

GNYBA Board Meeting Minutes 2025-03-04

Attendees: Lee Lin, Alan Davidson, Philip Lentz, Stephannie Culbertson, Tom Romeo, Marla Lawson, Adam Parrish, Amy Rhodes, Deborah Tormey, Melanie Petsch, Norman Trabulus, Abigail Weinshank, Jeffrey Rothstein, Steve Levine, Jeff Bayone, Barbara Marcin, William Sigward, Rachael Moller, Yasmine Guenancia

5/5/5 update from Melanie:

- We're about 2/3 of the way there for the quarter
- Thanks especially to Deborah and Melanie for working on this.
- Do we get credit for recruiting new members? Yes! No need to record credit for it; it's based on what unit they live in.
- Barbara: Harvard Club had its first Common Game duplicate ever!
- Alan: any update on not needing to count lapsed members who have never played a game? Melanie: mark them as "done with bridge."
- Melanie: the system is not run by machines, so if we have lots of activity but still have people left, we can notify the higher-ups to get credit anyway.

GNTs with Lee:

- This year we had 2 fewer tables in both flight A (8, down from 10 last year) and B (12, down from 14 last year).
- Thanks to the Flight C recruiters! We got 12 teams this year, double last year's 6.
- Championship flight had 6 teams this year, same as last year.
- Championship, A, and C are all down to the finals already. B is still going because its opening round was most recent.

NAPs with Lee:

- This year there will be 4 flights, to match GNTs. We're struggling to allocate them between Manhattan and Long Island.
- Last year B was on Long Island and A and C were in Manhattan.
- Matt Gordon is joining the district NAP/GNT committee, to represent Long Island's interests along with Bill Dinner. The district-wide NAP committee should have updates soon.
- It's getting more expensive: we used to make several thousand dollars per year on the GNTs/NAPs, and this year we're only going to break even.
- The district has been delegating to the GNYBA every year, but now Long Island is saying that's not fair, so the district needs to discuss further.

Stephannie on the Pro-Am^3:

- We have at least 8 teams, with talk of 3-8 more in the works.
- Now that it's March (and the event is on March 28), Stephannie will send out a reminder/update.

- Need to find a director: Jeff Bayone will talk to Aviv
- Stephannie to follow up with Lee re: mechanics of how it should work.
- Yasmine is interfacing with the pros: we have more than we need.
- Melanie: we'll do online sessions to get newcomers set up for how to play IMPs, including how to score *before* discussing the hands
- Amy: the Pro-Am^3 is less stressful because there's a pro at every table who can keep folks on track.

Astoria Regional with Phil and Bill:

- Astoria World Manor in May: everything is on track.
- Memorial Day weekend (Thursday through Monday): 5 days instead of last year's 4
- We now have a separate room for coffee/lunch/etc. Should eliminate some small hassles.
- There is a flyer at Honors, should spread it around more
- We have contracted with Fast Results for the bulletin, Lee is happy to email more
- We will need volunteers in May to help out with everything. Signup sheet coming in the future.

Times Square regional with Phil and Bill:

- See the email sent last night for background on the rooms to discuss.
- Last year, the cost was roughly \$44,000, with a total loss of roughly \$15,000. If we reserve the Astor Ballroom, it will be an extra \$8,000
- Table count last year averaged 58, with a maximum of 65. Max capacity was 80.
- Last year was a success, so perhaps it will be larger this year.
- Deborah: newcomers won't attend again because they didn't like exiting the building into Times Square in the evening.
- Some people last year asked about discounts on hotel rooms, which we didn't have because we had only reserved rooms for directors. Should we reserve more hotel rooms, in the hopes that players will actually book them? No obvious consensus.
- We're going to have 2 regionals this year: expect losses at both.
- Consensus: go for the small rooms and hope the Astor Ballroom is unsold like last year.

Miscellanea:

- Jeffrey Rothstein to send Alan last year's financials to circulate; sent out shortly after the meeting ended.
- Abigail: Maya has an Instagram page
- Next meeting: Tuesday May 6. Note that the volunteer signups for Astoria World Manor will likely go out before the meeting.
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