

GNYBA Board Meeting Minutes – June 20, 2023

In Attendance (by 'Zoom')

J. Bayone, A. Davidson, J. Hu, M. Jonas-Silver, M. Lawson, P. Lentz, F. Levine, S. Levine, L. Lin, R. Moller, A. Parrish, M. Petsch, A. Rhodes, T. Romeo, J. Rothstein, W. Sigward, N. Trabulus, A. Weinshank.

2023 Tournament Report

Marla Lawson led discussion regarding the feasibility of holding a Regional Tournament in New York City during 2023. Specifically, a site in Astoria, Queens – i.e., Astoria World Manor (AWM) -- is under consideration as a potential site for this event, prospectively to be held in October or November. Two members of the Tournament Committee (Phil Lentz and Bill Sigward) visited AWM on June 17th and met with Gianni H. Guzman, the Event Sales Manager. This location had previously been suggested by Jeff Bayone, and Phil and Bill reported that AWM did appear to offer a potentially attractive and viable venue in which to conduct a Regional. Although not offering a midtown Manhattan location, AWM would represent a less expensive alternative to Manhattan hotel space. AWM may be reached by subway (via the 'N' and 'W' subway trains, stopping at the Astoria Blvd station, which is a 15-minute ride from the Lexington Ave/59th Street station. AWM is an 8–10-minute walk from the elevated station at Astoria Blvd. There is (free) parking at AWM for those driving. There are hotels located nearby (1 mile away) in Long Island City.

Possible dates for a 2023 Regional are in flux because there are numerous scheduling conflicts due to other scheduled tournaments in Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, and New Jersey. The Board voted to give the Tournament Committee authority to move forward to explore further the feasibility of holding a Regional at AWM in 2023, and in November 2024 as well. There will be follow-up discussion with Ms. Guzman to narrow the range of potential tournament dates as well as the costs associated with those dates. With respect to costs, the goal would be to limit any financial loss to \$20 thousand or less.

In a related matter, Lee Lin and Jeff Bayone reported that the forthcoming Sectional (at Bridge & Games, June 24-25) looks to be a success, given the solid number of advanced reservations that have already been received. 'Countess Cup' trophies will be awarded at the Sectional -- the top 99er and 499er pair will receive trophies.

NAP's / GNT's

Lee Lin reported that sanctions have been received to hold the 2023 North American Pair qualifiers (NAP's) on October 15th for flights A and C, and the 22nd for flight B. It is unclear who will be hosting (ideally Long Island will host); however, Long Island may wish to conduct the NAP's in one day only, not two. In any case, NAP dates are now on the calendar, with the final schedule still to be determined.

GNYBA will be represented next month by six teams at the Chicago Grand National Teams (GNT) -- two teams in each of the B and C flights, and one team in each of the Open and A flights. Lee proposed that in 2024, GNT qualifying play should be held earlier in the year, i.e., in February and early March, to help ease the knockout logistics. In ensuing discussion there was agreement to hold the GNT's earlier in the year, as Lee suggested. Adam Parrish noted that Director Alan Miller ran a great tournament last month during the GNT qualifying rounds.

Local Club Report

Jeff Bayone reported that he believes "we are a go" for a July 31st opening at the new club on 55th Street in midtown Manhattan. The buildout at the site is going well and on schedule. Jeff would like to build a sense of community at the new club, and specifically mentioned his interest in having players/board members volunteer to help at the new club (possibly by creating committees to help make the club successful and provide input, e.g., a hospitality committee, a special events committee, a general club committee). Adam stated the Unit should help make the new club a success. The proposed card fees at the club will be \$35 in the afternoon, and \$25 at other times. There is room for 30 tables on 55th Street, with 18 for bridge and the rest for canasta and mahjong (30 tables for bridge in the evenings and on weekends). There is no answer whether the 87th Street location will remain open. Jeff stated the 3rd Floor "is gone"; he is attempting to keep the 4th Floor open. Jeff also stated he is in need of qualified directors.

Other Business

The date of the next meeting of the GNYBA Board was set for Monday, August 21st at 8:30 am.

Respectfully Submitted by
Bill Sigward, Secretary of the Board

June 28, 2023