

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

Date/Time: October 5, 2013 / 9:30-11:30 am

Location: Bridge Club of Atlanta

Present: Marty Nathan, George Powell, Judy Fendrick, Jack Feagin, Mary Ann Oakley, Dick Myers, Betty Myers, Donna Schmid, Ken Parker and Donna Parker

Absent: Vicki Bell, Roz Howell, Larry Rich, Allison Milhem and Bob Jones

Review and Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes – Judy Fendrick

Marty moved to approve the minutes of the August 17 meeting. Dick seconded the motion.
Motion approved.

Treasurer's Report – George Powell

George reported that the last two months have been quiet since the NABC, except for the Wednesday night game accounting. He will prepare financial statements for September in the next few weeks.

Action Item: George will send Marty the Form 990 for review this week, and will then mail it to the IRS on or before October 15.

Action Item: George will complete one additional form to finalize the new account with Fidelity.

Action Item: Judy reported that the 2012 DBAA financial review was started in June and then put on hold due to work on the NABC, and will be completed soon.

Atlanta Junior Bridge – no update

Directory – Marty Nathan

Marty requested that the board approve Donna Schmid as the new Directory Committee Chair. Mary Ann moved to approve Donna as the chairperson. Judy seconded. *Motion approved.*

Newsletter – Mary Ann Oakley

Mary Ann is waiting on content. Marty suggested we include an item about the upcoming election of five Area Rep positions in February. Articles are due to Mary Ann by October 17.

Action Item: Judy will submit an article about the NABC volunteers and include pictures from the September 29 party for the volunteers.

Action Item: George will prepare an article about GNT.

Action Item: Marty will provide an article about STAC games. Also, if no one else has an interesting hand, Marty will write an article about a bridge hand for the Newsletter.

Action Item: Donna Parker will send an article to Mary Ann about the upcoming elections.

Policies and Procedures – Mary Ann Oakley

Mary Ann previously sent the updated and approved Election Procedures to Betty for posting on the DBAA website. Betty has not yet sent them to Larry for posting due to a conflict with Section VIII of the current DBAA Policies and Procedures. At the meeting, we did not have the Election Committee's full report and recommendations available. Subsequent to the meeting, we determined that the board approved not only the new Election P&P but also the committee's recommendations as follows:

1. Make no changes to DBAA By-Laws regarding elections
2. Remove Section VIII of the DBAA Policies and Procedures
3. Approve the recommended Election Policies and Procedures document
4. Approve Appendix E that provides guidelines for candidates, clubs and directors

Action Item: Marty will obtain the electronic document of the current Policies and Procedures so that Section VIII can be removed.

Tournaments – Dick Myers

Dick reported that we cannot get the Crowne Plaza Ravinia for the July 2014 tournament. He also checked with Galleria, which was too expensive. Dick found a potential location – the North Atlanta Trade Center located off I-85 near Indian Trail. It is a convention center with many large exhibit halls that can accommodate large groups. We would have a 15,000 square foot, well-lit area. There are on-site snack bars available, as well as two nice hotels near the center that will give us a good bridge rate. Dick suggested we have sessions starting at 10:00, 2:00 and 7:00, particularly since there is food available at the site.

The next two Sectional tournaments will be in Roswell: November 13-17 and February 26-March 2. Mary Ann mentioned that handicap parking at the Roswell Senior Center is inadequate. Dick suggested that we include an item in the next DBAA Newsletter to request that people park in the upper lot to allow sufficient space for handicapped players.

Action Item: Dick will send a news item about parking at the Roswell Senior Center to Mary Ann for the Newsletter.

Jack reported that we have signed contracts for the Crowne Plaza Ravinia for the Labor Day Regionals for 2014 and 2015, and will soon have the 2016 contract finalized with MABC.

A committee has been appointed to review the relationship between the MABC and District 7.

Website – no update

Unit Reps and DBAA By-Laws – Marty Nathan

If an individual is both a Unit Rep and a Unit Officer, they have only one vote at the Unit level. This situation now exists with Roz Howell who was elected as a Unit Rep for the 2013-2015 term, and in 2013, she volunteered and was appointed as the Unit Secretary after the previous Secretary resigned.

Under the DBAA By-Laws, a Metro Atlanta Unit Rep becomes a voting member of the DBAA board.

When an individual holds dual positions at the Unit level, this reduces the number of votes at the Unit level and the number of volunteers. Marty provided the history of how it was decided that Unit Reps would become members of the DBAA board. One of the issues then was that a person might want to be on the DBAA board and not on the Unit board or vice versa, but the board at the time chose the current arrangement. Marty suggested that we can, if we so choose, increase the number of volunteers if we can find a way to enable an individual to be on the DBAA board without having to be a Unit Rep. Marty sees this as an issue at both the Unit level and with the DBAA By-Laws.

Donna Parker, Unit Elections Chair, addressed the Unit's policy to replace a Unit Rep who resigns. There is a special election to replace the Unit Rep position, unless the resignation is close to the time of a regular Unit election. She also noted that this policy has not always been followed in the past.

We discussed whether we need to set up a By-Laws Committee to address issues related to the policy of Unit Reps as DBAA Board members and also the by-laws relating to geographic area of the DBAA. Since several board members were not at the meeting, the discussion of having a By-Laws Committee was tabled for a later date.

Special Events at Regionals – Marty Nathan

The Labor Day Regional is one of the largest Regionals in the country, which creates an opportunity for us to promote bridge through events such as Social Bridge games and Learn Bridge in a Day that we've held in the past on the first day of the tournament (Tuesday). The Social Bridge game introduced new people to bridge, and approximately 50% of the people who attended are now duplicate bridge players.

Jack stated that it was agreed at the MABC meeting that we would alternate the Social Bridge and TAP each year, and has talked to Patty about coordinating these events.

Marty proposed that we plan an ongoing rotation of events that would include Learn Bridge in a Day, Social Bridge game, and possibly other programs, including TAP and guest speakers such as Jerry Helms.

Jack moved to create a committee to determine what events we should plan at Atlanta Regionals to promote bridge in the Atlanta area. Judy seconded the motion. *Motion approved.*

Action Item: Marty will form a committee to evaluate the programs we can offer to promote bridge at future Labor Day Regionals and develop an implementation plan.

Fundraiser for Spina Bifida Research – Marty Nathan

Janet Edwards and Brenda Shavin are organizing a fundraiser for the non-profit foundation that provides support for the Center for Spina Bifida Research, Prevention and Policy (CSB). The goal of CSB is worldwide prevention of spina bifida by 2022. Godfrey Oakley is the director of CSB.

The fundraiser will be on the Emory campus and will include organized bridge games, Mahjong and other games. We do not know if the bridge games will be sanctioned by ACBL.

Marty suggested that DBAA should assist with this effort through advertising in the DBAA Newsletter.

Marty also suggested that DBAA should see how this fundraiser goes and consider if this is something DBAA should be doing to raise money for specific charities.

Next DBAA Meeting: Friday, November 15 between afternoon and evening sessions at the Sectional in Roswell.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Judy Fendrick, Secretary