

GNYBA Board Meeting Minutes 2025-08-11

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

Sectional discussion with Melanie:

There never was a sectional tournament scheduled for September, so it couldn't've been canceled.

This discussion happened weeks ago, the tournament committee gave an offer to Honors, who rejected it, and the tournament committee decided not to move forward with more attempts

Jeff B: disagrees with Melanie's recollection of what happened

Wishes that the tournament committee would support players more

Adam: Jeff, stop impugning the tournament committee

<lots of talking over each other>

Norman: a conversation between the GNYBA and Jeff is increasingly dysfunctional, should have a plan as a GNYBA separate from Honors

<Jeff went to the waiting room, the rest of the GNYBA discussed, then Jeff returned>

Conclusion: the September sectional is a dead issue, but we'd like to discuss possible future sectionals to try to avoid this impasse again

Pro-Am³ with Stephannie:

recruiting/signups are underway

Need to start publicizing the event more

September 28, so 6 weeks out

Have a director confirmed

11:00 AM on Saturday, including bagels and pastries

end 3:30ish

\$40 per Am (\$120 per team, pros play free)

Barbara and Amy will publish to interclub members

Phil to get a sanction for the game

NAPs with Lee:

we've been trying hard to get Long Island to host some of the NAP flights

last year they got a bunch of tables, which was great

rocky ride: had full agreements over email, followed by BRIDGEExpress complaining afterwards, accusing us of unethical behavior, then went behind our backs to get additional money from the GNYBA (not a significant amount, but it's no way to treat a partner organization)

They had requested additional funds possibly because the ACBL charged them for Rui's help, because the director on site could not run the game properly.

Months of later hostility

Alan: so this year, we tried to get them to host, but they refused to sign any contract, so we reluctantly gave up

Jeff: the problem was only how long term the contract was. I got them to sign a different contract for just this one year

Lee: this supposed contract did not go to me

Norm: was this contract agreeable to us?

Lee: mostly. It changed whether to rotate flights (BRIDGEExpress wants only the most profitable flights, and not the others), and who is paying for marketing

Adam: it's more about the attitude of the people we're trying to negotiate with

Abigail: thank you, Lee, for trying to get this to work

Jeff B: you [the GNYBA board] are useless and are ruining bridge

How dare you tell me how to run my business

No reason to cancel these events because you don't want to have a 199er game

Alan: we've moved on to a different topic, let's get back on track

regional in december with Phil:

on schedule with our contact at Marriott

duplicate boards for the team games needs more work during the event and possibly more boards

currently have the 2 side rooms, not the ballroom. Won't know more until late November

April regional with Phil:

Jeff B sent out guidelines for regional months ago, which we all agree with

GNYBA is running the regional completely, including no 199er game and no lunch in the middle collecting money: go through Stripe with Lee

Jeff is in discussions with the landlord to remodel the 12th floor to open it up

As of now we're all going forward on this regional

ACBL might object to requiring preregistration, but so far there's no problem

Jeff B talked to Bronia, who says there is no problem with this

ACBL Board of Directors election between Adam Parrish and Susan Miguel

meet-and-greet tomorrow evening at 6:00 on Zoom, should have gotten invite from Melanie

voting is August 15-September 15 via email

voting is weighted by both the unit membership and the board size

so, it's very important to vote!

Also expect an email from Sabrina with statements from each candidate

5/5/5 activity: last quarter we hit 100%! This quarter we will need a little more board help in September

Amy: do we get credit for recruiting new members? Melanie: yes!

Guest members count for this, too

Jeffrey R: we're getting more money from the ACBL than previous years

Previously we got \$11K for the year, this year we've gotten that much already

Due to 5/5/5 changes: previously we would have gotten 11% or 12% of member dues, now we can get up to 15% if we hit all metrics (or as low as 5% if we miss everything)

Rachael: Is membership up? No, it's down though the rate of decrease has slowed

Amy: how was attendance at Nationals? Melanie has heard it was great for a post-pandemic event

Changing formats at nationals? Lee: starting in 2028, all events are multi-day events

Adam: ...with consolation 1-day events for people who got knocked out of the multi-day events

Lee: they're hoping that the multi-day events will make nationals smaller, which lets them host in more locations

Adam: pre-covid, the local I/N players would subsidize the NABCs, but now the local I/Ns aren't coming, so they're trying alternatives

Rachael: table count was something like 9500, which is better than we've been doing but not better than pre-pandemic

Adam: this was 1000 tables more than expected, but pre-pandemic it would have been 15,000

Next meeting: Monday, October 6

There was a bunch of talking over each other in the middle of this meeting, which is hard to take notes on. I might have missed something in there.