

**Dallas Bridge Association Board of Directors  
Minutes of Meeting 09/11/24**

Attendees: Connie Scott, Bill Driscoll, Bill Higgins, Mary Chaffin, Milt Neher, Cheryl Rider, Paul Taylor and Truett Cates were present. Bob Holliday was absent. The September meeting was held at the King of Glory Church prior to Valley View's Wednesday game.

**The August minutes were approved.**

**Ed Yetter provided the financial reports, which were approved.**

As of August 31, 2024 the unit has total cash assets of \$48,940.60. There is \$3774.12 in the checking account and \$45,166.48 in the Fidelity investment account. As of August 31 the unit is missing the 2024 budget by \$37,559.66. However, the revenue from the Labor Day Regional has not posted yet so this is relatively meaningless. As of the date of the board meeting the unit had assets in the checking account of \$31439.02. Other factors impacting the August financials:

- We received an anonymous donation of \$200 to the candy fund for the Regional.
- The paper purchased to print flyers has been returned.
- Ed Yetter reports that the final net income from the Regional may be somewhat better than the initial estimate of \$5,000-\$6,000. He will provide a final P&L once the books are closed for the event.

**Bill Driscoll and Bob Holliday presented the member communications report for August via email.**

Date	Reads	Percent Read	Clicks on Links	Unsubs	Spam	Bounces	Email Theme
08/05/24	512	52.40%	13	0	0	0	Bridge Rate at Hotel for Regional
08/15/24	545	59.30%	27	0	0	57	Labor Day Regional Aug 27-Sept 1
08/21/24	527	57.30%	31	1	0	217	Labor Day Regional Aug 27-Sept 1
08/26/24	521	56.80%	35	1	0	217	Labor Day Regional Starts Tomorrow Aug 27-Sept 1
09/03/24	644	57.00%	92	0	0	2	September Newsletter

The reason for the large number of bounces on 8/21 and 8/26, and a drop in the number of recipients is unknown but has returned to normal.

Future email notifications will focus on the September unit game, the October unit game/STAC game and the Fall Sectional / I/N Regional.

**Bill Higgins presented the August Membership Report**

The unit currently has 1307 members, a reduction of 7 members from August. The gradual decline in membership continues.

Mary Chaffin reported that she continues to reach out to guest memberships obtained by non-members at our tournaments. They are converting to paid memberships at a 50% rate.

The District is hosting a ZOOM call on membership in September. Bill Higgins will attend and report at the October meeting.

**Ed Yetter led a discussion on the April trailer theft.**

Public Storage did not respond to the informal dispute resolution email by the deadline of August 20. Ed reports that the next step in the process is to initiate a binding arbitration process. Leonard Epstein is reviewing the contract language around the arbitration process. The board agreed that our arbitration number should include fully loaded expenses, including time spent by board members shopping and extra work at the storage and tournaments and the cost of materials purchased to replace those lost in the trailer.

**Cheryl Rider presented an equipment report.**

Cheryl provided an inventory of supplies after the Labor Day Regional. There are sufficient blue bags and wine glasses for next year.

Chuck Eastin is handling the loaning of tables and bidding boxes to the Richardson's Women's Club. They have signed the required loan agreement.

**Ed Yetter led a review of the 2024 Labor Day Regional.**

While response to the playing area was generally positive, there were many negatives. The food was bad, the location was too far for some folks and there were communication issues among the staff. The board requested that Ed find out what would be involved in terminating the 2025 contract and look for another venue. Ed will also reach out to the Renaissance and see if they have availability a different week so that we can move the event back there.

Ed is still waiting on the final bill from the Courtyard and then will set up a meeting with the team at the Marriott Courtyard so that he and Tomi can go over the experience.

**Milt Neher presented a Unit Game report.**

All future unit games will be held at King of Glory Church and will be run by either Friendly Bridge Club or Valley View Bridge Club. . Unit games are scheduled for the following dates;

September 15

October 6 / STAC Game

November 17

December 8 – STAC Unit Game

There will not be a Unit Holiday party this year due to the time restrictions required by King of Glory church.

**The board discussed the 2024 Fall Sectional/I-N Regional and 2025 tournaments.**

Because of the lower table counts for the last 3 tournaments, the board discussed money-saving changes that can be implemented until the table counts improve. The board agreed to the following changes:

No final day lunch.

\$15 entry fee for all sectionals beginning with the 2024 Fall Sectional.

A \$300 budget for hospitality.

Not more than 2 directors initially. If attendance on the first day indicates a 3<sup>rd</sup> director may be necessary, one will be called in.

Milt Neher presented a draft letter to the membership explaining the changes. Connie Scott wants to send the letter under her signature and will work with the board on the message.

The dates for 2025 tournaments are;

1/29/25 – 2/1/25 – Winter Sectional

4/30/25 – 5/3/25 - Spring Sectional

8/26/25 - 8/31/25 – Labor Day Regional

10/29/25 – 11/1/25 – Fall Sectional

**Scott Nason joined the meeting to provide a report on the GNT/NAP events and District 16 news.**

The 2025 NAP finals will not be held concurrently with a tournament. They will be held at the Austin Bridge Club in January 2025.

The GNT finals will once again be split between Dallas and Houston. Dallas will host the Championship Flight and Flight B on May 2-3 at the Dallas Spring Sectional. The Masterpoint Limit for Flight B has been raised to a 3000. Houston will host Flights A and C at their April tournament. The stipends for attending the Nationals have been raised to \$2400 for the winning team and \$1800 for the 2<sup>nd</sup> place team.

The host hotel for the Las Vegas Nationals is sold out and a second option will be available soon.

Paul Cuneo is retiring as our representative to the ACBL Board of Directors,. Rebecca Brown will be the new representative.

**New Business**

Bob Holliday will not be able to serve as chair of the election nominating committee, as he will be out of town. Bill Higgins agreed to take this role and will put together a committee and make recommendations to the board.

**The October meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 9 at 10:00 AM, at King of Glory Church, prior to the Wednesday Valley View game.**