

Approved
**Duplicate Bridge Association of Atlanta
Board of Directors – Meeting Minutes**

Date/Time: August 9, 2014 - 9:30–11:30 am
Location: Bridge Club of Atlanta

Present: Marty Nathan, Judy Fendrick, George Powell, Jack Feagin, Becky Butler, Vicki Bell, Bob Jones, Josie Mitchell and Dick Myers
Absent: Roz Howell, Larry Rich and Mary Ann Oakley
Invited Guests: Donna Schmid

Prior Meeting Minutes – Judy Fendrick

A motion was made to approve the June 14 meeting minutes. *Motion approved.*

Treasurer’s Report – George Powell

George distributed the current financial statements and Executive Summary to the board on e-mail prior to the meeting. The 2014 Receipts and Disbursements reports reflect the following losses from operations:

1st Qtr	(729)
2nd Qtr	(5,610)
7/31/2014	(4,210)
Total	(10,549)

The DBAA’s expenses include Change of Rank, Mentoring, Wednesday night game, Constant Contact for newsletter, online directory, sectional tournaments and administrative expenses. Financial statements are posted on the DBAA’s website.

Second quarter Mentoring program costs are not yet final due to amounts pending payment to Alpharetta DBC and Ruff N Sluff.

A motion was made to approve the Treasurer’s Report. *Motion approved.*

Newsletter – Marty Nathan (for Mary Ann Oakley)

Starting with the newsletter just issued, we are dating them with the following month so they do not appear out-of-date when issued.

The newsletter is distributed to approximately 1,600 members through Constant Contact. The DBAA area currently includes approximately 2,200 members. Once our online database is up and running, we hope to have more e-mail information. We will send the newsletter to anyone who doesn’t opt out of the newsletter, if the board approves this policy, which is in accordance with ACBL rules on use of personally identifiable information.

We discussed that the newsletter is too long at 19 pages and whether we need to continue to include articles such as the bridge hand, but most felt the bridge hand adds value.

Marty indicated that Mary Ann is not going to run for re-election for Vice President, so we will need a newsletter editor, starting in March, 2015. Anyone who is interested should contact Marty. Marty's wife Patty formats the newsletter with Microsoft Publishing, so that would not be part of the editor's responsibility.

Josie said she is not getting the newsletter e-mails. This may be due to a firewall block with her government e-mail account. Further review of possible reasons why Josie is not getting these e-mails is needed.

DBAA Yahoo Group – Marty Nathan

Marty reminded the board that DBAA discontinued using the dbaa_board@yahogroups.com account several months ago. Judy previously sent the board members' e-mail listing so that any board member could create their own DBAA group code in their e-mail. Alternatively, to send a message to the DBAA board, simply use a recent e-mail that Judy sent to the board and select "Reply to All" which will put the e-mail addresses in the To line.

Labor Day Regional – Jack Feagin

Jack referred to the pre-tournament bulletin that tells people what will be happening at the tournament, including a section on conditions of contest. He will have it finalized one week prior to the tournament. Jack suggested we could e-mail the bulletin to save on printing.

Action Item: Marty will alert Mary Ann about sending the pre-tournament bulletin through Constant Contact.

Regarding the \$2,000 MABC Regional advance shown as a liability on the DBAA's Balance Sheet, Jack explained that out of the \$10,000 advance we get each year that is deposited to the DBAA checking account, \$2,000 is maintained as a rollover amount. In addition, the MABC policy has been to give \$1,300, plus an amount for certain number of tables, to DBAA as thanks for helping with the tournament.

Sectional Tournaments – Dick Myers

Dick reported that he had received a lot of feedback from players and board members regarding the July sectional at NATC. He said he was to blame for not realizing that the facility did not provide adequate drinking water, and that a microphone was needed by the directors. The tournament loss was \$3,808, due in part to revenue being \$7,000 below budget. Dick thinks the holiday being on a Friday adversely affected attendance. This facility charged no food minimum. Our total food cost for the tournament was \$6,377, which included free lunch on Friday for 250 people at \$11.50 per person. Remainder of the cost was the reimbursement of \$2.00 food coupons.

Negative comments from players included: Facility was too cold and too loud, the chairs (which we rented) were uncomfortable, location had heavy traffic during rush hour, facility seemed barren and cavernous, coffee was bad and cost \$2.00, and food was not good. Becky said she stood in line for food, and then they ran out of food. Donna Schmid commented that the chairs caused her to have significant back problems, and she is now walking with a cane. Vicki noted that players like the Ravinia which has a ballroom, carpeting and comfortable chairs. People did not get change back from their \$2.00 coupons, although Dick said they were supposed to.

Positive comments from players were that parking and lighting were good at NATC.

The discussion continued with both Jack and Dick reiterating that it is difficult for us to get contracts at hotels because our sectional tournaments do not sell a lot of rooms, and the hotel can make more money with other events such as weddings and bar mitzvahs.

Jack stated that even though we had only around 800 tables, that is not considered a small tournament. It is roughly 200 tables less than we had budgeted for.

Larry Rich has our 120 tables in storage from MABC.

Judy stated she heard a lot of negative comments from players during the week following the tournament. The players' feedback was sent to Dick on e-mail after the tournament.

We are currently booked in Roswell for the Sectionals in November, 2014 and February, 2015, although a contract has not yet been signed for the February tournament. Dick has no contract at this time with any venue for the summer (Memorial Day) 2015 Sectional.

Marty countered Dick's comments about the holiday having a negative effect on attendance based on past experience that attendance during a holiday period in the summer is generally better than a non-holiday weekend. Marty also stated we have an obligation to try and find a location that is viewed as more favorable by the players.

Marty suggested that Dick allow some other board members to help him explore options. Dick stated that with the expectation of a maximum table count per session of 110 tables, he wants to have a facility with a minimum of 10,000 square feet and 250 parking spaces. Jack stated the criteria used by ACBL is 72 square feet per table. Dick wants to be the one who contacts prospective venues rather than having multiple people on the board make the contacts.

Jack mentioned that the Crowne Plaza Ravinia may be an option for the Memorial Day Sectional in 2015. Judy suggested two alternative locations in the Perimeter area to explore for the Memorial Day tournament: Events Loft at Georgetown and Marriott Atlanta Perimeter Center.

Action Item: Dick will explore the above-noted options and report back to the board.

Dick stated he will take our comments into consideration, but unless he finds a better alternative, he will book the NATC again for the Memorial Day Sectional in 2015.

ABA Tournament – Jack Feagin

Jack heard positive comments about our sponsorship of ice cream. In addition, he spoke with the people who had a slideshow at the tournament, and he thinks we can use a set up similar to theirs for the Regional.

Online Database Project – Marty Nathan (for Tom Eidson)

Tom Eidson provided a written status report to the board that was distributed on e-mail prior to the meeting. The program has been debugged.

Action Item: The Outreach Committee chaired by Donna Schmid will provide demonstrations at DBAA clubs in the near future to show players the process of becoming enrolled in the database. In addition, they will provide information on how players can verify their password and select database preferences.

Members can opt in for phone, e-mail and printed directory. ACBL prohibits online usage of phone and e-mail data unless the person gives permission to make it available online.

Action Item: The Outreach Committee will provide an article for the October DBAA Newsletter that provides information for members to change and verify their password in the directory.

Social Bridge Game – Marty Nathan

The Social Bridge Game will be held on Tuesday morning, August 26. Elyse is developing a list of volunteers. Becky volunteered to work at the event. We have advised those who are coming in from out of town that they can volunteer. ACBL has advertised the event with District officials, Unit officials, and teachers to encourage them to come and see how it's done, and possibly set up a similar event in other parts of the district. Marty reiterated what a tremendous opportunity this is for clubs to increase their attendance.

Action Item: Jack volunteered to provide umbrellas left over from the NABC as giveaways at the Social Bridge Game on August 26.

Flight C–NAP – Marty Nathan

In order to increase participation in Flight C NAP qualifying events, the District will hold qualifying games in North Carolina, South Carolina and Georgia. The qualifying event in Georgia will be at the November Sectional in Roswell. The finals for Flight C players will be on Saturday at the tournament. For more information, contact Vicki Bell. Players must have qualified at an NAP club game prior to August 31. Partnerships who finish in the top 50% of the field at the Sectional qualifying event can then go on to compete at the District level. This is a great opportunity for Flight C players to qualify to represent the District at the Nationals.

Mentoring Program at Georgia Tech – Judy Fendrick (for Roz Howell)

Judy reminded the board that the faculty coordinator, Giorgio Casinovi, at Georgia Tech will set up a game with the bridge students sometime this fall. Our goal is to provide an experienced bridge player to play with each of the bridge students at Tech, which could be around 16. Roz will coordinate with Tom and Giorgio on the details. Judy mentioned that she and Jane Bachman had a great experience at the bridge game they played in with the students in the spring at Tech. Patty has taught bridge there for several years.

2018 NABC – Marty Nathan

Marty indicated that the District will probably announce the 2018 NABC Tournament Chair at the District 7 meeting either shortly before or during the Regional. Jack stated that in the past the DBAA and Unit approved the selection of the NABC TC. Marty stated that for the last NABC, Jack was approved by DBAA as Tournament Chair after he had become the TC, but the Unit never was involved in the approval.

Marty also mentioned that the NABC is the ACBL's event, and their policy is to delegate responsibility for the tournament to the District, and that either the District or a local committee can select the TC. If the selection is from a local committee, it is subject to District approval, and they then submit to ACBL for approval.

Marty stated that he had previously suggested to Jim Villanueva that the selection of a TC could potentially get mired in the issue of forming an Atlanta unit and it would be better if the District made the decision. Based on that suggestion, Jim made phone calls to about 20 people in Atlanta, including the past and current Unit presidents, as well as others who had worked on prior Atlanta NABCs (Becky, Carey, Judy, Dick and others) to get their input on who would be a good candidate for TC. Jack and Josie stated they were not contacted.

Jack expressed concern that if the District decides on the TC, they will not know the individual or may pick someone with inadequate tournament experience.

Election of DBAA Officers and Unit Reps – Marty Nathan

The election of DBAA officers and four Unit Rep positions will take place during the Roswell Sectional February 4-8. Prior to the tournament, there will be voting in clubs and also by absentee ballot.

Marty stated he has asked Mike Sheldon to chair the nominating committee, and Mike agreed. A motion was made to approve Mike as the nominating committee chair. *Motion approved.*

If anyone is interested in running for DBAA office, let Mike Sheldon know.

The Unit Rep positions that will be open are those held by Jack Feagin, Bob Jones, Roz Howell and Larry Rich. Donna Parker is the Unit Election Chair and will send an announcement when nominations are open.

Other Items

Vicki provided some feedback from some novice players who attended the Birmingham Regional. Their comments were that the cards at the tournament were very dirty, and they appreciate the fact that Atlanta generally has clean cards. They also did not like the playing conditions for Gold Rush events that were jammed into the hallway.

Josie mentioned that there is a club in Atlanta that needs help in purchasing Bridgemates. Josie was advised to contact Bob Jones, Unit 114's Outreach and Entitlement Committee Chair. The committee meets every other month. After the Unit considers the request, the DBAA can also consider the request.

Bob Jones raised the issue of Unit 114 Reps also serving as officers on the Unit Board and as board members on the DBAA board, which can diminish voting power at either a Unit or DBAA meeting. He suggested a solution would be for the Unit President to have the ability to appoint an additional rep. Marty stated this is an issue in both the Unit and DBAA By-Laws. The Unit has chosen not to address this in their By-Laws, and the DBAA has deferred any changes to their By-Laws in light of the proposal to form a separate Atlanta Unit.

Josie raised an issue about the vote at the last DBAA meeting that was 4-5 against the DBAA endorsing the idea of Atlanta forming a new Unit. She questioned whether a president can vote to break a tie under Robert's Rules of Order. Judy pointed out that this same issue came up at a recent Unit meeting, and she researched Robert's Rules after that meeting and found that a president has the same rights and privileges as all other members, including the right to vote on all questions. On a vote that is not by ballot, if a majority vote is required and there is a tie, the president can vote in the affirmative to cause the motion to prevail. If there is one more in the affirmative than in the negative, the president can create a tie by voting in the negative to cause the motion to fail.

A motion was made to adjourn at 11:35. *Motion approved.*

Next DBAA Meeting: Saturday, September 27, 2014 – 9:30-11:30 – Bridge Club of Atlanta

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Judy Fendrick, Secretary