

## GNYBA Board Meeting Minutes 2025-06-03

attendees: Lee Lin, Alan Davidson, Bill Sigward, Jeffrey Rothstein, Barbara Marcin, Marla Lawson, David Moss, Amy Rhodes, Abigail Weinshank, Adam Parrish, Tom Romeo, Norman Trabulus, Philip Lentz, Deborah Tormey, Jeff Bayone, Stephannie, Yasmine Guenancia, Rachael Moller

Melanie:

We are behind on the 5/5/5 activities, only at 30%, need to get numbers up by end of June  
Thanks to Deborah for helping with this, but everyone needs to do more  
Astoria regional: not well attended, lost something like \$30K.

Phil:

39 tables on first day, down to 25 tables on the last day

Memorial day weekend was a bad time

The N train down for construction was a problem

Don't give up on tournaments: maybe 1 per year, in Manhattan

Cost of cancelling contract for December regional would be \$10K

Wants at least 1 regional per year, in Manhattan

Jeffrey: Astoria Manor is owned by a single individual. They usually host 4-hour events, not multi-day events. Maybe we can negotiate differently to get a much better price?

Phil: we did get a 20% discount. They charged us \$650/hour for the regency room, 8 hours per day.

Bill: thinks Jeffrey is onto something and we should talk to them about it

Phil: consider a different time of year

Amy: many Manhattanites refuse to go to Queens, even for a regional

Many also don't like the site: Astoria World Manor is grimy and dim

Other locations: have not been successful in the past. Hotels don't like that we don't book many rooms, and non-hotels don't have the same amenities.

given losses, could we raise card fees from \$35 to \$40? If we got 50 tables per day, that would still help a bunch.

<several people agree we should raise card fees>

How much can we lose on tournaments and stay afloat?

Jeffrey: including the \$30K loss, the GNYBA is roughly at \$170K in the bank.

Bill: expect a \$15K loss in December

What is our income from STaCs? Very little, though not a loss

Adam: offset losses from regionals by having more profitable sectionals

Only viable location is Honors

Minimum regional length is 3 days. Could hold at Honors

Barbara: thinks there is latent demand for tournaments, if we can hold them

Having a regional at Honors would require pre-registration because of the limited space.

Lee: we did Astoria in Oct 2023 and got a higher turnout. What's different now?

People might have gone and didn't want to go back, or wanted to spend Memorial Day elsewhere

Rachael: maybe host at public library at 40th and Fifth

Phil: needed amenities are bathrooms, coffee, nearby restaurants

Norman: many places are closed on weekends or have surcharges for security working overtime

Phil: we already have sanctions for next year in May and December

Maybe try another month at Honors

Jeff: try it at Honors, it'll be profitable at last. To make it special, bridge players haven't been to the 12th floor

Adam: 4-session Goldman Pairs definitely drew a crowd

Wants more 4-session events

motion to raise card fees to \$40: 10 "yes" and 9 "no"

try it in December, see how it goes

Lee: raising fees won't make it profitable. Phil: but it reduces our losses

Lee: we also have a pipeline problem with newcomers

Adam: wants to encourage newcomers to play up in a gold rush or open game

Barbara: offer email list for tournament stuff. Others: we already do this.

No, make an "opt-in" list of people who really want these

Motion: have the tournament committee explore a 3-day regional at Honors in the spring: general approval

September is the Pro-Am<sup>3</sup>, and regional in the spring

Should we advertize in the Bulletin? Unclear

Preduplicated Teams games: might have extra work/cost

David: Pedro would charge us for his extra time. Might need extra director effort, but we have too many directors already. Hand records cost money, too

Amy/Marla: this is very popular elsewhere. Advertise if we're doing it!

Do we have enough boards (20 sets)? Unclear

David wants people to take some of the load off of Lee's plate

Adam: do we want multi-day events? Goldman Pairs cannibalized the teams game, and team sponsors weren't happy.

Maybe hold a 2-day teams event?

Next meeting: Monday, August 11