

Washington Bridge League -- 2021 Annual Meeting Minutes

Date: Thursday, September 9, 2021

Time: 6:00-6:50pm

Location: Virtual (Zoom)

Submitted by Lena Maman (Incoming WBL Secretary)

Officers and Board Members in Attendance

Linda Marshall, Hadi Abushakra, Bob Bell, Herb Schulken, Alex Gretsinger, Lloyd Rawley, Mary Tenenbaum, Carole Banks, Clyde Kruskal

Opening Remarks by President Linda Marshall

Linda expressed her appreciation for the board taking steps to restart face-to-face Thursday evening bridge. Until local conditions improve (re: COVID-19 Delta variant and mask mandate), all efforts have been put on hold.

Linda also recognized Chris Miller as the tremendous force behind the creation and management of the virtual club game.

Treasurer's Report

WBL financial statements are available on the website – [click here to view them](#).

Herb described 2020 as a very good year overall, thanks in large part to combining efforts with the NVBA (re: virtual club game). While the A/X game has remained strong, he noted that the 0-20 game has not been active since April 2021.

Herb reported a strong balance sheet: zero debt and \$68,000 in the bank – \$8000 of which was added this year. Looking ahead, the goal is to maintain a financial cushion ahead of the financial challenges we may face when we eventually return to face-to-face bridge.

Since the start of the pandemic, the WBL board approved donating 10% of the profits from our online games to the Capital Area Food Bank – \$3000 in total, at the time of this meeting.

Questions & Responses, Following Treasurer's Report

Herb responded to questions after his Treasurer's Report. A WBL member asked about trends in unit game attendance. Herb said that it has been going down. At its peak in January 2021, the WBL/NVBA virtual game had 84 tables (30 in A/X, 18 in under 2500, 22 in 499ers, 10 in 199ers, and 4 in 0-20). At present, it is now averaging 40-50s tables. For example, at the most recent game, just before Labor Day, Herb reported there were 20 tables in A/X, 9 in under 2500, 8 in 499ers, and 7 in 199ers.

In response to a question on whether "BBO" is considered an expense in the financial statement, Herb stated that WBL receives payments directly from ACBL. BBO collects entry fees directly from participants ranging from \$5-\$7 depending on the type of game. ACBL charges a sanction fee of \$1 per table or \$5 per table (for a special game). BBO has been charging 3.5% for their credit card fee as well as a 20% fee for hosting the virtual game (which includes access to virtual club directors, if necessary).

Webmaster's Report

Website: <https://www.bridgewebs.com/unit147washingtonleague/>

Alex encouraged all members to check out the WBL website as it contains all meeting minutes and financial statements. He also reminded attendees that the website is the definitive source for up-to-date information on re-opening face-to-face games, re: the unit game.

Secretary's Report

The Board unanimously approved the minutes of the August meeting.

Tributes to Outgoing Board Members

Linda thanked outgoing members Carole Banks and Chuck Dearolf for their volunteering and coordinating efforts over the years. In response, Carole and Hadi both praised Linda for her impactful leadership, during these unprecedented times.

Elections

Linda turned the meeting over to Barbara Doran, who presented the nominations for officers and directors. All were elected by acclamation as follows:

Hadi Abushakra (President), Bob Bell (Vice President), Lena Maman (Secretary), Treasurer (Herb Schulken), Kathy Kopnisky (Board Member), Clyde Kruskal (Board Member), and Alex Stille (Board Member)

Ace of Clubs Winners Announced

	2020 Mini-McKenney	2020 Ace of Clubs
0-5:	Joseph Sicilian	Joseph Sicilian
5-20:	Hongtao Ma	Krishna Tadepalli
20-50:	Peter Monroe	Peter Monroe
50-100:	Leanna Gipson	Leanna Gipson
100-200:	Jessie Brinkley	Jessie Brinkley
200-300:	Kathy Kopnisky	Kathy Kopnisky
300-500:	Ivy Broder	Ivy Broder
500-1000:	Linda Meade	Linda Meade
1000-1500:	Terry Klein	Terry Klein
1500-2500:	Brian Sutton	Brian Sutton
2500-3500:	Eric Branfman	Eric Branfman
3500-5000:	Mark Lavine	Mark Lavine
5000-7500:	Aaron Jones	Merril Hirsh
7500-10,000:	Richard Wegman	Richard Wegman
Over 10,000:	Fred King	Fred King