

## GNYBA Board Meeting Minutes 2024-03-26

More detailed minutes from the meeting:

Attendees: Lee Lin, Alan Davidson, Deborah Tormey, Gail Wallach, Stephannie Culbertson, Barbara Marcin, Bill Sigward, Norman Trabulus, Adam Parrish, Philip Lentz, Tom Romeo, Melanie Petsch, Steve Levine, Amy Rhodes, Rich Marchione, Jeff Bayone, Jin Hu

Bill talked about the two possibilities of a fall/winter regional.

The possible Astoria regional:

- Nearby hotel is not as nice
- We have an ACBL sanction for September 26-29 (Wed-Sun) [I must have written this down wrong, not sure if it's Sept 25-29, or only Thursday to Sunday]

Possible Marriott regional:

- In Times Square
- They reached out to us, which hopefully makes it cheaper and gives us some negotiating power
- Similar cost to Astoria World Manor (see comparison numbers sent out yesterday)
- December 26-29 (and because it's during the holidays, it's cheaper than other times of the year, when we probably could not afford the Marriott)
- Hosting the directors is more expensive (\$290ish per night in Astoria vs. \$490ish per night in Times Square)
- Harder to drive in, easier to take the subway
- We don't have a block of rooms: out-of-towners would need to get their own (so, similar to the Astoria setup).

Amy notes that many players didn't like Astoria last year and might not return to it.

Melanie wonders if we could do December at Marriott and a spring tournament in Astoria. but we don't have any data right now about the cost of a May tournament. We voted on this plan, and it had overwhelming approval.

Norman looked at user feedback from previous tournaments: Hilton was a C+ venue, Astoria was C (so worse, but not \*much\* worse). Astoria had higher turnout from Long Island and Westchester, lower from NJ.

Alan suggested a poll of players, but Phil notes that the board is in charge of these decisions, rather than delegating to the community at large.

Melanie notes that having tournaments in December and the spring would be 2 comparable data points about how both venues compare for the future.

Phil notes that this is all conditional on the details checking out well (e.g., directors can come in early to the Marriott without price gouging, we can set up the tables ahead of time, etc.).

5/5/5 initiative: this is starting in April.

- All measurements are on activity, rather than results.

- So, we need people to chip in and talk to players to encourage them to play more, (re)join the ACBL, etc.
- Melanie will send out instructions soon about how to do this: part is just logging in and checking the numbers regularly, part is recruiting new players, part is contacting the older players who have drifted away.
- Deborah notes that the 92nd Street Y has a non-duplicate bridge program with many enthusiastic players, might be a place to recruit
- Barbara says make sure to document what you're doing to reach out to folks!
- Deborah wrote to Bridge Whiz to talk about a youth ambassador, but never got a response.
- Jeff used to have a youth program on Sundays, but it's 4 years later and the kids are now teens and not interested in returning.
- Jeff looked at the at-risk retention list: many play only at private clubs, and contacting them from a public club seems awkward. Others have passed away or moved out of state, and of the 150 Jeff looked at, he had 11 he thought he could retain. He wrote to them all, got 2 responses, and those 2 both had good reasons not to remain in the ACBL.
- Remember the free 3-month guest membership! It's an option to try out the ACBL. but it's a one-time-only thing so don't do it too early. Maybe suggest it when someone earns their first masterpoint?
- Concern about goosing the numbers with new recruits now leading to funding trouble next year; consensus is to focus on what's best for the bridge community, not what's best for our perceived metrics.

#### NAP report from Lee:

- The big change this year is Bridge Express wants to host 1 flight of NAPs (flight B?), and Manhattan will host A&C like usual.
- No outside food allowed in Bridge Express! but there would be lunch provided.
- Deborah: having an organized way to get Manhattanites there would be great (either carpool or public transit with taxi sharing for the last mile). Maybe something the partnership desk can help with?