

CBA Board Meeting – September 6, 2019

The meeting was called to order at 3:00 PM by Pres. Mehta.

Attending in person: Mehta, Mess, Moese, Campbell, Messinger, Outcalt, Williams. Attending by phone: Meinking. Also attending were Mike Lipp, Larry Newman, AJ Stephani, Isaac Stephani, Al Norwood, Robert “Salty” Roark, Brenda & Jack Mehalko.

Pres. Mehta introduced Al Norwood and Brenda Mehalko as representatives from the Anderson and Northern Ky Bridge Clubs, respectively. He expressed his wishes that the Board the Bridge Clubs are represented at future Board meetings for a more comprehensive overview of bridge activities in the entire Unit 124.

Minutes of the previous board meeting were approved on a motion by Moese and a seconded by Mess, as amended. It passed unanimously.

Membership Committee Report

Steve Messinger reported that the new Unit ACBL members through August are tracking about the same number (50) as last year. Steve added that the OLLI classes are helping membership as well as the NLM games on Friday.

Steve Moese shared with the Board that District 11 is the lose leader of members in the 25 ACBL Districts with a decrease of 5% during the past year. Within District 11, the Dayton unit saw a decrease of 9%. It was noted that the Cincinnati Bridge Center (CBC), when the various sanction holders are combined, ranks as the #30 largest venue for playing bridge in the U.S. for the ACBL.

Education Committee Report

Larry Newman gave a comprehensive report on the Education Committee, including recent OLLI statistics. The Come and Play (CAP) numbers are particularly encouraging since almost 80 new people have participated in CAP games this year. Larry asked for direction from the Board on whether the primary purpose of the Education Committee is to teach bridge or to encourage to play duplicate bridge. The Board stated its intention is geared to teaching bridge. Larry also asked for clarification on whether the Education Committee should be given a set budget. Pres. Mehta asked that the Education Committee request formally a budget as other Committees do. The Board also clarified that the Education Committee is not responsible for the Mentor-Mentee Program. Larry requested that the Board help find additional volunteers to staff the CAP/OLLI programs.

Larry reported that limited feedback from new players suggests that about 80% of the CAP players are interested in duplicate bridge. A Mentor-Mentee survey suggests that mentees are interested in the sanctioned game have fewer hands (18) and that there be some extra time after each round for the table to discuss the just played hands.

Steve Moese reported that the ACBL is focusing more on offering limited NLM games to ease new players into the duplicate game. Only 200 NLM games limited to 0-20 MPs are offered

among the 2600 ACBL bridge clubs. The ACBL is also working on a better Guest membership program that would allow increased exposure to the ACBL at no-cost, provided the Guest has fewer than 5 MPs.

The Board congratulated Larry for the tremendous job he and the other Committee members are doing. The influx of new programs for beginners is encouraging and may be a model for other Units.

Financial Report

Treasurer Pam Campbell had previously sent the Board members the latest financials. There were no questions on the financials. They will be posted on the website.

Pam mentioned that the CBC is currently operating at a positive \$3,300, attributing this amount to the extra income being generated by the CAP program. She also said the Flying Pig Regional did show net income of about \$21,000.

Update on Future Flying Pig Regionals

AJ Stephani reported that he and Nalin had negotiated an extension of the current contract with the current Ramada on Chester Road. While there are still two years left on the current contract, the Ramada will be converted to a Marriott property, potentially increasing costs. The Ramada agreed to a 5 year extension at a favorable price, which will need to be honored when the Marriott acquisition is completed. AJ is reviewing the proposed extension agreement. The restroom facilities will be remodeled and increased by the start of the 2020 Flying Pig with better cleaning and signage.

As part of the Flying Pig Regional, championship games could include the use of “screens” similar to those used at Nationals. The ACBL is offering 25 “screens” at \$50 each.

Upon motion by Steve Moese and seconded by Tom Mess, the Board unanimously agreed to purchase the “screens” at \$50 each.

The screens will be transported free of charge to the Columbus Nationals. Arrangements will be made to have available storage of the screens as well as transportation from Columbus.

Use of CBC Facility When Not Used for Bridge Games or Meetings

Isaac Stephani asked for the Board’s opinion on the possibility of renting out the CBC for the purpose of chess tournaments, backgammon, or other board-type (analog/non-digital) games. His stated intent is that exposure to the Bridge Center will encourage younger members of the community to consider pursuing bridge as a possible pastime.

After extensive discussion, the Board approved the concept provided Isaac provided a more detailed plan, including a reasonable fee arrangement. The detailed plan would need to include that no alcohol would be served. No smoking would be observed. Arrangements with the cleaning crew would need to be met so that there is no conflict with when the crew arrives. In addition, the regular CBC bridge functions would pre-empt any alternate board/card game.

The Board requested that the Lease Agreement and Insurance Contract be reviewed to verify that there are no hidden problems with this possible use of the CBC.

Investment Committee Report

John Meinking reported that the Investment Committee Report was previously sent to the Board. There were no questions.

2019 Mentor-Mentee Report

John Williams reported that the 2019 Mentor-Mentee program would be concluding in September. Mentees are reporting favorably about the program. It was mentioned that many mentees like the reduced number of hands with time added between rounds for a quick discussion of the just played hands.

John indicated his willingness to work with the Education Committee on how the Mentor-Mentee program can be improved for 2020.

2020 Board Elections

Salty Roark reported on the status of 2020 Board candidates. He announced that John Meinking will not be running for re-election. Pete Outcalt announced at the meeting that he will be resigning at the end of CY 2019. After a brief discussion, the Board agreed that Pete's position would be filled by the same process used in the past – the Board will find a replacement trustee to serve the balance of the three year term.

Salty asked that the Board suggest any possible candidates to him.

Wednesday Night Sanction at CBC

Debbie Wiest has announced her intention to discontinue her Wednesday evening sanction. Pres. Mehta mentioned that Anirudh Pandit has possible interest in continuing the sanction. It will be between Debbie and Anirudh if Debbie continues to hold the sanction for the balance of 2019, but Anirudh is the game manager or if Debbie is willing to transfer the sanction to Anirudh, consistent with ACBL regulations.

Upcoming Events at CBC

NLM Sectional – October 4-5

NAP Pairs Finals District 11 – October 19-20

Spooktacular Sectional – October 31-November 1

The Tournament Chairs were encouraged to make sure that the budget was sufficient to provide adequate hospitality for the players.

Northern Kentucky Club Needs

Pres. Mehta asked Brenda Mehalko for an update on the status of the facility that NKy club had been using prior to the sewage backup problem. Brenda reported that the club appreciated the CBA's willingness to help, particularly with the recent donations. Re-use of the facility may occur in November, 2019, but the city of Elsmere, which owns the facility, is tentative about the re-opening date. Brenda also indicated that the replacement cost of damaged computers, tables,

chairs, and other equipment may be up to \$5,000, but that is before and insurance proceeds. Pres. Mehta encourage the NKy club to reach out for any help.

Membership Meeting

Pres. Mehta reminded Board members that the next meeting is a short one on 11/12 immediately before the Annual Membership Meeting.

Adjournment of General Meeting

At 5:02PM, the general meeting of the Board was adjourned. Immediately following the general meeting, there was an Executive session. The Executive session concluded at about 5:15PM with no further action required.

DRAFT

Tom Mess

Secretary – Unit 124