

GNYBA Board Meeting Minutes 2024-08-06

- Our next meeting will be the morning of Tuesday, October 1.
- Attendees on August 7: Mark Aquino, Jeff Bayone, Alan Davidson, Melanie Petsch, Norman Trabulus, Marla Lawson, Abigail Weinshank, Jeffrey Rothstein, Adam Parrish, Deborah Tormey Bill Sigward, David Moss, Tom Romeo, Amy Rhodes, Rich Marchione, Steve Levine, Bonnie Gellas, Stephannie Culbertson, Gail Wallach, Philip Lentz, JinHu, Rachael Moller
- Mark Aquino gave an update from Toronto:
 - Convention center venues are more expensive, but attendance exceeded expectations (10,000+ tables)
 - Melanie will share a presentation Mark made (see your email from yesterday)
 - ACBL plans to get rid of some of the bureaucracy (e.g., 25 districts -> 13 regions), and the plan is to have more discussion and consensus-building before bringing official motions.
 - There are 3 new task forces, focused on clubs, recruitment/retention, and NABCs.
 - ACBL has an aging population, and this is dangerous to the long-term health of the game. We need some way to bring in younger players and keep them engaged and interested in competition.
 - They're considering moving the fall nationals away from Thanksgiving, but no decision is reached yet.
 - Mark is retiring from the ACBL board at the end of next year, and is looking for a replacement. Talk to him if you're interested.
 - ACBL membership is now below 130,000, whereas it had been above 200,000 in the 1960s. Membership is in a long slow decline, and might be as low as it's been since perhaps the 1940s.
- Phil gave an update on tournaments:
 - We got a surprising offer from Marriott: we will get one of the smaller rooms for no extra charge! We can now host 80ish tables, which relieves the anxiety about having enough capacity.
 - Melanie says ACBL definitely won't have Entry Express at regional tournaments until at least mid-2025.
 - Should we have side games at Honors? The tournament committee did not have consensus, but after discussion, the board came to the consensus that no, we should not. ACBL higher-ups are strongly against it, anyone who wants to play a single session is welcome to join a 2-session event for only half of it, holding the side game in a different location is confusing, there isn't a strong reason why the regulars at Honors couldn't just go across town to the regional, rather than expecting the regional to come straight to their doorstep.
 - Bonnie notes that there are already rumors circulating that we don't have enough capacity for the regional, and it's important to dispell them and tell folks that we got extra space so everyone should come because there's plenty of room.

- Competition updates: Lee was not on the call, but David spoke with him recently.
 - Everything is ready for the NAPs, except we're still waiting on the Director In Charge to approve a club director for Bridge Express out on Long Island for flight B.
 - Alan Miller will direct the flight A and C events at Honors.
 - Next year's schedule for grassroots tournaments is looking the same as previous years.
 - One of the Sundays of the GNT is the same day as a STaC, and there might need to be some planning around how to factor in all the players who don't want to be in GNTs.
- 5/5/5 program updates from Alan:
 - Our income for the quarter went down from a little under \$3,000 to a little under \$2600, but there was no explanation of why that happened. Jeffrey Rothstein asked for clarification from ACBL headquarters the night before our meeting, but hadn't heard back yet.
 - We're doing pretty well with contacting folks by email, but we need folks who are good on the phone to contact the folks whose email we don't have. Abigail offered to help with that. Thanks so much!
 - Jeff thinks contacting these folks is a waste of effort: they don't come back even after being contacted, and many of them weren't playing in public games anyway. This is feedback that should be communicated up to the folks at ACBL headquarters who are in charge of the 5/5/5 program: they should know that we're putting in this effort to get money for the unit, but it doesn't actually help the bridge community.
- David says our Facebook page has been getting a bunch of views even though no one updates it. If we have someone who likes Facebook stuff, please volunteer to post updates (along with Lee, who is in charge of updating the website). **We still need a volunteer to help with this!**
- The Pro-Am-Am-Am
 - It's a lot of work to organize, but we used to get 35 teams attending it. Sherry Ann K used to be in charge, but she passed away without having a successor. Stephannie had previously talked about perhaps pitching in, but she was not present for this part of the meeting, and David says she's no longer available.
 - Jeff wonders if we could get teams of 3 Ams forming on their own, and then all we need to do is match up Pros with teams, which could simplify stuff.
 - Amy is open to helping out, but does not want to be in charge. She might try getting the teachers of the beginner lessons to help out, too.
 - David thinks the board should pay someone to help organize, and Abigail and Adam agree that it's likely money well spent.
 - An impromptu committee will form to figure out Pro-Am-Am-Am details: Jeff and Barbara Bayone, Amy, Abigail, and David will ask Stephannie. Maybe Maya? but she wasn't on the call and perhaps she's busy enough already.