



New England Bridge Conference of the American Contract Bridge League

Minutes

Executive Committee
On-line Conference Call
February 26, 2015

Attendance:

Officers: Mark Aquino, President; Joseph Brouillard, Treasurer; Carolyn Weiser, Secretary; Ausra Geaski, Past President

Unit Representatives: EMBA: David Aronson, Robert Bertoni; CBA: Esther Watstein, Allan Clamage; RIBA: Maureen Fahey; NHBA: Wayne Burt; MBA: Richard Budd; WMBA: David Rock

Absent: CMBA: Bruce Emond; VBA: Wayne Hersey

President Aquino called the meeting to order at 7:00.

While awaiting additional call-ins, President Aquino asked Wayne Burt, as Chair of the Nominating Committee, to review the options that the Committee faced just a couple of months ago. W. Burt stated that it came down to two candidates – Sonja Smith and Bernard Schneider. Sonja had just retired, but decided to take on a new job, so she withdrew her name from consideration, leaving Bernard as the only interested and available candidate.

A. Clamage stated that according to the by-laws, a minimum of 6 representatives from 5 Units and 3 officers were needed to constitute a quorum. Voting by proxy was not allowed.

A. Geaski asked if we could vote via email on this issue, but A. Clamage stated that in this instance the by-laws did not allow for this.

A call of the roll indicated the following to be present:

Officers: Mark Aquino, President; Joe Brouillard, Treasurer; C. Weiser, Secretary; Ausra Geaski, Past President. Unit Representatives: David Aronson and Bob Bertoni (EMBA), Esther Watstein and Allan Clamage (CBA), Wayne Burt (NHBA), Dick Budd (MBA), David Rock (WMBA), Maureen Fahey (RIBA). Together they constituted a quorum.

President Aquino stated that Lois DeBlois (RIBA) had called to say that she was not going to run for vice-president at this time, but would like to run for vice-president for 2016, with the intention of holding that office for two years and then running for President. President Aquino acknowledged that there had been some concerns expressed about having 2 successive presidents from the same Unit. No one present expressed any such concern.

M. Fahey volunteered that there was a good solution to the current dilemma. Bob Bertoni could be appointed as Vice President to complete the term of Bernard Schneider. In November, B. Bertoni will be nominated for President and Lois DeBlois (RIBA) would be nominated for the position of Vice-President. D. Aronson made a motion that Bob Bertoni be appointed as Vice President effective immediately. The motion was seconded by Wayne Burt and so voted without dissent via a call of the roll - 10 yeas and 2 abstentions.

President Aquino asked for approval for the schedules for Warwick and Mansfield that B. Bertoni has sent. Several minor issues were noted regarding consistency in bolding new events and the maintenance of consistency in terminology. These changes will be made. A. Clamage asked if we should specify that there will be no handicapping. R. Bertoni explained that the 0-4000 flight protects

players from being forced to play with top ranked teams, thus eliminating the need for handicapping. A motion was made and seconded to approve the schedules with the changes as noted. The schedules will be sent to S. Miguel and H. Pawlowski. Discussion followed. A. Geaski asked if the Executive Committee felt that we should continue the horizontal Swiss that had been tried at Cromwell. 7 teams committed to playing 2 nights. The motion was called and approved without dissent.

President Aquino stated that the discussion with D-3 regarding their desire to move their tournament opposite Newton continued via email. D-3 is working on an alternate site. They lost \$15,000 in Ryebrook and were not happy with the Hilton. There is strong sentiment to have Newton at its scheduled time as this will be the last time the tournament will be held. President Aquino sent their district director and district president a note earlier in the day and he will keep the Executive Committee informed as to further developments.

President Aquino acknowledged and thanked Ausra Geaski, Joyce Stiefel, Sandy DeMartino, and Helen Pawlowski for their work on the Expert Panel series. There was a very good turnout in Cromwell. Bob Lavin had 40 people for a lecture and Frank Merblum and Richard DeMartino led a well-attended panel discussion on Wednesday. Lois DeBlois recently asked if we could work on a banner for the Lecture and Panel Series. Starting with Nashua, we will work to keep the schedule consistent at every regional so that the players can plan to attend.

The last thing that Bernard Schneider did before resigning was to bring a logo design to the Executive Committee. A banner with a logo could be used to announce our events –and even be incorporated into the banner design that is being planned. E. Watstein stated that the cost would be \$75.00 for logo in pdf and high-resolution format. The example Bernard Schneider showed the committee still needs a bit of tweaking. A motion was made, seconded and so voted to authorize \$75.00 for the development of the D-25 logo.

President Aquino reminded D. Aronson that a new Representative to the Executive Committee will have to be appointed to replace B. Bertoni.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:46 PM.