



New England Bridge Conference of the American Contract Bridge League

Minutes
Executive Committee
Individual Regional
Marriott Hotel
Newton, MA
January 9, 2016

Attendance: Robert Bertoni, President; Lois DeBlois, Vice President; Joseph Brouillard, Treasurer; Carolyn Weiser, Secretary; Mark Aquino, Past President & District Director
Unit Representatives: David Aronson, Brenda Montague, EMBA; Shirley Wagner, CMBA; Mike Wavada (E. Watstein alt.) CBA; Maureen Fahey, RIBA; Sarah Widhu, NHBA; Dick Budd, MBA

(Absent: Allan Clamage, Esther Watstein, CBA; Wayne Hersey, VBA, David Rock, WMBA)

Invited Guests: Sylvia Hardin, ACBL Field Representative, Helen Pawlowski, Tournament Manager, Peter Marcus DIC

President Robert Bertoni called the meeting to order at 5:00 PM and expressed his appreciation for the opportunity to serve the District as President. His main concern is to improve the climate at our tournaments, beginning with the enforcement of "0" Tolerance. If instances are observed, they should be reported to the Directors and to me. We need to be more creative in the marketing of our tournaments. Our last two Regionals were successes as does this one appears to be.

We also should welcome two new individuals to this Executive Committee meeting. Shirley Wagner, their new President, represents CMBA and Sylvia Hardin is here from ACBL Field Operations. Mark Aquino returns with dual positions as our new District Director and Past President.

Secretary's Report - A motion was made and seconded to accept the Minutes Mansfield, MA, November 7, 2015 as corrected. (H. Pawlowski stated that she was concerned with Mansfield, as we did not have this tournament in 2015 -error-2014-- because of the conflict with the Providence NABC.)

Treasurer's Report - Joe Brouillard

The Statement of Financial Position and Operating Income Statement are as of December 31, 2015. For 2015, we have a profit of just under \$7,000 compared to a loss of approximately \$13,000 in 2014. A motion was made, seconded and so voted to accept the reports as submitted. As per the motion made in Mansfield, our funds were moved from the Bank of America to Fidelity Investments in mid-December. The NABC Funds were invested in two Equity Funds and two bond funds per the recommendation of Drew Frazee, A Fidelity Advisor.

In November, I filed the 2015 Annual Report with the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. The principle address was listed for Helen Pawlowski. This was changed to Carolyn Weiser. The Resident Agent had not been changed since 1992 and was listed as Bill Lenville. A motion of the Executive Committee is needed in order to make the appropriate change. A motion was made, seconded to change the Resident Agent from Bill Lenville to Carolyn Weiser. R. Budd asked if this was because of her position as Secretary. J. Brouillard answered that the only requirement was that the individual be a resident of the Commonwealth, and that at this time, C. Weiser seemed a logical choice as the agent is required to be a resident of Massachusetts as we are a Massachusetts Corporation. The motion was called and passed without dissent.

All 1099's have been electronically filed with the IRS.

Tournament Manager's Report - Helen Pawlowski

NAP financials will be sent to the secretary for forwarding to the members of the Executive Committee. The NAPs were up 50 tables. Income rose from \$1260 to \$1700+, a gain of \$3,000, totally driven by attendance.

The Mansfield was down 85 tables from 2013 (955 to 870). Gross revenues were down. We have no control over our ACBL cost, which are table driven, but we were able to control our local costs. The hotel had to make some one-time-only adjustments due to their error that will not be repeated. This kept our expenses down over \$2,000, which resulted in a tournament profit of almost \$2,500.

H. Pawlowski continues to contact and visit potential Regional sites. A Military Training site was visited in Southbridge, but they did not feel that they were a good match for us and declined.

The Royal Plaza in Marlboro was contacted regarding a June 2017. We only have a contract in Nashua this year, and if they do not solve their issues, we need to have an alternate site available. The Royal Plaza would have considerably higher room rates than we normally pay. They would be two tiered at \$139 and \$159 depending on the specific room chosen. We might be able to get them at a slightly lower rate, perhaps to \$129. Should this be pursued further? R. Budd commented that since the time of Bill Lenville we seem stick on the notion that the cheapest room rate is best. H. Pawlowski continued that when we have a tournament in New Hampshire we lose Fairfield County. Will they see Marlboro as significantly less of a commute? We have not negotiated with Nashua for 2017 but our current rate is \$93-97. Cromwell has received a state grant to update to LED lighting, which has made a phenomenal difference. I have emailed Nashua this information and suggested that they see if they can get support. This would be a permanent solution. The Raddison is aware that if they do not solve the lighting problem, this will be our last year. The only other choice is the Best Western in Marlboro. I need to know by June where we are signing in 2017.

I have investigated non-profit opportunities as well as possible June dates. This property is great but it is a corporate hotel. Most of their room usage is for Monday through Thursday. We would need a block of rooms from Tuesday through Sunday. We are looking into the possibilities. I am working for an option for 2017. I will have more information in Cromwell. We have integrated the "C" NAP into the Mansfield schedule on Saturday in the hopes that this will increase the total table count on both Saturday and Sunday. M. Aquino suggested that we check with Sue Miguel regarding whether it would

be better to have the “C” NAP on Saturday or Sunday. A motion was made, seconded to accept the Mansfield schedule as presented noting a possible change in the “C” Flight NAP. The motion passed without opposition.

Tournament/Scheduling Committee Report - Lois DeBlois

Both the Nashua and Warwick schedules have already been approved but at the last meeting we were told that the 2-2-2 and the 3-3 had been approved and we wanted our schedules to reflect this. The lines in green reflect the modifications made that reflect the Denver changes. We have added a Stratified Fast Pairs for Sunday that would be open to everyone. Our flyers will look just as these do with a qualifier column explaining who is eligible to play in each event. These should be easier for everyone to understand. Discussion followed. A motion was made, seconded and so voted to approve the Warwick and Nashua schedules as presented.

At the last Executive Committee meeting, D. Panagopoulos presented a plan that was approved that would incorporate the B & C Flight NAP's into the Mansfield Regional. The schedule presented reflects this. In all other aspects it resembles the schedule already approved for Nashua. The NAP “C” should read “no player over 500”, and will be changed.

H. Pawlowski added that there would be a separate schedule with separate publicity for Nashua that will emphasize the “Return of the EGG” aimed at players with 0-2500 mps.

“B”s Needs Committee - Ausra Geaski

We have completed most of the tasks that we established. There will be a meeting of the “B”s needs tomorrow morning. At that time, we will finalize the publicity for the Pro-Am, the E-mail blast explaining new 2-2-2 and 3-3 flights, the role of our “greeter”, much like the “Ask me Girl at the NABCs. M. Wavada is tracking the Gold-Rush players as they move up and we will finalize the congratulating email that will be sent. Our greatest need is for a new chair as this is my last meeting. As yet, no one has volunteered.

District Director's Report - Mark Aquino

M. Aquino stated that he was honored to be here in his new capacity as your District Director. He was invited to attend the board meetings in Denver as an observer but not during the executive sessions. He is scheduled to go to Horn Lake for an orientation program January 17-19 and asked anyone with a specific issue to let him know before that time. He expects to be very, very busy in his new role. He has received his various committee assignments. Very unusual for a first year board member, he was assigned the chairmanship of a subcommittee, the GNT/NAP Sub-Committee. Additionally, he is assigned to the Masterpoints/Rankings Committee, the On-Line Bridge Committee, the Juniors/Youth NABC Committee, and the NABC Schedule/Events Committee. He is also a member of the Bridge committee, which is a catch all for matters that do not align with existing committees. Finally, he will be one of the board liaisons to the Conventions and Competition Committee, which is a non-board group of experts, including our own Doug Doub, that decides certain technical matters

and makes recommendations such as what bidding agreements may be authorized and what kind of events should be scheduled.

Any topics of interest to you that are outside the realm of these committees, please let him know.

Two new masterpoint levels, the Ruby (500) and the Sapphire (3500) have been added. Information is in the current Bulletin.

Old Business

B. Montague presented a proposal that had been sent to all the members of the Executive Committee from EMBA regarding their hosting of the “A” Flight NAP finals in 2016 in accordance with a motion presented by D. Panagopoulos, then NAP/GNT Coordinator, that was passed at the meeting of the Executive Committee in Mansfield. EMBA would incorporate the “A” Flight NAP Finals into its October Sectional that is planned for October. The event would take place in Watertown, MA. All costs would be borne by EMBA. S. Wagner, President CMBA stated that CMBA had no interest in hosting the event. Discussion followed. A motion was made to accept the EMBA proposal conditionally unless an alternate host should come forward before a date sufficiently early to allow for the necessary changes and advertising. H. Pawlowski stated that the Hartford Bridge Club would rent the site to the District but that this would not be cost neutral. P. Marcus added that EMBA players have made up a significant number of the pairs attending, greater in proportion than their number in the District. J. Brouillard asked if there was any consideration to moving the finals to a different location each year. President Bertoni noted that the other Units might be able to better judge their willingness to be a host after EMBA ran it. They could come back next year and discuss it. He added that there would not be a Tournament Manager’s fee if it were held in conjunction with a Sectional. A motion was made to amend the motion to say that EMBA would agree to host the event for 1 year. The amendment was called and passes. The full motion was called and passed with no opposition and two abstentions. The District would still be responsible for the pre-advertising.

P. Marcus commented that the Individual had 47 tables today, Last year it had 17.

New Business

2016 Appointments – President Bertoni presented his appointment for 2016 to the Executive Committee. Sonja Smith has resigned as a co-chair for Cromwell. Brenda Montague will be the chair of the Nomination/Election Committee.

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the Executive Committee meeting at 6:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Carolyn Weiser, Secretary, District 25