

**Richmond Bridge Association
Unit 109
Board of Directors Meeting
March 27, 2012**

Board Members Present: Paul Anderson, Steve Chaplin, Stuart Clayman, Barry Fratkin, Harry Gellis, Ed Kinlaw, George Lewis, Linda MacCleave, Pat McDermott, Paul McGowan, and Ruth Miles.

Board Members Absent: Richard Deyerle and Ellen Hartenberg.

The meeting was called to order at 6:40 p.m.

Treasurer's Report. Richard was not present to give the treasurer's report; however, Ed reported that the balance in the checking account is over \$16,000, and there is approximately \$17,000 in CDs.

Finance Committee Report. Paul M. reported that the Finance Committee proposes paying 50% of the cost to clubs for purchasing vinyl-coated bidding box cards. This offer would be made to the clubs for one year and would be back-dated for those purchased in the last six months. It was suggested that the RBA, which owns all the bidding boxes at the Bridge Center, purchase 20 tables worth of bidding boxes. **It was moved by Paul M. and seconded by Harry that the Unit offer 50% reimbursement to any club who purchases or has purchased vinyl bidding box inserts and/or bidding boxes over the past six months and going forward six months. The motion was carried.** In response to a question concerning tables, Harry showed a picture of one used in Pittsburg, and Barry gave a price for tables like we have now. The Finance Committee will investigate the cost of the tables.

Unit Name Change. Ed apologized for not realizing that a 2/3 majority was required to pass the bylaws change for the Unit name change. The Board was informed of the error in an email from Ed prior to this meeting. He promised to take care of this by offering an apology to the membership. Linda will make the change on the website, and Ed will announce it in "What's Trumps" and the May Dinner letter. ACBL will be notified to make the name change back to RBA. George suggested that we have a tag line in the 2012 Directory and on the website that says "Serving Central Virginia Duplicate Bridge." Linda will make sure that the website says "Serving Central Virginia."

Directory. Linda reported that there are 976 names in the 2012 Directory, of which 728 are RBA members and 248 are not. Sixty members are not included in the directory, either because they asked not to be in there or could not be found. Members and nonmembers will be listed together in alphabetical order. The directory will include directory facts, a letter from Ed, and 14 advertisers. The total amount of \$1,200 to \$1,300 expected from the advertisers will contribute toward the cost of printing, which is about \$2,000. The letters designating rank are

as of February unless Life Master or Bronze Life Master has been achieved at a later time prior to printing.

Fredericksburg Sectional. Paul M. reported that attendance was down from in the past. The Friday and Saturday games had a profit of about \$1,000 under that of the last Richmond Sectional; however, on Sunday the amount was about \$230 more than Richmond due to the lower expenses. The expenses were lower for the Sunday lunch by about \$300, and there were fewer free plays and less food in general. Fredericksburg spent \$209 for snacks compared with \$460 for Richmond. Paul noted that Fredericksburg is the only sectional starting at 1:30 on Friday, rather than 10:30, but there might be some problems with getting the tables to the 10:30 game. The tables will be stored at Mark Rosenbloom's business, West Home Health Care, and we need to resolve who will be responsible for transporting them. Regarding a complaint about not holding a 99er's game on Friday evening, it was the director's decision. After there was no interest in the Friday afternoon game, she didn't try afterwards. The suggested solution was not to advertise it. Bracketed knockouts were considered, but there was no interest. It was suggested that this also not be advertised. There was concern expressed about people lobbying for fee plays, and it was suggested that we need to have a board policy. It was further suggested that we have a policy booklet with guidelines for all tournaments and the chairs should have access to the guidelines. Paul was thanked for the tournament information he provided.

Regarding sectionals in general, George suggested that we change the Saturday BAM, described as a logistical nightmare for directors. The pros and cons, likes and dislikes of the BAM were discussed, and while we can't do anything for the June Sectional, Barry suggested that we can talk among people before the October Sectional to see what they would like.

NLM Sectional. Ed reported that he and Paul A. will do another BAM at the next NLM Sectional, April 14 and 15, and they anticipate it will go well. Paul A. suggested that Ginter Park be compensated for the use of their bidding boxes. The idea of getting bidding boxes from the Mid-Atlantic was brought up. The cost was given as \$0.50 per table charge for the bidding boxes and all the paper work. **Paul A. moved that anybody other than the Unit providing bidding boxes be given 40 cents per table rounded to the nearest dollar. The motion was seconded by Pat and was carried.**

June Open Sectional. Barry distributed his report to Board members. The number of tables increased by 16 to 200 and the revenue increased 23% to \$830. On Saturday morning there were 44 tables, Friendly Bridge increased from 13 to 17, and the Sunday Swiss was up by five tables, largely attributed to Ed getting newcomers out. Door prizes were continued. Pre-dealt hands sped up the start for each session by 10-12 minutes. Ed and George were thanked for spending the time making the boards, and George was thanked for doing a great job being an additional director at considerable financial savings. The Moose Lodge handled the Sunday lunch efficiently, at a cost increase from \$7.00 to \$7.25.

Details were given about the accommodations at the Comfort Inn Conference Center, the site for the June Sectional. They included: space for 50-60 tables in the main ballroom with additional rooms if needed, ample parking, \$500 per day charge for the ballroom (only \$100 a day more than the Moose Lodge), and a room rate of \$55. We can have hospitality as in the past, and Bob and Marge Matheson have agreed to handle hospitality for the retiring Hartenbergs. Mark Rosenbloom's West Home Health Care will store, deliver, and help set up the tables. Advertising has been changed and is on the web and in "Table Talk" to reflect the new venue, and flyers are being distributed to upcoming regionals and sectionals. ACBL will do an email for us six weeks in advance to all members within a 200 mile radius, as has been done for the last two sectionals

May Dinner/Membership Meeting. Ed has spoken with The Place. The cost for the dinner is \$25 per head, and there is an additional cost of approximately \$250 for table rental, podium, and microphone. Table rental is necessary because they don't have enough tables to accommodate the group. **There was a motion by Harry that we charge \$15 a person (\$30 a couple) for ACBL members and anyone under 100 master points at the May Dinner to include dinner and the bridge game. The motion was seconded by George and was carried.** George noted that there are people who don't want to come to the dinner but want to play in the bridge game and suggested that we handle this by letting the director know how much to charge those who just want to play bridge. Nominations were given, a vote was taken, and a person was named for the Sheila Kleiman Congeniality Award. Ed has the results from the Unit games and will tally up the points to determine the winners with the most master points in each of the categories: A--Open, B--0 to 1500, and C--0 to 300. Mike Fine usually gets the trophies engraved.

Hampton Roads Trophy Game. Ed distributed information about the 2012 Hampton Roads Trophy Games, which will be held on June 9. Board members were given the first chance to sign up to represent the Unit as two-time defending champions at the games to be held in Williamsburg this year. Several members signed up, including Paul A., Steve, Linda, Ruth, and Pat. The information will be placed in "What's Trumps", and Board members should let Ed know if they want to participate.

Goodwill & Membership Committee Report. Pat reported that 22 welcome packets had been sent since January 1, 2012. In addition, a total of 26 thank you, sympathy, get well, and congratulations cards were sent. Thank you cards were sent to those who contributed door prizes and to Jean Oakey for her contribution to the Bridge Center.

Charity Month & Games Report. Harry had nothing new to report.

I/N Committee Report. Stuart reported that the I/N Newsletter has been reviewed twice and is ready to go. The Lending Library has been downsized, and they have a bunch of books of which he would like to keep some back to rotate and would like to talk with some of the other clubs and see if they want some. Paul M. will take some of the books to Judy in Fredericksburg.

Harry reported about a special session that he and Bob will be attending in Gatlinburg on getting youth involved, and he will bring back handouts. He emphasized the need to teach the youth and get them involved. Linda noted that that our over-fifty audience has been the key to our success, and we need to continue to tap the group of young retirees.

Educational Liaison Report. Ed reported that there were about 16 tables at the first Sunday session of the beginner's class for Friendly Bridge.

Other Business. Harry questioned whether or not we had been brought up to date with the State Corporation Commission. Ed will take care of it. A reminder was given that the 2-year term of Board members expires on May 31.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ruth Miles
Secretary