

**NORTH JERSEY BRIDGE ASSOCIATION
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
May 30, 2015
Christ Church, Ridgewood, NJ**

President Dick Murray called the meeting to order at 10:04 a.m. Attendance was taken and Bob confirmed that a quorum was present. Board members in attendance were:

Dick Murray	President
Gale Mirro	Vice President, Budget
Lee Ohliger	Treasurer, Conduct and Ethics, Budget
Robert Sorce	Recording Secretary, Site
Neale Van Delft	Newsletter
Marlene Case	Tournaments, Hospitality, Budget
Stasha Cohen	Past President
Barbara LeVay	Sanctions, Hospitality, Annual Dinner
Debi Fabian	Caddies, Player of the Year, Website
Tod Thorgersen	Prizes, Reitman, Johnke
Michael Jeshion	Johnke, Reitman
Jack Forbes	Pairings
Linda Connolly	Newcomer/Intermediate promotion, Membership
Pat Rogers Linnemeyer	Club Coordinator, Annual Dinner
John Hogan	Recorder, Site, Tournaments
Ron Nelken	Pro-Am, Newcomer/Intermediate Promotion
Kathy Lathrop	Flyers, Tournaments, Hospitality

Also in attendance: Marilyn Wells, Steve Fabian.

Absent and excused: Carol McMackin, Doug Cestone, Marilyn Cavell.

The minutes of the prior meeting were reviewed. A motion was made by Debi, seconded by Barbara, to accept the minutes as submitted. The motion passed unanimously.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Dick proposed a new nominating committee, composed of board members Jack Forbes, Barbara LeVay, and Carol McMackin, and non-board members Toby Baskind, Martin Gilbert, Cyndi Morrissey, and Marilyn Wells. A motion was made by Gale to approve the nominating committee as suggested. The motion was seconded by Lee and passed unanimously.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Lee distributed the NJBA 2015 projected budget, and the updated actual income and expense data to date. Both documents were reviewed by board members. Kathy asked for historical information on the charity line item. Lee listed several local and national charities that we have contributed to in the past, and Gale added that we have also contributed to disaster relief, such as the Hurricane Katrina devastation in New Orleans. Ron asked if sanction fees are driven by table counts, and Lee responded affirmatively.

Lee reported that the recent Sectional was reasonably successful.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

TOURNAMENTS

Marlene reported the recent Sectional did fairly well. The new Friday night schedule resulted in a turnout of six and a half tables in the open game, and seven in the 0-750 Swiss. As the new open game has potential to grow, we should keep it in the schedule for the time being.

The dates for the rest of the 2015 Sectionals, and the first two in 2016, have been confirmed and approved by Guardian Angel Church.

SITE

Dick stated parking assistance is needed for the Friday sessions, as the lines defining the spaces are faded. Bob suggested we petition the church to repaint the lines. Dick agreed to speak to Silvana about the problem.

PAIRINGS

Jack reported pairings went well at the recent sectional. As he will be away for the September Sectional, he will make arrangements for coverage of the partnership desk. Barbara volunteered to be listed as contact in the newsletter.

SANCTIONS

No report.

CADDIES

Debi asked board members to recommend new prospects for caddying. We currently have enough caddies, but we should have back up people available.

PLAYER OF THE YEAR

Debi reported the web site has been updated. Neale asked if information on which events have been completed is available. Debi agreed to add the information.

ANNUAL DINNER

The annual dinner will be held at The Crowne Plaza in Suffern on December 13, 2015. Pat will work with Carol. A meeting with the venue representative is scheduled for June 3rd.

JOHNKE/REITMAN

Tod reported the Johnke is in the final playoff and should be completed by July 4th. The Reitman is scheduled for September 26th. The 2016 dates have been booked. The Johnke will be held on April 16th, and the Reitman on October 1st.

Marlene said having so many consecutive events makes planning difficult, and we should consider consolidating the Johnke and Reitman into one event. Tod said we've already diluted the Player of the Year competition, and it is nice to have two events. Pat agreed. Gale said the two subsidized events only benefit the same ninety to a hundred people. As there are 1,300 members in the unit, only a small percentage are participating. Mike said both events are available to all members, and more promotion might increase attendance. Gale stated we have tried increased promotion without

success, and John agreed. Kathy suggested newer players should be encouraged and educated about these events. Neale said he would put something in the newsletter. Marlene suggested using the money in a manner that would benefit more members, such as occasionally offering more points for club play. Debi suggested a Unit Appreciation Day, when club play would be subsidized, and/or additional points made available. This suggestion was generally well received.

Marlene said we can continue both events by adjusting schedules to prevent conflict with other events. Lee said we are necessarily constrained by other events. Stasha said we try not to offend other districts by competing with their scheduled events.

After a short discussion on eliminating the Johnke playoffs, Tod moved that the Johnke format be changed to a one day Swiss event. Neale seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

PRIZES

No report.

PRO-AM

Ron said the Pro-Am will be held on August 21st and 22nd. Pro participation is limited to one day only. Four clubs will be participating, and information is already available on the website. Bob pointed out Ams are currently given a free play for the Sectional as a participation prize, and suggested changing it to a free play in the Johnke or Reitman, as a way to introduce newer players to these events. Ron agreed this was a good idea. Gale said we should keep the free play limited to Sectionals. Stasha suggested we do both. This idea was well received, and the board agreed to make the free play accepted either at the Sectional, the Johnke, or the Reitman.

NEWCOMER/INTERMEDIATE PROMOTION

Linda reported the recent 0-99 Newcomer event had 15 tables, an increase over last year.

MEMBERSHIP

No report.

FLYERS

Dick said awareness of deadlines for flyer content is problematic, as too many people are involved. Kathy volunteered to take over all functions of flyer preparation. The unit will buy a copy of MS Publisher for Kathy to use, unless it is determined the license of our current copy can be shared.

DISTRIBUTION

No report.

CLUB COORDINATOR

No report.

NEWSLETTER

Neale said he will add the names of the nominating committee to the upcoming edition of the newsletter.

WEBSITE

Dick offered thanks to Debi and Steve. They took a website that was a dinosaur, and brought it into the modern world. We have had good feedback on the site, but still need to fine-tune the content. Debi said different modules on the site require different individuals to monitor and update them. Debi will distribute, via email, suggested names of board members to be responsible for particular modules. Board members are asked to respond with comments and suggestions.

Neale said he could not find the recaps from the recent Sectional on the site. Marilyn responded that they are available under a different tab.

Steve reported on page views for the site. There were 2,771 views in March, 6,440 in April, and 2,759 in May. Club listings was the most visited page.

CONDUCT AND ETHICS

No report.

RECORDER

No report.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

Dick informed the board the Winter Sectional, held in January, will be moving from Rye to the Hilton Meadowlands. This puts the event on our turf. We will have responsibilities, including appointing a coordinator. The coordinator will need to stay on site for the entire event. Additionally, volunteers will be needed in various capacities. Free plays will be given to all volunteers.

Dick said board members not running for another term should inform Jack of their decision. Marlene stated she will not be running for reelection. Dick asked the board to suggest names of unit members who could fill any vacancies. Gale stated that our bylaws require half of the board to be elected each year, and we should try to maintain that balance as we add new members.

A discussion was held about adding a fourth flight for the Johnke and Reitman, in an attempt to increase participation. Marilyn warned of potential problems with a new flight if there were not enough tables. Debi made a motion to change the strats for the Reitman to 0-199, 200-750, 750-2000, and over 2000. Michael seconded. The motion carried with one opposed, and one abstaining.

A motion was made at 11:40 by Barbara, seconded by Marlene, to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously.