

**Richmond Bridge Association
Unit 109
Board of Directors Meeting
January 27, 2011**

Board Members Present: Paul Anderson, Steve Chaplin, Ed Kinlaw, Linda MacCleave, Pat McDermott, Paul McGowan, Ruth Miles, and Peggy Ward.

Board Members Absent: Stuart Clayman, Richard Deyerle, Harry Gellis, and Ellen Hartenberg.

Other Unit Member Attending: Bob MacCleave.

Peggy called the meeting to order at 6:45 p.m., welcomed everyone, and thanked Linda for hosting the meeting.

Treasurer's Report. In Richard's absence, Peggy reported that he does not have the treasurer's report, but he will have the statements ready next week and will send them to us.

Financial Committee Report. Paul M. reported the following recommendations for the committee, consisting of Paul M., Linda, Ed, Richard, and Harry: (1) the purchase of 500 convention card holders to be distributed to bridge program graduates, with availability for sale to other RBA members; (2) the offer for the RBA to contribute 60% of the purchase price of a dealing machine to any club wishing to purchase such machine, effective until May 1, 2011, limited to five machines, and acknowledgement that if the club closes or relocates outside the RBA, the machine's ownership would revert to the RBA; (3) declined to recommend a similar arrangement for the purchase of scoring machines due to the lack of interest by club owner/operators; (4) considered the purchase of playing cards and bidding box inserts, and recommended that the RBA establish a policy that it not provide disposable products for any club, but the RBA should serve as a "clearing house" for volume discounts to clubs wishing to combine orders; (5) declined to recommend the use of RBA reserves to subsidize further the purchase of food/entertainment, such as the annual meeting. Money will be used for capital improvement.

Peggy moved that the Board purchase the convention card holders; decline to purchase electronic scoring machines based on a lack of interest by club owners; make available the purchase of dealing machines at a 60-40 percent ratio between the club owner or group of club owners and the Unit—the Unit paying 60% and the title residing with the Unit, and that

offer is good until May 2011; decline to utilize the Unit's funds for non-capital activity such as refreshments and disposable items such as cards and bidding boxes; in addition to the RBA paying 60% with the stipulation that title resides with the Unit, we will also have the stipulation that for any club who has need of the dealing machine the club owner or group of club owners will make it available at a mutually agreeable rate; and, if the machine is rented out, the Unit would get 60% of the profit since the Unit owns 60% of the machine. The motion was seconded by Pat, and the motion was carried.

New Board Member. Peggy welcomed our new Board member, Steve Chaplin, and thanked Steve for accepting the invitation approved at the last Board meeting.

GNT Status. Paul A. distributed a handout with the schedule and locations for GNT games. Paul and Bob had conflicting information about the ending date, February 24 as opposed to March 3. This conflicting information will be resolved by Paul. Paul requested a list of qualifying people from Bob next week, which will be posted at the Bridge Center so people can see who is qualified, and he will begin working on getting people into teams after March 1. Bob announced "C" qualifying games on January 30 and February 15. Paul indicated that there is a problem getting people who will spend \$100 and will take the time to go to the nationals. Bob informed us that you cannot participate at the district level without the commitment that if you win, you will go to the national. Paul requested and received permission (which Linda said he did not need) to come to some of Linda's and Ed's games to push the GNT's.

Sheila Kleiman Congeniality Award. Peggy reported that she had tabulated the votes for the Sheila Kleiman Congeniality Award, including those that were emailed to Ruth. **Paul A. moved to accept Peggy's report and award the trophy based on the results. The motion was seconded by Paul M. and was carried.**

NAP 10/23-24)/GNT (3/5-6) Games. Paul did not have any additional information. Peggy complimented Paul on the good job he had done.

Goodwill Committee Report. Pat reported that 40 cards went out altogether—16 went out through U.S. mail and 24 through emails. Nine congratulations, eight sympathy, 17 get-well, four thank you notes, and two welcome letters were sent.

Membership Committee Report. Pat reported that there were 19 welcome packets sent out, and a few persons were called for feedback and they all were very appreciative and they couldn't think of anything else that would be helpful to have in the packet. On the

congratulations, Pat discovered that Tony Graziano had reached 1,000 master points, and that was the only category left out. She sent Tony a congratulatory card. The 500 level was not included because that will be the eventual level for achieving life master. We are paid up for the email cards until 2013. Pat also reported that through contact with Ben, she had been able to find someone to partner with a new member (life master) who had relocated from another district. Peggy referenced the thank you notes sent to those donating door prizes to the Christmas Mother Dinner—Betty Loving, Art and Johanna, The Neumans, and The Pustilniks.

Paul informed us that 158 pounds of food was donated to the food bank, along with \$1130. Peggy suggested we do an article about this and put it on the web site.

Unit Game Hospitality Report. Ellen was not present, but Peggy noted the wonderful job she does. For the January Unit game, she spent around \$57. Others also noted how wonderful Ellen and Mike are at providing the hospitality.

Charity Games Report. Harry was not present, so there was no report.

I/N Committee Report. Stuart was not present. Peggy asked whether or not Stuart is putting out the I/N Newsletters bimonthly, and Pat stated that she is depending on those to send to new people. Ed reported the Newsletter is being sent out, just not every other month. Two have been sent out.

Sectional Hospitality Report. Not needed.

Educational Liaison Report. Ed reported that the games have been going really well on Sunday evening, averaging about 10 tables. One of his students is a teacher at St. Catherine's and she invited Ed to serve as a guest lecturer in the bridge class being taught there, which he did. Ed informed us that they have not given out bridge books to the students and wanted to know if there was any way to get them bridge books without him actually purchasing them. **Ed moved that we donate 17 bridge books to St. Catherine's for their bridge class. Linda seconded the motion, and the motion was carried.**

Peggy informed us that she has had a couple of calls (one from Missouri) about the NLM Sectional that we are going to have April 30-May 1, and people are very excited. This is the first NLM Sectional or otherwise that is being directed by our own folks. Ed and Paul will be our directors, and Peggy offered to do whatever she can to help as tournament chair. Paul M. requested that Peggy send him a flier and he will distribute it to the clubs in his area. Two or

three weeks before the tournament was suggested as the optimal time for distributing the fliers to clubs. Peggy will send the flier to Ruth to send it out along with the minutes to the entire Board. Linda will make 500 copies of the NLM flier on a half sheet, and will make more later, if needed. The fliers can be taken to Fredericksburg.

Peggy noted that on the open Sectional, the time of the first game on Friday is wrong, and has been wrong since October. It says 10:30 p.m. instead of 10:30 a.m. Peggy inquired about making the change and was told that we would have to pay a fee to do so. Since she thought that most people actually figure it out, as the next game is 3:30 p.m., she did not see a need to pay to have the change made. She did ask that the corrections be made for July. Linda said that she can make the change on our copy. The change only needs to be made on the regular Sectional. The NLM Sectional is correct.

Friendly Bridge 2010 Report. Linda read the report that she had sent to the Board by email. She reported that currently the Sunday and Tuesday evening games average between 14 and 18 tables per game (20 tables last Sunday), and the beginner games have between 6 and 10 tables per session. Last year, 350 books were printed at \$4.00 per book, and Virginia Beach had 100 books printed for their club at our low printing rate (no profit to the RBA). Monies collected were \$31,586.00 for entries and \$280.00 for sale of books. Expenses were \$15,725.00 for salaries, \$9,040.00 for rent, \$2,142.64 for ACBL and District 6 fees, and \$2,589.05 for supplies (books, etc.) A profit of \$2,369.31 was realized. Linda's report also included past profits for the years since she started keeping records in 2005. Linda expressed that she is proud that Friendly Bridge is operating at a profit and can justify buying things like conventions cards for the players and can continue to give away books and feel comfortable about it. Peggy expressed appreciation for the profit but even more for the new members.

Subsidy for Fredericksburg Sectional Sunday Lunch. Ed explained the difference in the Fredericksburg Sectional and the Richmond Sectional. Richmond charges \$80 for the Swiss team game on Sunday which is \$20 per person. Fredericksburg charges \$8 per session which is \$16 per person. Lunches are served at both locations. Richmond's is not an optional lunch. The lunch at Richmond is provided by our host facility. They charge the RBA \$7 per person, and we add \$4 of that on to the amount of the entry fee and the additional \$3 is subsidized. Paul M. indicated that he thinks the additional amount is less than \$3 sometimes, and Peggy confirmed this. Fredericksburg may serve a box lunch that is optional. There was considerable discussion about raising the entry fee for Fredericksburg to be consistent with Richmond (\$20), so that the Unit would be consistent. There was general agreement that it is too late to raise the fee for the upcoming March Sectional.

Peggy raised the question of how we want to handle the subsidy after this year. Paul M. brought up the issue about whether or not we would have a Fredericksburg tournament next year because the Williamsburg Regional is moving to March. Peggy informed us that she asked about that in VA Beach and was told that it would be the end of February or beginning of March and would not conflict with the Fredericksburg Sectional. Peggy said she will get with Millard on that and get back with Paul M.

In further discussion, it was brought out that it is the player who is being subsidized for the lunch, and the amount of the fee that goes to the Unit is the same both places, \$16 per person. The difference is that Richmond adds \$4 per person for lunch. So, if we are giving \$3 to Richmond, we should also be giving \$3 to Fredericksburg. **Peggy moved that we amend last meeting's motion to include this new information that we subsidize up to \$3, based on actual cost for Fredericksburg after they have charged the players \$4 for lunch. The motion was seconded by Ed and was carried.** Paul M. will have a talk with the new Fredericksburg chairpersons regarding this matter.

Hampton Roads Trophy. Ed reported that he has not made any contact this year. Last year the event was held in May, and he anticipates that it will be in May this year, on a date that will be mutually agreeable to us. Last year, the RBA picked up everybody's entry fee, and he would like for that to occur again. **It was moved by Ed and seconded by Paul A. that the RBA will pick up everybody's entry fee for the Hampton Roads Trophy game this year. The motion was carried.** Pat wanted to know how soon we can sign up for one of the teams. Ed indicated the he anticipates we will have more people wanting to play this year than last year, when we had more people wanting to play than we had teams. Last year a first come first serve basis was used, it worked well, and there is no problem with that.

Other Business: Bob MacCleave had a complaint that some people were not invited to last year's May dinner, and he reasoned that we did not have them on our mailing list. He requested that Ruth get the latest membership file and send him a copy at least a month before the mailing goes out, and she agreed to do so. Bob expressed concern about not getting information on people who join online. He was informed that this information is received by the Unit on the monthly In and Out Report, and all Board members are forwarded copies of the report. Bob agreed to secure this information from Linda's copy of the report. Peggy and Paul requested copies of the membership file that Ruth will obtain.

Peggy had an item to address. MABC has purchased electronic scoring machines and we can rent them for 50 cents a unit to use at Sectionals. The plan is to do that after the Regional.

Once we use them at the Regional, we will bring them in for use at the July Sectional and will only need a caddy for the Sunday game.

Announcements: Pat announced that she does not get any information for goodwill from Fredericksburg. Paul is working on it. Peggy announced that the Moose Lodge has been booked for the May Dinner (odd year). This brought about discussion concerning use of The Place for the dinner and rehashing of the use of RBA funds. Peggy suggested that the financial committee be an ongoing part of the Unit. **Steve volunteered to join the committee.** Peggy also announced that she has received a couple of things that she will forward to Ruth to send out with the minutes, along with the Intermediate/Novice flier.

The next meeting will be March 31 at 6:30 p.m. Peggy will check with Ellen Hartenberg about having it at her place. Paul Anderson volunteered to host the meeting if Ellen cannot.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ruth Miles, Secretary