

## **GNYBA Board Meeting Minutes – March 12, 2020**

### **In Attendance**

J. Bayone; D. Garber; B. Gellas; U. Ivatury; S. Levine; J. Wank; G. Wallach; L. Weisbrod; J. Meyers; G. Miniter; D. Moss; A. Parrish; A. Rhodes; J. Rothstein; B. Sigward; N. Trabulus; L. Lin; K. Todd;

### **President's Report**

In light of the Covid-19 crisis, B. Gellas opened by giving the floor to D-24 Rep D. Moss (on the phone) who provided an update on the status of the 2020 Spring NABC. [Shortly after David's report concluded, the ACBL Board announced the cancelation of the Spring NABC.] David mentioned that the virus epidemic would pose a serious problem for ACBL tournaments, including regionals and sectionals, going forward. Decisions pertaining to regionals and sectionals would most likely be up to each local location.

David also reported that he has negotiated dates for the North American Pairs:

- Flights 'A' and 'C' – October 11th – Sagamore Bridge Club;
- Flight 'B' – November 1st – Sagamore Bridge Club.

Bonnie discussed B. McClendon's Youth Bridge program (currently with 49 young people involved). The GNYBA subsequently voted to provide the sum of \$2 thousand to support the program. Bonnie also reported that going forward in 2020, there will be increased fees associated with conducting tournaments, including per table fees, per session director fees (+\$40), and STAC table fees.

The next GNYBA Board Meeting will be held on April 27th.

The GNYBA Awards Dinner scheduled for April 30th will now most likely become a TBA date, due to Covid-19.

### **Treasurer's Report**

J. Rothstein reported that although net revenue was down slightly for the year 2019 (down \$6.6 thousand), the GNYBA has sufficient funds on hand (in excess of \$200 thousand) to absorb the loss. The financial strength of the GNYBA is currently strong. Should attendance suffer at future GNYBA-sponsored events due to Covid-19, there could be an adverse impact on the financials.

## **Committees Report**

G. Minter provided an update on GNYBA Committees. Although most committees are in good shape, she reported that she had not heard back from members who had not yet signed-up for any committee, and asked that those members sign up. At present, Committee leadership is as follows:

- Hospitality on site - A. Rhodes, L. Weisbrod, and D. Garber;
- Partnership Desk - V. Apter and L. Weisbrod;
- GNT - L. Lin, A. Parrish, D. Moss, and A. Silverstein;
- Setup - B. Kimmel;
- Marketing - J. Meyers/M. Marchione, with help from G. Minter;
- Facebook – B. Gellas, with help from M. Marchione;
- GNYBA.org - L. Lin, with help from N. Trabulus and A. Parrish: possible redesign and discussion of purpose/goals
- Tournaments - S. Levine, with help from N. Trabulus, A. Parrish, and Bill S.;
- Fliers – B. Gellas / L. Tolkow;
- Constant Contact – D. Moss and J. Hu;
- Membership/Newcomers – A. Rhodes, L. Weisbrod, D. Garber, and J. Wank;
- Tournament Evening Bulletin - **\*needs new ownership\***

## **Tournament Report**

In light of Covid-19 and Governor Cuomo's declaration of a New York State of Emergency (issued hours before this meeting commenced), S. Levine reviewed the contract between the Hilton and GNYBA that governs the May Regional. Discussion ensued regarding the Governor's State of Emergency, and whether we could go forward with the Regional. The Board decided to vote in favor to have Steve discuss the issue with the Hilton, and specifically to discuss Clause #28 in the contract (the "Impossibility" clause).

## **GNTs**

A. Rhodes stated that the GNT's are midway through.

## **Other Business**

- The June Sectional was discussed briefly, with agreement that it was premature to decide whether or not Covid-19 would impact that event.

- J. Meyers presented thoughtful discussion regarding where best to 'market' in order to increase attendance at GNYBA events. His conclusion, based on extensive data on players' activities, was that players in the "0 to 750 mp" range represented the best segment to target in order to generate greater participation at events.
- U. Ivatury raised the issue of the financial health of our bridge clubs, observing that Covid-19 represented a significant risk to them. [Subsequent to this meeting, each NYC club closed for the duration.] Uday asked what we can do to help the clubs, and said we should do what we could. The Board voted to waive this week's STAC fees due from the clubs to the GNYBA. There was discussion of other possible initiatives, including the possibility of conducting a fundraiser for the clubs via a BridgeBase event.

Respectfully Submitted by  
Bill Sigward, Secretary of the Board

March 20, 2020

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