

Richmond Bridge Association
Board of Directors Meeting
September 15, 2009

Members Present: Doug Jennings, Peg Ward, George Lewis, Richard Deyerle, Ellen Hartenburg, Debra Hoffman, Linda Seamster, Helen Rolfe.

Members Absent: Paul Anderson, Ed Kinlaw, John McNaney, Marty Wein, Toni Morton.

Doug called the meeting to order at 7:10.

1. RBA Rent Proposal to the Richmond Bridge Center (BC) for Annual Building and Cleaning: Doug reported that the BC accepted the RBA proposal for annual rent of \$10,000 paid in advance, and that RBA had paid \$6,666.66 to cover the rent from 4/1-11/30/09 to comply with the BC fiscal year. A full year's rent will be paid on 12/1/09. Doug will discuss storage space at the BC with Mimi.
2. MABC Memorial Day Regional Report: George gave an overview of the District 6 meeting and regional schedule, noting that Unit 109 received \$1,250 from MABC for hosting the regional in May. The Unit 109 hospitality room at the regional is provided for those working the tournament. The MABC hospitality room is for the regional honoraries, pros, tournament directors, and other high-level dignitaries in attendance. The schedule and fee for regionals are both set by the Mid Atlantic region known as the Mid Atlantic Bridge Conference (MABC) which is comprised of District 6 (which Unit 109 resides in) and District 7 (primarily North and South Carolina and Tennessee). Sectional schedules and fees are set by RBA with coordination for the District done by the American Contract Bridge League (ACBL).
3. Unit 109 Sectionals: There was discussion of how to increase participation at sectionals particularly on Sunday for Swiss Teams. The Board made and seconded a motion that the event be strata-flighted (average of team member points) rather than stratified (ranked by highest member's points). It was agreed that Doug, George and Ed would address the levels of strata-flighted Swiss team games particularly for the lowest strata. Suggestions were 0-500 or higher for the lowest strata but they will analyze and make a decision. This change will not take place until the next sectional that has not yet been advertised which will be sometime in 2010.
4. Treasurer's Report: Richard made a report of the balance sheet and income statement. A motion was made and seconded to accept the report. Motion carried. It was noted that the Friendly Bridge Reports provided separately no longer include the rent expense and the revenue appears higher due to this accounting change.

5. Washington DC Nationals RBA sponsored events: Doug reported on the success of the Unit 109 sponsored KO event, "Pie Night" for youth players, and "Sub Night" for the intermediate/novice players.
6. May Dinner Receipts to Charity: Deborah reported that we took in \$411 at the May meeting. Peg moved and Ellen seconded a motion to donate this amount to the Central Virginia Food Bank. Motion carried.
7. Member's Recommendation at Annual May Meeting: Doug presented the item recommended by a member at the 2009 May meeting that dinner be served at every annual meeting in the future rather than every other year as is current practice. The issue was tabled until after the annual meeting in May 2010, at which dinner will be provided. The Board will then be in a better position to assess the financial and membership satisfaction implications of the recommendation.
8. RBA Unit Games Format/Attendance: Doug reported that the monthly RBA game will alternate between pairs and team games each month; October will be a pair game, November will be a team game, and December a pair game. To create greater interest, it was suggested that random teaming be used in November and that free plays for RBA games be given the winners of each section. The Board also discussed several strategies for making the Unit games more friendly to the newer players.
9. Friendly/Novice Bridge Report & update: Peg reported that there are about 30 players at the new novice program on Sunday night, September 13.
10. NLM Sectional Report & RBA Novice Program Publicity Update: Peg gave the number of tables for the 3 NLM events held in the past year: Fall 08: 94 tables; Spring 09: 70; Fall 09: 72. Having Will and Jack involved in the program has been key to the success so far.
11. RBA Games: Doug reported that there is a new unit 109 game in Fauquier County with Neil Spokes serving as club manager and director. He conveyed a request by the Willow Oaks Friday game to be allowed to hold its regular 10-16-09 game on the first day of the fall sectional. A motion was made and seconded to maintain the policy of closing other games during a sectional. Motion carried.
12. 2009 RBA Directory Update: Those interested in advertising in the new directory should contact Paul Anderson. Prices: full page \$100; ½ page: \$65.
13. "Discover Richmond," a Richmond Times-Dispatch publication: Doug passed around the magazine and noted that RBA Unit 109 games were listed in the Games section on page 40 for a nominal fee.
14. Moose Lodge Building Fund donation Request: It was moved and seconded to contribute \$500 to the Moose Lodge Building Fund. Motion carried.

15. RBA Website & Web 2.0 (Facebook & Ning) Content: It was agreed that the current FaceBook and Ning pages for Unit 109 are fine but that the Board is concerned regarding not being aware of the decisions to utilize these social media sites for the unit and some members observed that there can be concerns with social media if personal information is published, though none of these concerns have been experienced to date.

16. Bridge Mates: Several persons at the NLM sectional asked about Unit 109 purchasing Bridge Mates for scoring. After some discussion it was agreed to revisit the issue next year when more kinks have been worked out, and the price has dropped (now about \$3K for 20 units).

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Helen Rolfe, secretary