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NORTH JERSEY BRIDGE ASSOCIATION  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
February 17, 2024  
Held remotely via Zoom

President Carole Gelfer called the meeting to order. Attendance was taken with Bob noting who was present and Bob confirmed that a quorum was present.

Board Member Listing and Assignments

Martin Becker	Partnerships
Abby Brawer	Tournaments
Marlene Case	Tournaments, Newcomers
Doug Cestone	Auditor
Carole Gelfer*	President, Annual Brunch, Budget, Electronic Contact
Michelle Lanigan	Sanctions, Annual Brunch
Patricia Linnemeyer*	Vice President, Tournament Chair, Annual Brunch
Joel Lipset*	Recording Secretary
Pam Mills	Johnke/Reitman
Peri Namerow	Membership
Richard Nathan	Tournaments
Amy Nellissen	Newcomer Promotion, Flyers
Ron Nelken	Pro-Am
Richard Podkowiak	Website
Fred Shubert*	Newsletter
Robert Sorce*	Administrative Secretary
Tod Thorgersen	Johnke/Reitman, Prizes
Chris Thorn	Newcomer Promotion
Mark Whitman*	Treasurer, Budget

\*Executive Board

Honorary Members Present: Susan Koster

Excused: Richard Podkowitz, Fred Shubert, Richard Nathan, Michelle Lanigan, Ron Nelken, Doug Cestone

The Sept 30 meeting minutes were attached to the zoom link. Pam moved to approve Pat seconded. Approval followed

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Carole welcomed the new members to the board. She has sent out a list of the entire board. She noted that she and Pat have reviewed and modified the position descriptions of the board members, These have been distributed and if any modifications are needed, suggestions would be welcome. Some committees have been consolidated as is logical.

Sectional dates have been changed. The April Sectional will now be Thursday through Saturday in Ridgewood. The September Sectional is now in late August. Michelle will do the sanctions and flyers will be modified by Amy.

Spring and Fall Board meetings were discussed as being F2F. Joel and Pat noted that the meeting would need to be handicapped accessible, Possibility of f2f plus audio taping was discussed. Susan noted that Cedarcrest is nearby and a no charge room could be arranged. Mahwah library another possibility, fee may be involved. Todd mentioned having it in the club. Pat noted that some people work. Mark asked why not do on Zoom, people have travel. Carol and Susan noted the benefits of f2f for team building. Marlene agreed. Another possibility is Monday after the daily game as Amy already rents the space at 545pm. But can the workers come?

Susan suggested that we check out the Cedarcrest and Library options and consider separately. All agreed.

#### TREASURER'S REPORT

Mark said financials are much improved from last year. We had a modest profit in 23 vs the loss in 22. Details are found in the budget report. "Miles and Miles" ahead of where we were. New tournament site was key. Note that the annual brunch needs to be accounted for when comparing year to year as it may or may not be held in the fiscal year. Sectional attendance was up in late fall event and the trend is good

2024 budget was presented. Anticipating break even

Susan noted we have discussed raising entry fees to \$18 for the sectionals. Pat contested this given brunch possible increase. Marlene suggested only increasing fees when food is provided. Pat noted these were already increased. Bob said he agrees with Susan, costs will only go up. Suggest increase \$1 per year for sectional fees.

Mark suggested brunch should be higher charge given the value provided.

Susan made a Motion, increase to \$18 at sectional pairs goes effective now. Pam seconded. Ten in favor. Passed.

The existence of tokens of appreciation for certain board members as well as free entry for the brunch were discussed at the Exec Bd in the light of also providing a thank you for the board members who have given their time and effort throughout the year as was one of the intents of the brunch. Free brunch entries for the board will be continued Tokens of Appreciation were a non-proceduralized historic idea. These will be discontinued.

TOURNAMENTS: No report

#### HOSPITALITY

Merged into other areas.

#### SANCTIONS

Michelle has told Carole she is getting sanctions as needed. Amy may need to inform others at ACBL. She will follow up.

#### PAIRINGS

Joel will train and help Marty as needed.

Sectional pairing results were presented. November pairings were the largest in the last four years, at 30 entries. This was a big rebound after the September sectional result of zero

successful pairings, which was hopefully a one off due to the Thursday-Sat and/or early Sept date.

PLAYER OF THE YEAR, in webpage and maintained by Richard

#### ANNUAL BRUNCH

Pat noted an increase of \$5 for members and \$10 for non members.

She also brought up the idea of changing to game first at 1030am, then brunch. If so it would have to be a Saturday due to hotel issues. This would help the people who want to get done before dark. Mark suggested it could be in Feb to be lighter. However, issues with increased costs would result. Moving to Saturday vs Sunday was discussed. Either has issues with possible church or synagogue attendance prior. Decided to keep as is

#### JOHNKE & REITMAN TEAMS

Pam will join the committee.

Rental is in place for this year at Trinity Church.

Pat noted that she has often has done pairing for these events, plus that we intend these events to be unit member benefits, and not like sectionals where we actively seek other unit individuals

#### Prizes

Tod noted that keychains were appreciated. Trophies will continue for team and pro am games Bob noted that perhaps we could give the pens just for the LM award. Ron and Mark agreed. No further motion ensued.

#### PRO-AM

Pat and Amy noted that the it would be best to go to a Unit Pro-AM. Both Amy and Pat noted how difficult the event is to operate. Any club can do its own event, but one Unit event makes sense. Marlene agreed. Marlene suggested <50mp. Carole supported the Unit idea. Tod asked whether this can be done in a certain week, with merged results ala STaC. Pat says pros won't play despite being charged \$5 only. Complexities of this approach were noted as it would involve same board management and programming.

Bob says it would be worth it to make a single larger unit event. There are many Ams being taught and this event would expose them to team bridge in a relaxed and social setting Marlene moved to make it Unit event. Pam seconded. Passed unanimously. Details tbd

#### NOVICE PROMOTION AND RECRUITMENT

Two meetings have been held. Marlene and Chris on team. Two events will be run. Chris giving special effort per Amy especially on site options.

Amy suggested giving up on online experienced people. Stop beating ourselves up. They are not coming back."Build from ground up."

## MEMBERSHIP

### (MEASURES AND RETENTION)

Joel presented the unit membership numbers. Recent indications are flattened counts at ~800 after the large loss during Covid from 1100.

Amy noted that ACBL now offers a free Guest Membership. Is this visible to Membership Committee. Joel said no. Carol does get list of guest members. Is there a unit benefit? In addition, if we just contact a member, we get some credit through 555 program. This can be done online. Is this retroactive? Carole to mention this to Peri. Carol will follow up with Stephanie at ACBL

## FLYERS

Sectional flyer will be posted within a couple of days with new dates.

CLUB COORDINATOR, eliminated as a board responsibility

## NEWSLETTER

No report

## WEB PAGE

No report.

## OLD BUSINESS

None

## NEW BUSINESS

Joel had suggested adding a partnership function to the Johnke/Reitman. This was agreed to and Tod will handle.

A motion was made by Carole to adjourn the meeting. Numerous seconds The motion was passed.