

**Dallas Bridge Association Board of Directors
Minutes of Meeting 10/10/23**

Attendees: Eileen Davidoff, Scott Nason, Milt Neher, Bill Driscoll, Connie, Scott, Cheryl Rider, Bill Higgins were present. Stuart Nelan and Bob Holliday were absent. The October meeting was held at King of Glory Church.

The August minutes were approved.

Ed Yetter provided the financial reports, which were approved.

As of September 30, 2023 the unit has total cash assets of \$96,585.98 There is \$44,658.66 in the checking account and \$51,927.32 in the Fidelity investment account. The payment for the November Fall Sectional venue rental of \$4,000 has already posted.

Through September the unit is surpassing the 2023 net income budget by \$6,875.24.

Bill Driscoll and Bob Holliday presented the member communications report for August and September via email.

Date	Reads	Percent Read	Clicks on Links	Unsubs	Spam	Bounces	Email Theme
08/01/23	800	67.50%	97	1	1	3	August Newsletter
08/10/23	75	51.40%	1	1	1	3	Lapse post card follow up sent to 149 members
08/14/23	704	63.00%	78		1	2	Labor Day Regional
08/22/23	717	64.50%	77		1	2	Labor Day Regional Express Entry Now Open
08/27/23	785	66.70%	73	1	2	3	Labor Day Regional Express Entry
08/29/23	762	64.80%	97	1	1	3	September Newsletter
09/05/23	765	65.20%	2			3	Jacoby Award to Scott Nason
09/12/23	758	64.30%	40	1	0	1	October Unit Game, Fall Sectional
09/29/23	700	59.50%	38		1	1	October Unit Game, Fall Sectional
10/02/23	778	66.00%	71	1	1	2	August Newsletter
10/08/23	685	58.60%	42	0	0	0	October Unit Game

Upcoming emails will focus on the Fall Sectional and the Holiday Party. There has been a net increase of 10 recipients to the DBA contact list. The KS Bridge Studio, run by Stephanie Scott, will be added as a new club.

Bill Higgins presented the membership report for September

The unit had 1 new member in September. Ten members were reinstated. Two members transferred in and 14 members became inactive. Total membership is now 1368.

The board discussed recruitment and retention ideas intended to grow membership.

Connie Scott presented a written report with 14 potential strategies and initiatives that are already being done, such supporting the Clubs by paying STAC fees and the I/N Reception at the Regional. The board recognized the Friendly and Valley View Bridge Clubs for their excellent efforts to grow their I/N games.

The board is interested in Stephanie Scott's ZOOM lecture series and will reach out to obtain more information.

The board thinks there may be an opportunity to work with non-sanctioned clubs, of which there are quite a few, to encourage ACBL membership. Milt Neher will send a letter to the ACBL to see find out the ACBLs strategy for non-sanctioned clubs and whether there may be promotional memberships available for these players.

The board will publicize Scott Nason's December ZOOM lecture for newer players.

The Learn Bridge in a Day program is a good way to introduce new players to the game. There may be opportunities to restart this program.

The Board discussed the 2023 Labor Day Regional and Changes for 2024.

Connie Scott presented a report on the tournament from the Hospitality/Prize Desk chair:

- 428 players registered at the registration desk. 141 of those were staying at the Renaissance Hotel. Registrants received a blue bag until they were all gone after 4 days. They also received a sticker and a branded pencil. There are about 800 stickers and 1500 pencils remaining in inventory.
- The inventory of prizes remaining is 1055 glasses, 73 small trophies and 10 large Gold Rush Pairs trophies.
- Connie recommends, and the Board approves, providing a prize to all section top winners next year., rather than just the overall winners. There are plenty of prizes in inventory for this change.
- Next year a convention card holder would make a nice registration gift.
- Paying for the venue's PA system was money well spent.
- The attendees would like more chocolate candy and a list of restaurants would be a nice hand-out.

The board discussed the schedule for 2024. Ed Yetter reports that attendance fell off substantially on Labor Day Monday. This could be due to the COVID announcement made on Sunday, other plans on the Holiday or the different Swiss Team schedule or a combination of these factors. The board would like to change the 2024 schedule to a Tuesday thru Sunday schedule and see if overall attendance improves. Ed Yetter will work with the ACBL and the venue to see if this is a possibility.

Scott Nason suggested that attendees' utilization of the online bulletin was low with most players not looking at it. A return to printed daily bulletins would provide a real value. The board would like to do this but the cost and logistical issues need to be worked out.

Milt Neher presented a Unit Game report

The next unit game will be held October 15 at Congregation Shearith Isreal.

The board agreed the best option for future unit games remains Congregation Shearith Israel. Scott Nason reports we can hold a game at the Synagogue on March 10, 2024.

The 2023 Holiday Party will be held at the Holiday Inn Dallas-Richardson in their ballroom on December 10, 2023. A director is needed. Eileen Davidoff will reach out to Carolyn Pinto to see if she would be willing to direct. Ed Yetter will check with Sue Doe to see if she might want to do it. (Update: Carolyn Pinto will direct the Holiday Party).

The board discussed the future of the Pro/Am event.

The expense and overhead required to put on this event is not justified by the participation. One option may be to move the event to a club. Valarie Remmers is interested in hosting a Pro/Am at Friendly. It might be possible to combine an afternoon Pro/Am with an Eight is Enough team game.

Eileen Davidoff presented a tournament committee report.

2024 Tournaments

February 21-24 at LLUMC, April 17-20 at LLUMC, May 22-26 Memorial Day Sectional at Holiday Inn-Dallas Richardson, November 6-9: Fall Sectional at I/N Regional at Holiday Inn-Dallas Richardson. Each of these events needs more volunteers. The new board members may be willing to take some of these positions. Sharon Lux may be interested in hosting the I/N Regional. Further recruitment may be necessary.

Connie Scott presented an Election Committee report.

The election committee recommends 5 outstanding candidates for the 2024 Unit Board election: Truett Cates, Mary Chaffin, Janet Meyer, Milt Neher (incumbent) and Paul Taylor. The board approved the slate of candidates and thanks Connie and her committee for their hard work. Ed Yetter will update the website and have posters created for the clubs and events.

Voting will begin December 10, 2023 and run through January 10, 2024. The first board meeting of 2024 will be held on January 15.

Scott Nason presented a GNT/NAP update

The Conditions of Contest for the 2024 GNT Unit Finals have been approved. He is working with Crystal Mann to have the sanctions created and available on the ACBL website.

Other Business

The District Star Award and the Goodwill Committee nominations are due by December 31. The board will discuss at the November board meeting. **The November meeting will be Monday, November 6 at 10:00 AM at King of Glory church at 6411 LBJ Frwy, Dallas, TX 75240. The board members are encouraged to stay for the Valley View game at noon.**