

**DATE/PLACE: October 11, 2009, Unitarian Church**

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

**GUESTS:** Dave Buskirk, Bill Landrum

**AGENDA: SEE ATTACHED**

- 1) **Posh called the meeting to order at 11:15 AM.**
- 2) **Approval of Minutes:** Motion made by Bob C., seconded by Harry J., to approve the minutes of the previous meeting. Motion unanimously approved.
- 3) **Treasurer's Report:** (see attached) Treasurer's report was reviewed by Tom K. Revenues up and expenses up, but still net increase (significantly less than 2006 and 2007). New expenses included GNT payments, NAP, storage rental, and cost of the new directory. There was an increase in attendance at the May regional (best in 10 years!), but fees charged for events were \$2.00 less per person than in previous years.
- 4) **Past Tournaments:** Attendance up at Wolverine Regional. Lots of positive feedback: No major glitches, great hospitality, and red pens a big hit. "No" kudos for reduced fees. A couple of comments were received from newer players stating that no one was around to congratulate the novice winners and present their awards. There was also an issue with the tournament hotel raising rates without informing us. Board members will actively assist at future tournaments to assure adequate coverage, and all future rate agreements with host hotels should be confirmed in writing whenever possible.
- 5) **Upcoming Tournaments/Events: :**
  - Spooktacular: Event scheduled for 10/30 and 10/31. Gail reported that Ken will be directing the event, and that adequate space has been reserved at the Unitarian Church. Requested a Polaroid camera for instant pictures – Mike to provide one. \$6.00 fee for each event plus lunch fee for sat 2 session events. Donuts, fruit and other goodies will be provided.
  - Apple Cider: Bob C. will not be available to oversee the February tournament. Need board members to volunteer to cover for him. Bob has been working "job descriptions" for volunteers so that each person will know their duties and responsibilities.

Second sessions on Friday and Saturday will have reduced rates: \$2.00 on Friday, and \$1:00 on Saturday. There will be a 2-session event on Sunday for 0 – 199ers. The fee for this event is \$6.00, plus \$3.00 for pizza. Novices who don't want pizza do not have to pay the additional \$3.00. Tickets will be issued to those paying for pizza.

Need board members to volunteer for the tournament. Please contact Posh with your availability.

All board members are encouraged to wear name badges. Those without a badge should notify Posh/Tom.

- 6) **District Reports:** District meeting to be held next week. Submit any questions/concerns to Barbara J.
- 7) **Old/New Business:** Discussed new directories. Comments generally favorable; suggestion that, in future publications, members last names be placed in the first column for easy reference.

Discussed SOMBA's role in financially supporting Bridge Today and Tomorrow (BTT). Concerns were raised by several members that while BTT is a non-profit organization, it is set up more as a business venture for two young and dedicated individuals. No further action was taken at this time.

October ECHO has been mailed out to members. If any members have moved or changed their addresses, they will not receive a copy of the ECHO in the mail. Addresses are verified with the Postal service before mailing to avoid costs associated with returned copies. We use the latest roster from the ACBL.

Discussed free plays for tournaments. Free plays have typically been given to lecturers and volunteers at tournaments. Lately, there have been requests for free plays from persons submitting articles for the ECHO. Motion made by Gail H. not to issue free plays for articles published in the ECHO. This motion was seconded by Bob C. and approved by the board. The board and District 12, by agreement, has provided free plays to the District Director and Treasurer.

Henry S. stated the board had previously voted to approve match-pointing across the entire field at tournaments. Tom to review minutes from 2000 to present. If this form of match-pointing was previously approved, the procedure will be followed at next tournament.

Posh will ask directors for the Apple Cider Tournament to score one session at the tournament both ways so the board can review what changes matchpointing across the field would make in masterpoint awards.

Bob C. has made up job descriptions for volunteers assisting at tournaments: Set-up Coordinator, Inventory and Storage, Hospitality, Non-perishables, Closers, etc. Additional volunteers are needed for the Apple Cider Sectional.

NAP finals – can pre-register. Form available on the District 12 website.

Henry S. to call hotels in local area regarding rates.

Discussion about whether to continue having 2 separate pair/swiss team sessions on Saturday at the Apple Cider Sectional, or to switch to a 2-session swiss team format (like MBA). Board decided to continue with the 2 separate session format.

Bill L. was introduced as new web coordinator for the SOMBA website. Site now has a direct web address: [www.sombaunit203.com](http://www.sombaunit203.com) or [www.sombaunit203.org](http://www.sombaunit203.org) All material put on the web page should be sent to Bill, but must be approved by Posh before posting on the webpage. Bill will also work as backup for Allan Bau, updating the webpage on a regular basis, posting tournament results, articles, etc.

Halls and dates for tournaments can be set only one year ahead. No problems anticipated for 2010. Need to reserve room and dates for next year's Spooktacular, tentatively planned for 10/29 – 10/30 next year. 2011 dates and sites should be confirmed soon.

STAC dates: 12/14 – 12/20. Details forthcoming. ACBL chooses directors for these district events.

**8) Correspondence:** N/A

**9) Next Meeting:** January 10, 2010. Time and location to be determined.

**Meeting adjourned:** 1:15 PM