

Minutes
DBAA Board Meeting
Tuesday, March 12, 2024

Tom Drinkard called the meeting to order at 10:02. In attendance were:

Tom Drinkard
Vicki Bell
Candy Cox
Jack Feagin
Jim Fordham
Garry Williams
Sue Williams

The February Minutes and Treasurer's Report, which were sent out via email with Tom Drinkard's Agenda for today's meeting, were approved.

Jack Feagin reported that the annual registration of the DBAA with the Secretary of State has been completed. For convenience he went ahead and registered for two years. Cost of registration is \$30 per year.

Tom recently emailed a copy of his letter to new and returning members of the DBAA to the Board. Between the five members of the Board who approved via email and those present today who had not responded to Tom's email, the letter was approved. Merrie Edelston who is in charge of membership will send these out each month with a list of area clubs and a free play. Jack suggested that this should be a permanent action, and all agreed. Each letter should have the name of the new or returning member, Merrie Edelston's signature, and an expiration date. Discussion followed about the expiration date, and it was decided that it should be a ninety days from the date of the letter.

Several Board members are unable to meet Tuesday mornings and felt that a week night meeting would be better. Monday evening at 7:00 was suggested and approved. Future DBAA Zoom meetings will be held on the second Monday of each month at 7PM.

April 8	September 9
May 13	October 14
June 10	November 11
July 8	December 9
August 12	

Tom reported that all of the awards for the 2023 Ace of Clubs and the 2023 Mini-McKenney races have been hand delivered or mailed to the recipients.

Tom Drinkard, Vicki Bell, Roz Howell, Kim Morgan, and Sue Williams held an initial meeting to plan for a new directory of DBAA players to be ready for the Atlanta Labor

Day Regional. The ACBL cannot legally release a list of the unit members for us to use. Jack suggested emailing a form via Pianola (our software system) to members on its list that can be filled out and returned to us. Sue said that the ACBL, while not releasing a list of members, could send out an email for us with the form. Pianola has a list of 2431 members and ACBL has a list of 1761 members. Tom thinks we might also need to print copies of the form and take to the clubs, and Jack said we should do all three. Jack mentioned that there are services that will do this for us. Tom looked into services and said they're expensive. Jack will get information to him for consideration. Vicki suggested that we see how other large units have produced a directory in recent years, and Jack said that he will put a letter to this effect on Bridge Winners.

Tom said that Ray Spalding has worked on updating the DBAA website but that he needs our help to keep it current and relevant. He asked that all of us on the Board look over the website from time to time and send any comments and recommendations to Sue or himself.

Tom wants to get the forms for Hall of Fame nominations out in an email blast and returned to the Hall of Fame Committee by April 1st. This would be accompanied with a letter of instruction and an explanation of the qualifications looked for in a nominee. Jack said we have materials from past years that we could use and Mike Sheldon can provide examples of previous year's nominations.

The tournament trophies and plaques need some care. There's a display case of trophies and a box of plaques at Sam's. Dan has a wall for the display of plaques, but the plaques need to be updated as well as hung. Jack said there are 2-session events that are State Championship events for teams and A and B pairs with winners whose names should be added to the plaques. We may not have the names of winners for some years but should have them for at least the past two years.

Jack reported that he doesn't have the final bill from the Marriott for the recent NLM Regional. He has three concerns.

- 1) There was a small loss last year and, while the attendance was better than expected, there should be a [hopefully small] loss this year as well. We knew we wouldn't be able to fill the original number of rooms the Atlanta Marriott Perimeter Center wanted us to guarantee, and the number was reduced to 38 room nights. We needed to meet 80% of the target or pay a penalty. Jack is waiting to hear from the hotel about this.
- 2) The hotel rate was \$145/room with a rebate of \$12. This is similar to last year, and the system last year ran perfectly, with guests receiving a rebate in the form of an adjustment to their credit card. There is some confusion this year. Jack, of course, wants the rebate to be credited to guests directly, as last year. He is concerned about guests not receiving their rebate and becoming upset about it. Jack sent a polite email to the hotel, restating that the DBAA did not receive a check last year for the rebate; that the hotel rooms were advertised with a rebate for guests before the tournament; and that Jack wanted the rebate to benefit the guests, not the DBAA.

- 3) We have a contract with this hotel for next April. We need to let them know that, considering whatever the loss is this year and how the rebate is handled, we might need to cancel unless acceptable adjustments are made.

Overall, except for one night when guests couldn't get into their rooms, the hotel was good. When their system of collecting pay for parking didn't work well, the hotel threw up the parking gates and parking was free. Jack told them that players were willing to pay the \$5/day, but the hotel needs to have a system that is efficient and that doesn't result in long lines that prevent timely game starts.

Tom reported that Patty Tucker made a lot of contacts and was very encouraged at the response at the Conference of the Georgia Association for Gifted Children. On the subject of Patty, Jack said that we need to offer another "Learn Bridge in a Day" event for the Unit.

Tom mentioned that the next meeting would be Monday evening, April 8th, at 7 PM. With no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:56.

Respectfully submitted,

Candy Cox