

**DATE/PLACE:September 29, 2013, Crowne Plaza Hotel, Auburn Hills**

**PRESENT:** Betty Andersen [P], Mary Bennett [E], Carol Diebold [P], Dave Fletcher [P], Bill Goodman [P], Posh Gulati [P], Jane Hall [P], Jerome Hasenjager [P], Bill Landrum [P], Marilyn Lindow[P], Scott Miller [E], Jim Phillips [E], Satish Shah [E ], Kathy Twomey [P] Marianne Varion [P]

**Guests:** Bob Chekaluk, Tai Chan

**AGENDA: SEE ATTACHED**

- 1) **Posh called the meeting to order at 11:40 a.m.** Posh reviewed the agenda for the meeting.
- 2) **Approval of Minutes:** Posh distributed/reviewed copies of the board minutes. Jim made a motion to approve the minutes with following correction: second sentence under “Posh’s Comments” to be deleted. First sentence to be amended to read: “There was a \$120.00 shortage on the entry fees collected at the Friday AM Springtacular event, a first time occurrence to our knowledge.” The motion to approve the minutes with this correction was seconded by Jerry and unanimously approved by the board.
- 3) **Treasurer’s Report:** Jerry distributed copies of the Balance sheet, Profit and Loss Statement and a Financial Statement for the February Sectional. There has been little change from the last report. Jerry clarified revenues/expenses for LBIAD, noting that the net gain is about \$390.00, not \$800.00. This money will be available to the LBIAD committee to help fund future LBIAD seminars.

There have been no tournaments since our last meeting.

- 4) Posh suggested that the board consider establishing a **Distinguished Service Award** to honor SOMBA members who have made major contributions to the Unit and the bridge community at large. He sent an email to everyone preceding the meeting suggesting some guidelines.

In his email he recommended Dave Buskirk as the first recipient, noting that Dave has been a Director for over 30 years; a die-hard SOMBA member for 50 years, an education liaison officer for the Unit and District for approximately 20 years, a tournament director for 20+ years, a SOMBA board member in many capacities during the 70s and 80s, a Club Manager for 30 years, and always performing these tasks with class and dignity. Jane made a motion to nominate Dave for this prestigious award. This motion was seconded by Kathy and unanimously approved by the board.

## **5) Committee Reports**

**Membership.** Dave developed a matrix showing membership changes between the months of January 2013 and August 2013. He reported that SOMBA membership has increased by 69

members since January, with a total membership of 1,101 in August. Dave further stated that over the last 3 months the committee attempted contact with 24 lapsed members which resulted in 2 renewals and notification of 1 death. This follow-up tracking program will be on-going.

Since there have been ongoing questions regarding the effectiveness of the LBIAD workshops, Bill agreed to provide Dave with a list of LBIAD participants so that he can cross-check those names against new memberships. Dave will provide feedback at the next board meeting.

**Storage:** Dave reported that all the items in storage have been moved to the new storage unit. The unit is  $\frac{3}{4}$  the size of the previous unit. The cost is \$65.00/month (vs. 151.00 for the previous unit) for a savings of \$1032.00 annually. Dave also stated that his homeowners insurance covers the insurance requirement for the unit. The lock for the unit uses the same key, and all those with keys have the entry code. One item in storage needs resolution: Large quantities of old "ECHOs".

Dave provided an update on SOMBA bidding boxes. The Unit owns 423 bidding boxes. All but 186 boxes are on loan to SOMBA Clubs. All replacement requests submitted by club directors for missing/damaged bidding cards have been filled. SOMBA labels have been provided for all boxes and all 1Club bidding cards have been laminated. Cost for these repairs was \$358.06.

**Hospitality.** Carol discussed food concerns for the upcoming Apple Cider tournament. Scott will be in charge of pop and pizza. Carol will be asking Ginny to assist at the Apple Cider as she will be out of town for part of the tournament. Food projections for lunches on Thursday and Friday will be "best guess" as we've never had morning sessions during the week at our Sectionals.

Posh reported that there had been concerns raised about the cleanliness of the coffee area. Carol will discuss concerns/strategies with Marilyn.

**Procurement:** Marianne stated she will order tables for the Apple Cider two weeks prior to the tournament.

**NAP/GNT:** There were no complaints about the recent NAP games.

**Website/Echo:** Bill indicated that there have been minor changes/updates to the web page. Posh introduced Tai Chan to the board. Tai will be doing articles and special projects for the online Echo. He's just completing a special tribute to Carl Rieble.

**Site Planning:** Scott will provide update at the next board meeting. The board discussed the idea of members participating in a limited partnership to purchase a building to house local bridge games.

## 5) Upcoming Tournaments/Events

**Spooktacular:** Mike McGaw will be the tournament director for the Spooktacular. ACBL will again assist with the scoring after the tournament for a fee of \$125.00. All results will be sent to the ACBL and final MP/IMP awards will be generated from ACBL. Dave will be providing bridge supplies (convention cards, pick-up slips, printer, computer, paper, etc.). Mike will be in charge of duplicating hands for the tournament (may need plastic boards). Note: Posh informed the board that Mike will be taking the Tournament Director's Exam.

Dave will sit with the Director and collect monies for all bridge sessions/lunches. Jane, Posh and Dave will assist with director calls. Dave will assist with posting team scores on Saturday. Marilyn and Kathy, co-chairs, will oversee food, decorations, organization of volunteers, etc. Dave suggested doing the set-up right after the Thursday bridge game on the 24<sup>th</sup> instead of doing the set-up in the evening. Marilyn and Kathy to check on the availability of volunteers in the afternoon. Fliers have been distributed for clubs; Bill will place an ad on BBO.

**Apple Cider Sectional** is scheduled for November 7 – 10, 2013. There will be 3 sessions on Thursday and Friday (10:30 a.m., 2:30 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.), two sessions on Saturday (10:30 a.m. and 2:30 p.m.), and play-thru Swiss on Sunday starting at 10:30 a.m. Board discussed more effective measures for managing lunches purchased/served at the tournament – collecting money up front and issuing tickets. Meals will only be available to morning players. Posh will assign someone to collect tickets from players as they go through the food line. Fliers have been distributed to clubs; Bill will place an ad on BBO. Steve will be the new director for this tournament.

Wording on the flyer for regarding lunches at the Apple Cider Sectional is ambiguous and should be more clearly spelled out for future tournaments.

Bill G. is working on an updated list of restaurants near the Costick Center.

**Future tournaments:** Bob C. indicated that there are problems scheduling the **Springtacular** for 2015, 2016 and 2017 due to conflicts with Easter, Gatlinburg and the Grand Rapids Sectional. (Grand Rapids gave one-time approval to hold the tournament during their Sectional in 2014.) Potential dates available for 2015 are April 3 – 4, and April 10 – 11. Posh and Bob will meet to pick a date.

**Valentine Sectional:** Discussed moving this Sectional to the Church on Telegraph and Lone Pine. Can rent the Gym area for almost half of what Costick charges. However, the Gym will not be available on Sunday. The Board discussed the possibility of holding the tournament one Wednesday to Saturday, but decided that the Sunday Team event is too popular to eliminate. Unless another location is found, the Sectional will be held at the Costick Center.

**STAC** games for District 12 are scheduled for the November 11 – 17 this year.

**6) District Reports:** N/A

## **7) Old/New Business**

Dave has been exploring availability of Section Signs for our tournaments. These are quite expensive – about \$80.00/sign. Dave made one (which was on display at the board meeting) at a cost of \$40.00. A cheaper alternative might be helium balloons with Section Letters printed on them. Dave will check with the tournament director to see what section letters will be used at the tournament. These will be useful for Sectional and Regional Tournaments.

Posh read an update on LBIAD by Jim Reed. There has been no response from Club Directors to indicate that they are willing to support/facilitate future LBIAD events. It is unlikely that there will be another LBIAD seminar before January 2014. The goal is to have one on the east side of town – at St. Paul's, the Italian Center or Troy Community Center. If a workshop is planned, Mike McGaw will be the presenter. Jim and the committee feel that they will need to do more PR through clubs and members to attract attendees to club games. On a separate note, MBA is interested in sponsoring a LBIAD program in their area, and a group in Windsor, Canada is also sponsoring a LBIAD program (committee has sent them information).

Posh informed the board that ACBL may be limiting reimbursement for LBIAD advertising expenses to 10 LBIADs a year nationwide. The committee may have to submit an application to the ACBL to obtain a refund. Posh also stated that Bill Halpern is interested in starting a novice game.

**Bridge Connection.** The owners of the Bridge Connection notified the SOMBA board that their current lease for their facility is expiring in January. They are interested in acquiring a new space large enough to accommodate sectional tournaments for both SOMBA and MBA. The plus side is that holding sectionals at their new location would be less expensive – reduced host fees, lower rental fees for tables and chairs, and the availability of a dealing machine and Bridgemates for the tournaments, but SOMBA would have to allow MBA to hold all their sectional tournaments at the location. (The Bridge Connection needs commitments from both Units to make it a viable operation.) The board was enthusiastic about having a more affordable site in a central location, but felt that further discussion was required with MBA before simply allowing their unit to hold all their sectional tournaments in SOMBA's territory. It was decided that the next best step was to have members of the executive committee meet with a representative of MBA, Richard Tempkin, to discuss the feasibility of granting permission for MBA to hold all their sectionals in SOMBA's territory. This meeting has been scheduled for October 4, 2013.

Jane's request for 40 bidding boxes for the new Rochester Bridge Club was approved.

**8) Correspondence: N/A**

**9) Next Meeting: Crowne Plaza, January 12, 2014, 11:30 a.m.**

**Meeting adjourned: 3:30 p.m.**