

Washington Bridge League – September 2021 Board Meeting Minutes

Date: Thursday, September 22, 2021

Time: 7:30pm-9:30pm

Location: Virtual (Zoom)

Submitted by Lena Maman (WBL Secretary)

Officers and Board Members in Attendance

Hadi Abushakra, Bob Bell, Herb Schulken, Lena Maman, Alex Gretsinger, Lloyd Rawley, Mary Tenenbaum, Clyde Kruskal, Linda Marshall, Alex Stille, Kathy Kopnisky

Secretary's Report

The Board approved the minutes of the August 2021 meeting.

Online Unit Game and Treasurer's Report

Chris Miller, Unit Game Manager, was not present at the meeting. Herb provided an update for both the unit game and treasurer's report.

Since our last meeting, Thursday night game attendance has been flat. Herb provided total table counts for the past few games: 44, 44, 42, and 45 respectively. The Monday, September 6 game was cancelled due to low attendance (re: Labor Day and Rosh Hashanah), but bounced back to six tables on September 13 and seven tables on September 20. Looking forward, Herb anticipates net profits in the month of September, around \$600-800.

Thanks to online unit game revenues, the WBL has continued to contribute to the Capital Area Food Bank (\$3000 total at this time) and to pay the regular unit game caddies (Alan Crank and David Solomon).

Lastly, Herb said he would reach out to Chris Miller to discuss the possibility of Alan Crank and/or David Solomon going to Ohr Kodesh to clean the bidding boxes and remove batteries from bridgemates in anticipation of reopening.

Reopening/Future Plans

The Board discussed resumption of face-to-face unit games and tournaments.

Hadi reported that the ACBL is in the process of developing online district-wide team and pair games that clubs would administer. These games would be open to all members of District 6 and to other places, as permissible under the ACBL visitor policy. The WBL would need to create a committee for it and designate a coordinator in order to participate. Barbara Doran is currently writing the Conditions of Contest. Hadi asked any interested volunteers to reach out to him via email.

Hadi informed meeting attendees of ACBL's new COVID protocols, posted on Sept 3 2021:

https://web2.acbl.org/documentLibrary/covid/Covid_Protocols_9.3.21.pdf

ACBL has also recently announced that it will staff sectionals and regionals that meet criteria for safe return.

Locally, Montgomery County's *Reopening Guidance For Businesses and Activities* webpage, is available here:

<https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/covid19/reopening/>

Linda has been in communication with Karen Maxin at the Schweinhaut Senior Center. Although the building is not renting to outside organizations at this time, Karen said that the WBL is welcome to provide future sectional dates. Bob suggested we pay special attention to planning publicity for our first sectional to increase the chance that it is successful. Mary urged that plans for reopening face-to-face bridge focus initially on reopening the unit game, which poses much less risk of substantial financial loss than a poorly attended sectional. Herb added that unit game rent costs about \$400, whereas rent for a sectional weekend costs about \$3000.

Board members agreed that reopening the unit game would serve as a good indication of how many players would attend a sectional. Herb added that Gene Schuyler's in-person game now requires reservations to ensure adequate game attendance. Alex Stille suggested that a planning check-list be made prior to organizing our first sectional; Bob noted this would be a task for the tournament committee.

[ADDENDUM: In a Sept 24, 2021 email exchange, a majority of the Board agreed that the state of pandemic made it inadvisable for us to commit to holding a January sectional.]

Committee Assignments

The Board decided to leave existing memberships largely unchanged. Highlighted names in the chart indicate new additions. The Board agreed to form a single Communications Committee (formerly the Electronic Communications & Communications Committee). In the Executive session, the Board decided to invite the three members of the Conduct and Ethics Committee (David Marshall; Barry Falgout; Merrill Hirsh) whose terms were set to expire this year to serve another two-year term (until 2023).

Alex Stille suggested there be a review of all existing committees, e.g. their specific intent and span of control. Linda proposed, and Alex Stille agreed, that he chair the review process. Bob has since agreed to work with Alex on that review.

Washington Bridge League Revisions/Updates to Committee Assignments (Updated Sept. 2021)	
Committees	Members
0-20 Game Committee	Clyde Kruskal (Chair); Alex Gretsinger; Julie Marquette; Donna Rogall; Lena Maman
0-20 Game Coordinators	Isabelle Thabault; Lena Maman
Awards	Linda Marshall (Chair); Eileen Inglesby-Houghton
Charity Committee	Hadi Abushakra
Cheer & Sympathy	Eileen Inglesby-Houghton
Club Relations Committee	Kathy Kopnisky (Chair); Mark Lavine; Clyde Kruskal; Lena Maman

Communications Committee	Alex Gretsinger (Chair); Hadi Abushakra; Ellen Cherniavsky; Eileen Inglesby-Houghton; Clyde Kruskal; Lloyd Rawley; Linda Marshall; Mary Tennenbaum
Conduct and Ethics Committee	Lloyd Rawley (Chair); Clyde Kruskal; Mary Tenenbaum; Kim Gandy ('22); Dick Wegman ('22); Peter Van Zijl ('22); David Marshall ('23); Barry Falgout ('23); Merril Hirsh ('23)
Elections Committee	Barbara Doran (Chair); Hadi Abushakra; Eileen Inglesby-Houghton
Executive Committee	Hadi Abushakra (Chair); Linda Marshall; Clyde Kruskal; Lloyd Rowley
GNT Coordinator	Ellen Cherniavsky
Historian	Peter Boyd
Holiday Party Committee	Clyde Kruskal (Chair); Jim Geist; Chris Miller; Mary Tenenbaum; Lena Maman
Liaison to Educational Foundation	Kathy Kopnisky (Chair), Bob Bell
Machlin Sportsmanship Award Committee	Bob Bell (Chair); Dick Wegman; Carole Banks; Rochelle Cohen; Mark Lavine (& the Unit Game Chief Director has veto power)
Membership Committee	Hadi Abushakra (Chair); Eileen Inglesby-Houghton; Alex Gretsinger; Julie Marquette; Mary Tenenbaum; Kathy Kopnisky
Membership Secretary	Eileen Inglesby-Houghton
NAP Coordinator	Ellen Cherniavsky
NLM Tournament Chair	Murat Berk
Ombudsman	Melissa Price

Parliamentarian	Hadi Abushakra
Partnerships	Barbara Doran; Lena Maman
Policy Maintenance Committee	Lena Maman (Chair); Linda Marshall; Chris Miller; Hadi Abushakra; Barbara Doran; Donna Rogall
Publicity, Marketing, Membership Growth & Retention	Alex Gretsinger (Chair); Charity Sack; Linda Marshall; Brad Theurer; Alex Stille; Kathy Kopnisky
Round Robin Committee	Dave Ruderman (Chair); Bill Cole; Chuck Dearolf; Barbara Doran; Barry Falgout; Steve Robinson; Mary Tenenbaum; Lloyd Rawley; Alex Gretsinger
Scheduling	Clyde Kruskal (Chair); Barbara Doran; Chris Miller; Ted Ying
Tournament Game Chief Director	Chris Miller
Tournament Committee	Linda Marshall (Chair); Carole Banks; Ellen Cherniavsky; Barbara Doran; Clyde Kruskal; Mary Tenenbaum; Lloyd Rawley; Donna Rogall; Alex Stille
Tournament Chair	Brad Theurer
Unit Game Chief Director	Chris Miller
Unit Game Committee	Clyde Kruskal (Chair); Lena Maman
Unit Game Manager	Chris Miller
Ways and Means Committee	Lloyd Rawley (Chair); Ellen Cherniavsky; Carole Banks; Mary Tenenbaum

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 20, 2021 at 7:30pm.