

Bridge Club of Staten Island

General Board Meetin

October 20, 2015

Present: Sharon McCarty, Pres.

Pat Mahnken, V.P.

Stu Edelstein , Treasurer

Ann Borowski, Sec.

Board Members: Sheldon Amin, Ann Giampappa, Phyllis Jacobs, Shelia Jacobson,

Annet Ligot. Terri Murillo

The meeting was called to order by Sharon. She thanked all for coming and welcomed Shelly to the Board as the newest elected member.

Minutes of previous meeting were read into the record.

Financial Report: Curent cash balance \$5942. There is an outstanding bill due to Scaran Heating for \$800.

Sharon wanted to bring all board members up to date on the status of our lease. She informed all that Michael Gecht and Shelly made contact with the landlord. As a reminder our current lease was up for renewal with an increase of 4% most likely. After Michael and Shelly discussed our situation with Rocco, an agreement was reached whereby our current rate of \$2460 per month will remain in place with no increase for one year. There is no signed contract; just a gentlemen's agreement. This is not to say that we will not continue to search for other quarters should it become necessary to relocate in the future. However, despite board members reaching out to other locations, contacting realators, etc. there was absolutely no positive response. Our thanks to Michael and Shelly and of course, Rocco.

At our annual meeting, facts and figures were presented to the membership. The majority of the membership present were agreeable to raising the annual dues to \$125. As per the club's constitution, annual dues should be paid by the first week in January in order not to pay non-member playing fees. A suggestion was made that if dues not paid in a timely manner, a penalty would be imposed. However, it was suggested that we give our members a chance to adjust to the new payment system. If any member has a problem paying, they should talk to a board member to see if some arrangement can be made to help out with the situation. We would like all members who vacation in Florida to pay dues before they leave for the winter. Collecting this money in a timely manner will help to keep the playing fees at \$10 per game. It was agreed that the number of members who actually play is declining.

Next up for discussion was possible ways to further cut expenses. There are certain items that cannot be eliminated such as paper towels, tissues, soaps, etc. These are all health related materials. Soda pays for itself. Coffee, tea, milk, etc. remains. The cost of cookies and pretzels costs approximately \$1,000 per year. Eliminating these items or buying store brand items was suggested but the final board decision was to keep these purchasing the brand-name items .

Beginners Classes- At present, when a person signs up for the beginner lessons for the first time, he/she pays \$70 to become a member a member of the club. This \$70 goes to Pat Mahnkan in payment for giving the lessons. There is no dispute that Pat should be compensated for her effort. The person taking the lessons is then eligible to play in a game for the member fee of \$10. Repeat students' dues go to the club. In the future it was agreed that Pat would charge whatever she wants for the lessons and keep the proceedings. These lessons would not be advertised as free in the future. which goes to the club. The club benefits by getting new members and Pat gets paid.

As was previously voted upon and approved by the board, all free plays will be eliminated. The free birthday play will be honored until the end of 2015.

The 50/50 raffle has been bringing in some additional money each month. In fact some winners have donated their winnings back to the club.

Sharon reminded the board members that we should be polite and respectful of all our members and treat them in kind.

A holiday party is in the planning stage.

There will be a Novice/Mentor Meet and Greet game to be held on November 4. . Sign up sheets will be posted. Lunch to be served = \$5 for Mentors and \$15 for Novices.

No further business, Sharon thanked all and concluded the meeting.