

Rochester Area Bridge Association Board Meeting Minutes  
Temple B'rith Kodesh, Rochester, NY  
Friday, July 26, 2019

PRESENT: Gary Gottermeier, Ken Knight, Barbara McIver, Jerry Manioci, Priscilla Brown, Jack Kress, Scootie Seeman, Jim Patton, Roger Woodin, Jan Egger, Bill Hettrick, Lois Sanders, Doug Bradley and Patricia Connell. Absent was Jane Romal.

The meeting was called to order by President Gary Gottermeier at 10:05 a.m.

MINUTES: Ken made a correction to the minutes from our last meeting, specifying that the name of the instructional video is "Double Dummy". Jan moved to accept the corrected minutes, Jerry seconded and all approved.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Barbara reported that Summer Sectional netted a profit to RABA of \$1164. The tournament drew as many tables as last year. We lost money on the Sunday lunch because we pre-purchased lunch for 60 people but only 40 people (half of those playing) participated. We need to find a way to bring the orders in better alignment with what is needed.

Barbara reported that in the period between 5/4/2019 and 7/26/2019, total income was \$3602 (mostly from the Summer Sectional) and total expense was \$5091. Upon discussion, Gary noted that the expense for tables was too high; it needed to be adjusted for the amount Duncan Jones paid. There are still a number of charges (playing cards, Constant Contact for the year, the Copier Charge) that are still pending. The Fat Cow website charges are for the entire year. Barbara will issue a new report with the changes.

REGIONAL TOURNAMENT: The tournament will be held August 5 – 11, 2019. We collect a rental fee of \$4 per table for the regional tournament.

FALL SECTIONAL: Bill Hettrick and Pat Connell are chairing the tournament, which will be held at the Webster Columbus Center on September 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>. A \$6 lunch will be served on Sunday, probably subs and wraps from Wegmans. We decided to reduce the donut order on Sunday from seven dozen to six dozen because there was so many left over at the Summer Sectional. We learned that both the Columbus Center and the town of Webster allow food trucks without further paperwork. We will ask Ricky Briggs if he could bring his food truck for Saturday.

3 DAY SECTIONALS: The board discussed trying a 3-day sectional, which are more common than 2-day sectionals. Doug cited that he thought Buffalo has a good turn-out on Friday but fewer participating on Sunday. Jim moved and Ken seconded that we investigate the possibility of holding a 3-day event; the motion passed

TEMPLE B'RITH KODESH: Our lease on space at TBK is set to expire in August 2019. Doug reported that the lease has been informally extended at least two more months

REINBURSEMENTS: Gary pointed out that board approval is not needed for purchases of "Bridge Mates" and other smaller items. Only presidential approval is necessary.

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**NAP GAMES:** John Dickerson of District 4 asked if RABA would host the NAP B Final in October 2020 in conjunction with our Fall Sectional. We would receive no revenue from the event, but District 4 would pay part of the expenses in proportion to the number of NAP tables. This would probably cost us some revenue (we would lose out on money from anyone that switched from the Sectional to the NAP event), but we could still be ahead on the net. We would accommodate eight tables the tournament would bring. Gary felt holding this tournament in Rochester was generally good for tournament bridge and that is the reason we should do it. Barbara moved we host the NAP B Final in October 2020, Pat seconded and all approved.

**ELECTIONS:** RABA members will elect four people to the RABA Board and two people to the Unit 112 board in September. Jim and Scootie chair the election committee which will seek candidates in August. Incumbent RABA members Roger and Jack plan to run again but Gary and Pat do not. Incumbent Kathy Landon plans to run again for the Unit Board but Doug does not. Others expressing interest include Lois, Dave LaTart, and Marcia Raines. Voting takes place at all local games in September.

**OLD DUPLICATING MACHINE:** Jim has prepared an ad for the old duplimating machine. We are willing to lend it gratis to Liz Meachum in Geneseo. Bill and Pat will check with her. Failing that, Jim will place the ad with District 4 and on e-Bay. Ken is helping with the e-Bay effort.

**NAME BADGES:** RABA sold 189 name badges at \$7 each. Gary thanked Scootie and Jim and Scootie for this very successful endeavor.

**PICTURES:** Scootie and Jim have been adding player pictures to the ACBL/Common Game database. A check of players on a recent Tuesday found all but three folks in the open game had their pictures included. The percent of 499'ers with pictures is lower. The effort will continue.

**CHARITY AND APPRECIATION GAMES:** Both the Charity Game and the Appreciation Game have had disappointing turnouts. This year, the Charity Game is scheduled for the Sunday before Thanksgiving and just before the Waterloo Sectional, almost certainly precluding a good turnout. Gary suggested postponing the charity game to the end of February when we have the Appreciation Game scheduled and cancelling the Appreciation game. The board felt the Charity Game was the more important event for a number of reasons. Jim moved that we move the Charity Game February 23<sup>rd</sup> and cancel the Appreciation Game altogether. Ken seconded and all approved. Over the next few months, we need to select a charity.

**BUDGET:** Jim made presented an update to the budget for next year which will be finalized once we see final numbers for this year. Jim suggested tracking expenses quarterly. The purpose of the budget is planning where we can spend our money without committing to spending money simply because it is in the budget.

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**BATTERIES.** The transmitter for our BridgeMates was ruined by corroded batteries. We need to replace batteries in BridgeMates and BridgePads before that happens. Jim will investigate how often batteries need to be changed.

**YOUTH PROGRAM:** Ken says the program is on hold. The Chess camp is now in session, and it is too late to get bridge instruction included in that program. Roger has had some sessions in schools which seem to have been well received. These efforts may be expanded in the following year, and members are asked to report any youth organization which might be interested in developing a bridge course for kids. Jerry asked that we send emails to members as a reminder of this. Ken says that has been done. Gary suggested that we give free bridge books to interested parties in an effort to grow RABA.

**NEW ITEMS:** Barbara says she was approached by some of the 499ers, complaining that Duncan was badgering them to play faster. Gary pointed out that slow play was an important issue. We need to support Duncan and the other directors in their quest to finish play in a timely fashion. After discussion into the causes of slow play (e.g., too much talking before players move), Lois suggested we could coach people on how to keep the game moving. Gary suggested that Jim and Doug put out tips on the website or in an email on "Speed of Play." Lois suggested that Roger address this in his lessons. Gary emphasized positive thoughts rather than condemnation to encourage improvement.

**NEXT MEETING:** Friday October 11, 2019 at 10:00 a.m. - Temple B'rith Kodesh.

**MOVE TO ADJOURN:** Ken moved to adjourn, Barbara seconded and all approved.

**RESPECTIVELY SUBMITTED,**

Patricia Connell, Secretary