treated more harshly than necessary. Members clearly want people to be friendly even when enforcing the rules. Experienced players seem to forget the nice touches.

Many members supported both points. People see calling the director as an attempt to intimidate well-meaning newcomers. We discussed good ways and good tones of voice for calling the director to the table. We also discussed that a director call is neither bad nor good but neutral. Steve Moese mentioned that often two opposing forces are at play – we want fun and we want ethical play. The key is to keep fun while maintaining an ethical game. Few players ever learn the ethics and rules of the game – they are complex and can create hard feelings unless people learn them. That's too much to expect a newcomer to know so we need to be very friendly and forgiving where we can.

At 6:10 Steve Messenger counted members present and we had a quorum of 47 (5% of 931) verified by Steve Moese. Steve opened the floor for membership motions.

Barry Wauligman moved:

**That the Board of Directors recommend all directors who direct games at the Cincinnati Bridge Center remind players present of 2-3 of the “Play Nice” principles before every game.**

**Discussion:** Many favored asking game directors to be much more proactive to set the friendly environment they seek. They also want effective enforcement of Zero Tolerance. Steve Moese mentioned that the Board can make such a recommendation but the Unit Board has no authority over the clubs in the unit or the clubs that play at the bridge center.

Motion Passed 36 votes aye, 0 Nay, 11 abstaining.

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Kay Mulford moved:

**That the Board create table cards to remind players at the CBC to “Play Nice”.**

**Discussion:** Kay mentioned that the table cards used by Northern Kentucky helped keep her in a friendly state of mind at the table and she thought others would benefit.

Motion passed with the simple 24 vote majority.

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Both motions will now be taken up by the Board of Directors at Thursday’s meeting.

There being no more business brought by the members, the membership meeting adjourned by motion, second and voice vote at 6:20 PM.

Submitted Respectfully,

Steve Moese, Unit 124 Vice President