

JANUARY 2009 SOMBA BOARD MEETING

DATE/PLACE: January 18, 2009, Mountain Jack's Restaurant

PRESENT: Mary Bennett [P], Bob Chekaluk [E], Michael Crane [E], Posh Gulati [P], Jane Hall [P], Gail Hanson [P], Steve Jacob [P], Harry Jagtiani [P], Barbara Jur [P], Thomas Keenan [P], Ginny Poulter [P], Jack Shartsis [E], Henry Shevitz [P], Marianne Varion [P], Vickie Vallone [E]

GUESTS: Bill Arlinghaus [P], Beverly Gardner [P], Greg Petersen [E], G. Sellgren [P]

AGENDA: SEE ATTACHED

- 1) **Posh called the meeting to order at 11:35 AM.** He asked Tom Keenan, Chairman, to conduct Elections of the officers as the first order of business.

Election of officers: Tom Keenan, chairperson, requested nominations for the position of President. Henry Shevitz nominated Posh, with support from Gail Hanson. There were no further nominations, and the board voted unanimously to approve this nomination.

Tom requested that Posh take over at this point. Barbara Jur, Jane Hall and Tom Keenan were elected to fill the offices of Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer, respectively, without any opposition.

- 2) **Approval of Minutes:** Posh passed out the ACBL guidelines for writing minutes for board meetings and suggested that the secretary adhere to those suggested guidelines, effective immediately. Several board members also requested that copies of the minutes be sent to members within 30 days of the meeting so that absent or excused members will know what transpired, what duties or responsibilities may have been assigned to them, and what they need to prepare for the next meeting. All present agreed with these recommendations. The minutes of the last meeting were approved with both of the above provisos.
- 3) **Treasurer's Report:** (see attached) Treasurer's report was reviewed by Tom. He stated that the budget ended on the plus side in spite of overall lower attendance at tournaments and increases in rental fees. Problems with attendance were attributed to too many tournaments in the area, and scheduling of the May STAC games the week before the regional tournament. There was an increase in membership following the Spring Nationals in Detroit. Credit also given to newcomer workshops sponsored by Beverly, Gail, Connie and Kathy. Gail made a motion to accept the report as presented, 2nd by Mary. Board approved the motion.
- 4) **Past Tournaments:** The November 2009 Sectional had the highest attendance in 6 years. In spite of lowering entry fees by \$1.00 and rental fee increases, the sectional showed a profit of \$1,700. It was noted that there was a 4 to 1 favorable response to the time change for the Saturday morning game from 11:30 to 10:30.

JANUARY 2009 SOMBA BOARD MEETING

- 5) **Upcoming Tournaments/Events:** Beverly and Gail are proposing a novice/intermediate tournament this year for the 0 – 199ers. They will be exploring dates and sites. At this time, the latter part of September appears to be a good possibility. The Pro-Am may be included as one of those sessions.

All preparations are completed for the Valentine Sectional. Bob Chekaluk was unable to attend the board meeting due to illness, and could not present specific details.

The “Trophy Races” work was finished early this year by ACBL’s data department for a very small fee (saving Laurie hours of manual work). Results will be published in the upcoming Echo.

Laurie may be able to have Trophies ready for presentation at the Valentine. Per Tom Ace of the Clubs and Mini McKinney races may or may not be finished before Valentine. See bottom of page 3

Dates for the Apple Cider regional have been changed from Nov 19 - 22 to Nov 12 -15 due to problems securing space at the Costick Center.

Schedules for Upcoming Tournaments.

Wolverine Regional will run May 11 – May 18, 2008. It will start with KO events and a Charity pairs on Monday evening. Tom to check and see that the tournament room is booked for Monday.

Tuesday and Thursday events are being switched to 2 session Swiss and Wed and Friday are now Stratified Open Pairs.

There was some discussion about changing the structure of the side games as well so that players could play over two consecutive days instead of just afternoon or evening series (horizontally). Now there will be two series of side games: Tuesday/Wednesday and Thursday/Friday. Posh may check with Ken regarding feasibility of this change.

Revised schedule for Regional will be posted in Echo.

No gifts for winners need to be purchased this year. Enough pens were purchased to last for three years.

- 6) **District Reports** Bill Arlinghaus reported that it might be possible for our District to host the 2011 Senior and Women’s Trials in the Detroit/Windsor area with minimal cost to the Unit. This would be a two-week tournament that could benefit the Detroit area, provide positive publicity for bridge and possibly promote interest in the game. Ron Horowitz, a good fundraiser, will look into the feasibility of hosting such an event in these hard economic times.

JANUARY 2009 SOMBA BOARD MEETING

Bill also mentioned that the WBF World Championship games previously scheduled for September/October of 2010 in St. Petersburg, Russia, need a new host. The proposal states that the host needs to raise \$300,000 for the event. Bill indicated that the ACBL will contribute \$100,000, but the District would need to come up with the additional \$200,000. He wondered if SOMBA or MBA would be willing to contribute \$25,000 toward this event. The unit would not benefit financially from this event, in all Probability, nor receive any return of monies donated for the event. No action was taken on this proposal.

Bill announced his plans to run for District 12 Director again at the end of his present term.

- 7) **Old/New Business.** District 12 received \$25,000 from the ACBL to allocate to charities of its choice. SOMBA received \$5,000.00 of that money which it awarded to two local charities: Proaction Behavioral Health Alliance and Assistance League of Southeastern Michigan. Detailed write-up is in the Echo.

Tom needs additional help with Treasurer's duties. He gave Bob and Posh a list of tasks that he currently performs as treasurer. He is willing to train a new person. Any candidates?

Barbara will chair the ad hoc committee for SOMBA's Golden Anniversary Celebration in 2012. Jack, Tom and Posh will be part of the committee. One suggestion for the celebration was a free day at a tournament. We need more ideas!

Discussion of by-laws tabled until next meeting when Jack is here.

Discussed need for correct/updated information from Clubs for the new directory. Change request form and additional information will be included in Echo.

No date has been established for the next Pro-Am. We need a volunteer to head-up this project. Gail and Beverly are working on a plan for a novice/intermediate tournament. It's possible that the Pro-Am could be included as part of that event.

Greg Sellgren, representing Bridge Today and Tomorrow, Inc. (BTT), announced that the first classes will start at the end of the month. Six schools have signed up, with prospects for 3 other schools. SOMBA and MBA each donated \$1,000.00 to BTT. (Informational article will be posted in Echo.) When BTT has received 501(C) 3 status, Greg will submit a proposal to ACBL for additional start-up monies.

Unit 12 web page is up and running. Blurb detailing things to expect will be included in Echo.

Nominee suggested for Good Will Award, with consensus of the board. Barbara will get the plaque.

JANUARY 2009 SOMBA BOARD MEETING

Mini McKinney and Ace of Clubs are generally not final before the start of the Valentine Sectional, so Ace of Clubs and Mini McKinney may not be announced until the Wolverine Regional.

SOMBA spent \$3,600.00 on NAP games last year. SOMBA will continue to pay the ACBL costs of the NAP. Tom requested that it be for 2 months only this year. The board concurred with this recommendation. Details to be made available in the Echo.

8) Correspondence: N/A

9) Next Meeting: April 26, 2009 at the Unitarian Church, 11:30 a.m.

Meeting adjourned: 2:35 PM