

New England Bridge



Conference of the American

Contract Bridge League

Minutes
Board of Delegates Meeting
Radisson Hotel
Nashua, NH
June 25, 2017

Attendance:

Officers: Bob Bertoni, President; Lois DeBlois; Vice President; Joseph Brouillard, Treasurer; Mark Aquino; Past President and District Director, Beth Bertoni for C. Weiser (Absent: C. Weiser, Secretary)

Unit Representatives:

EMBA – Unit 108 - 14 of 17

David Aronson, Curtis Barton, Maureen Bitler, Luke Gillespie, Jeff Lehman (S.Agranoff alt.) Peter Lombardo, Grace Lombardo (C. Cooper alt), Robert McCaw, Sabrina Miles, Brenda Montague, Neil Montague (P. Tierney alt.) Adam Parrish, Jan Smola, Alix Taylor

Absent: Saul Agranoff, Catherine Cooper, Steve Diamond, Zachary Grossack, Dean Panagopoulos, P. Tierney

CMBA – Unit 113 - 1 of 2 Jeanne Robillard, Joan Kuklinski *Absent - none*

CBA – Unit 126 - 10 of 12

Paul Burnham (D. Benner alt.), Alan Clamage, Judy Cavagnaro, (L. Bausher alt.) Richard DeMartino, Sandy DeMartino, Barbara Mindell (P. Bausher alt.), Michael Smith, (E. Watstein alt.) Susan Smith (So. Smith alt.) Michael Wavada, Susan Wavada

Absent: Phyllis Bausher, Larry Bausher, Debbie Benner, Ausra Geaski, Joan Martin, Sonja Smith, Joyce Stiefel, Esther Watstein

RIBA – Unit 145 - 3 of 4 Linda Ahrens, Paula Najarian, Marshall Williams

Absent - Maureen Fahey,

NHBA – Unit 150 3 of 4

Wayne Burt, Sarah Widhu, Lisa Williams (B. L. Tysor alt.)

Absent- Thomas Marshall, B.L. Tysor

VBA – 3 of 3

Wayne Hersey, Karen Hewitt Randle, (P. Sharpsteen alt.) Richard Tracy

Absent Phil Sharpsteen,

MBA – Unit 189 - 4 of 4

Larry Kolkhorst, Dan Morgenstern, Jack Mahoney, Gary Singer (R. Budd alt.)

Absent: Richard Budd

WMBA – Unit - 3 of 3

Robert Brodner, Jim Osofsky (R. Derrah alt.), Peter Samsel *Absent: R. Derrah*

Call to Order - The meeting was called to order at 8:30 AM.

President's Opening Remarks

We had a good turnout. So far we have 100 tables more than 2016 which was larger than 2015. We were 60-70 tables up by Friday, which will help to mitigate what we are giving away. We had 7 brackets in the KO's. What we heard was "why have we never seen this form of bridge? The clear report from those at the lowest brackets was that "we like it," "this is fun." We had 48 teams. Many came from a far. We had a team from California. The winners received 48+ masterpoints. Thank you all for your faith in this attempt to bring KO's back to New England Regionals.

Secretary's Report - A motion was made by B. Montague to approve the Minutes of the Board of Delegates meeting held in Mansfield, MA, on November 13, 2017 as sent. J. Mahoney seconded. The minutes were approved as sent.

Treasurer's Report - Joseph Brouillard

We are doing well financially. We are up from last year. We have no outstanding debts or liabilities. We made a small profit of \$389 from the GNTs in Sturbridge. This does not reflect the transfer of the Grass-Roots Fund money for \$1,600. We had a hic-up in Falmouth. We lost \$7,100. This was primarily due to hotel costs and increases in directorial fees.

The NABC Fund is doing well. It is up 6.3%. We would like to have what we had for the last NABC, which has been approved for the summer of 2021. Our investments are also doing well.

Warwick is usually our best Regional and Mansfield if usually O.K. We hope to break-even at Nashua. The stipends are now paid out of the Administrative Account not out of the Tournament. The comparison year to year will not be done until the statement for June is received. It will show the cash to cash for 2016 and 2017 but income and expenses only for 2016. A motion was made by A. Parrish to accept the Treasurer's report as presented. Seconded by J. Kuklinski and so voted.

Tournament Manager's Report - Helen Pawlowski

Both President Bertoni and Treasurer Brouillard have referred to the table count. Bottom brackets top team had 1000 points and the top team in the top bracket had 14,000 points. We made a profit in Cromwell.

Report- Senior Regional

Our room pick up was low in 2016. It was up this year. Because of the events and other considerations, out room costs were up \$4,000 this year. The cost of TA's was up \$3,200. Over all, we were up 20 tables. Our comp-rooms were about the same. We received some gifts "gifts" last year when individuals, such as Joe Rouillard and Mark Aquino who were entitled to rooms, chose to stay off site. Therefore, our rooms were low in 2016. This year we had extra staff rooms and the cost was up \$1,400. Last year we had no TA's. This year the cost was \$3200. The table count was up only 20 tables. Last year the Executive Committee dinner was comped. This year it was not. In 2016, we made lots

of money. This year we lost \$7,020. The move of the Flight A GNT to Falmouth was reflected in our loss in Falmouth as well as the profits from Sturbridge.

Should we expect to lose a lot in Falmouth. President Bertoni stated that the inclusion of the GNTs costs us \$2,000, as we were required to have extra, top directors. We can probably make that up in the future. H. Pawlowski continued that the DIC was new. He hired extra directors at a cost of \$1,000 for the week.

J. Mahoney asked why it has to be a Senior Regional. President Bertoni explained that it is a grandfathered tournament it cannot be changed. J. Smola asked noted that the rugs in her room were water sogged. R. DeMartino remarked that we always made money at the Senior Regional.

W. Burt asked why the GNT was part of the \$7,000 loss. H. Pawlowski answered that she was told to put it all together as separation of most costs would be very difficult (hospitality, etc.)

R. Tracy asked as to how many years we were committed to Falmouth. It was a shorter drive to Hyannis. H. Pawlowski answered that it was two years.

A. Parish said that this is a discriminatory tournament and we should get rid of it.

R. McCaw added that we had a skeleton crew, as the resorts do not staff-up until the summer. H. Pawlowski will address this with the hotel.

S. DeMartino noted that service is often bad at tournaments. A dinner buffet might help.

H. Pawlowski added that you can only feed 80-100 people all at once at a buffet. She asked if the Board of Delegates would recommend a dinner buffet as an experiment. L. DeBlois added that we could not do it every night. H. Pawlowski suggested that Thursday through Saturday would be best as there are larger numbers playing in the 3rd session on those days. A show of hands indicated that everyone present approved of trying a buffet. H. Pawlowski will look into having them.

B. Mindell complimented H. Pawlowski on her arrangements in Nashua. A motion was made and seconded to accept the Tournament Manager's report as presented. So voted.

Tournament / Scheduling Committee Report - Lois DeBlois

We owe President Bertoni a great deal for the work he put in planning and making the KO's a success. The KO's will continue. We have them on the schedule in Warwick and Mansfield. The Tournament Committee approved a second KO in 2018 at Cromwell on Thursday and Friday. We will revisit this decision if they are successful.

We are going to make a real effort to improve the partnership desk. The Partnership Desk was well done here. We want to enhance it into a 'Welcome area.' We want to have restaurant guides as well as guides to local attractions. This will start in Warwick. If you are local, reach out and ask if you can help. We are only limited by our volunteers. President Bertoni added that this was the busiest Partnership Desk ever. Susan Burt did a great job on the KO's. W. Burt and S. Miguel are to be commended. Lots of people were helped. W. Burt had an on- call partner ready.

District Director's Report - Mark Aquino

There are some new folds at the Delegates' meeting.

The ACBL has hired a new CEO, Bahar Gidwani. He is the co-founder of CSR Hub. He is a graduate of Amherst College and Harvard Business School where he received his MBA. The Board is impressed with his energy and passion. He started playing bridge when he was 8 years old. He is in his 60's now. He will be in Toronto next month to meet the players.

I am on a Tournament Task Force whose primary focus is Regional attendance. Ours shows an uptick over the last 2-3 years. We are head and shoulders ahead of the other Units. Volunteers are essential. Twenty-seven years ago, the average age of the ACBL membership was 60. Today it is 72. D-25 has a great leadership team. M. Wavada has done tremendous things as webmaster. Both he and S. Miguel have done a great job bringing in new players. Jeff Lehmann has work very hard on Youth Bridge. Adam Parish has also done a lot. Thanks to the tremendous team.

R. DeMartino commented that the last two NABCs were disastrous. Players complained that they could not get rooms. This should be passed on to the CEO.

A. Clamage asked what was happening with the update of ACBL Score? M. Aquino stated that we were told that in the next few months it should be fixed. President Bertoni added that he is currently alpha testing the EBU system. It is built for Swiss and Pairs. It is challenging, but they are trying something.

W. Burt remarked that the ACBL should simplify their "partnership Desk." It is very difficult to find and hard to maneuver.

D. Aronson asked for the meaning of EBU. President Bertoni explained that it is the English Bridge Union. After 1 ½ months of using it, he had finally had 1 successful run.

A. Parrish asked if there was any chance that the Board would be restructured. M. Aquino answered that the Board voted not to do any restructuring at this time. It would not go from 25-9. I have made a motion that we hold only one meeting at an NABC. We should start the year with a meeting at Horn Lake to set the goals for the year and then hold another at the Summer NABC to evaluate any results. I do not expect it to pass but I do want to see clear responsibilities set for the Board. We need to align the Board and the Membership. The "Committee of 9" from Florida won't be affected. I would like to see clearly articulated what the Board is and what it does and what its job is going to be.

Old Business-None

New Business-

Player Recognitions:

1. Luke Gillespie

The Larry Weiss Award was first awarded in 1981. It was established to honor Larry Weiss, a longtime New England expert, by his brother Stephen Weiss, "For Grace and Skill at the Bridge Table. The three Criteria are: Some degree of success in contract bridge during the year for which the award is made, some degree of association with New England bridge and notably, superior behavior and gracious presence at the bridge table. It is my pleasure to present the award this year to Michael Wavada.

M. Wavada expressed his appreciation to the committee for lowering the standards. "I think that my friend Bob Derrah should be getting this award. He has been spreading the fun in Springfield for inner city kids from grades 6-8."

S. DeMartino added that we should listen to what Mike is saying. Please nominate someone who is deserving. I see all the work he puts in and you can see the results in all the people that showed up here.

2. by President Bertoni

Jeff Lehman, the President of New England Youth Bridge proposed this recognition for Lisa Allison who teaches and runs weekly bridge classes at the Oyster River Middle School. She has up to 12 tables. District 25 would like to present her with a citation and two free plays at any D-25 Regional. Unfortunately, Ms. Allison has left the meeting.

D. Aronson made a motion that the meeting be adjourned. This was seconded by D. Morgenstern. The motion was passed. The meeting was adjourned at 9:45.

Respectfully submitted:

Carolyn Weiser
Secretary, District 25