

ROCHESTER DUPLICATE BRIDGE CLUB BOARD MEETING MINUTES

February 2020

Board meeting called to order by President Arne Fockler at 10:30am on Wednesday, February 12th. Present were Arne, Betty Shidler, Ed Prosser, Matt Belau, Gloria Georger, Mary Jo Kelly, John Woog, Cindy Heins, and Yvonne Steiroff. Ex-officio members in attendance were Sue Greenberg and Kathy Maegerlein. Tom and Linda Grigoleit were also in attendance.

President's opening thought for the day: "Life is not measured by the breaths we take, but by the moments that take our breath away." – George Carlin

Board items that required voting included:

- **January, 2020 Board Minutes** were approved (9-0) as submitted (Motion: Arne, second: John).
- Cindy and Matt were approved (9-0) respectively as **President-Elect and Secretary** to this year's Board (Motion: John, second: Gloria).
- Approval (9-0) to hold a satellite **NAP Flight "C" Final** at the RDBC on Saturday, October 3rd.
- **RDBC budget for 2020 and January Treasurer's report** was approved (9-0, Motion: Mary Jo, second: Cindy).
- **Project Legacy** was selected (6-3) as this year's RDBC charity.
- Operating **NLM tournaments** going forward starting in 2021 with local control/management was approved (9-0, Motion: Cindy, second: John).
- Free plays for carpool drivers that drive players to the **Thursday evening games** (9-0, Motion: John, second: Cindy).

Board items discussed that did not require a vote:

- President's report: Arne indicated he was pleased to be working with an interactive, fun, and accomplished group on the Board, and appreciated everyone keeping up to date with email information sharing.
- Treasurer's report: Kathy provided the **January Treasurer's report** (showing no discrepancies) and **budget for 2020**, indicating a change from previous budgets to move Director's and Scorer's fees from negative income to expenses. 2019's table count was off by about 200 from previous years, largely due to cancelled games during the brutal winter season. Kathy also indicated there was no reason to make any changes to this year's budget as there was nothing significantly "over or under" with last year's figures compared to what was budgeted. John suggested it would be more accurate to use the actual table count in next year's budget vs the budgeted table count as is currently used, although this was not voted on.
- Club Manager's report: Judy Nassar contacted Sue about running a **satellite North American Pairs Flight "C" Final** at the RDBC on Saturday, October 3rd, in conjunction with other satellite events in St. Paul, Omaha, and Des Moines. A tournament-level Director would not be required for this event, it would need a minimum of 5 tables, and the top pair would earn a stipend and invitation to the NAP event in St Louis at the 2021 NABC. Sue also indicated there would be no financial risk to the RDBC as the District would assume any profit or loss on the event. The Board was enthusiastic about hosting the event and approved (see above) of holding the event.
- Education/Mentoring: Arne expects the **Chat Bridge** to pick up once again now that spring is on the way, and indicated there's been an average of 6 tables Monday mornings (including some individuals without partners, who are paired with mentors). Sue reported that the **Community Education classes** held at RDBC taught by Sue, Joanne Long, Bar Wijdicks and Layne Vinje are

starting to fill up, but would like to see more Life Master mentors stepping up for the Tuesday LM/NLM games.

- Tom Grigoleit indicated that we are “prepped and ready to roll!” for **the upcoming April Sectional**. The first of three email blasts was sent to ACBL players last week, the flyers have been issued to clubs within 250 miles of Rochester, and the Sectional Poster is currently in St. Paul (where it will move to Minneapolis next month). Volunteer sheets for local players to help with the Sectional are forthcoming, and Tom and Linda gave a special shout-out to Sharlene Owens who volunteered for Partnership Chair.
- Matt shared one of the **1,034 postcards that will be going to active ACBL players** within 150 miles of Rochester for the Sectional. The Unit approved the one-time expenditure for the printing and postage of the postcards (\$480.08) in an effort to boost attendance. Tom explained part of the attendance problem may be competing for the weekend with the Appleton, WI tournament, and it was generally agreed that April needed to have more weekends for these tournaments. Cindy agreed to take money at the Sectional for lunches on Saturday.
- Betty shared concerns on behalf of NLM players and Matt shared Ann Van Ryn’s issues with the way our **NLM tournaments** are currently being operated by a 3rd party. Between teachers at the RDDB who would like to teach at this event and in an effort to increase attendance it was agreed to let our agreement with Jade Barrett run its course through 2020 and then operate these tournaments locally going forward in 2021 (vote above).
- Linda provided a summary for the Women’s Shelter and Support Center, and Cindy provided the same for Project Legacy. **The Board selected Project Legacy as our Charity for 2020**. Board members agreed both were equally worthy charities, and following the vote (above) that the Women’s Shelter and Support Center would be an ideal candidate for 2021’s charity.
- Matt shared a number of ideas in **an effort to boost Thursday evening’s game attendance**. Gloria agreed to compose a brief survey to be emailed to players, but it was agreed that carpool drivers would get a free play (to drive players who don’t like to drive at night, see vote above) and Sue indicated existing Club policy already allowed for a free play for stand-by players to help avoid a 4- or 5-board sitout on Thursday nights.
- Betty expressed concern on her behalf and on behalf of other players regarding the unsafe winter conditions on the building grounds. Sue agreed to compose a letter to be sent to Board members and ultimately the Hadley Creek building owners regarding **snow and ice removal** in the parking lot and building doorway areas. (It was explained that the snow removal is done when a snow is of 2” or more, but with several 1” snowfalls, the lack of removal this winter has resulted in the unsafe conditions for players.)
- John shared his considerable investigative results into **liability insurance** for the Board’s Directors and the feasibility of the RDDB becoming a **non-profit organization**. Kathy indicated we already have an EIN, and it was agreed that a sub-committee would form (consisting of Sue, Arne, Gloria, Mary Jo and John) to explore this further before making any major changes. Arne expressed his gratitude to John for all the legwork he’s done and the Board concurred.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made (Betty), seconded (Yvonne) and approved (9-0) to end the meeting at 12:03p. The next Board meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 11th.

Respectfully submitted,

Matt Belau, Secretary to the Board