

**Dallas Bridge Association Board of Directors
Minutes of Meeting 10/09/24**

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

Lenard Epstein jointed the meeting to participate in a discussion on the April trailer theft.

After Public Storage did not respond to the informal dispute resolution email by the deadline, Ed Yetter inquired with the Judicial Arbitration Mediation Service to find out what would be involved in initiating the binding arbitration process. Ed reports that the initial deposit would be \$2,000 and plus expenses at the rate of \$300 per hour. This is prohibitively expensive for a claim of our size, so Ed contacted the corporate office at Public Storage twice. This was followed by calls to the District Manager and the Regional Manager. They have not returned calls. Ed will try one more time to reach someone with the authority to make a decision, with the goal to settle the claim or find a cheaper arbitration option.

Leonard Epstein reports that the contract language is highly one-sided and it may not be wise to spend any more money pursuing this issue.

The September minutes were approved.

Ed Yetter provided the financial reports, which were approved.

As of September 30, 2024 the unit has total cash assets of \$73,265.43. There is 27,840.95 in the checking account and \$45,424.48 in the Fidelity investment account.

As of Seember 30 the unit is missing the 2024 budget by \$28,564.83. This is attributable to a net income tournament under-run of \$17,856.15 and expense over-runs of about \$11,000. The expense over-runs can be attributed to the trailer theft, purchase of tournament supplies and payment of club STAC fees.

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 |
|-------------|--------------|---------------------|------------------------|---------------|-------------|----------------|--------------------------------|
| 09/03/24 | 651 | 57.60% | 95 | 0 | 0 | 2 | September Newsletter |
| 09/06/24 | 638 | 56.50% | 41 | 0 | 0 | 1 | Unit Game |
| 09/11/24 | 655 | 52.40% | 69 | 0 | 0 | 2 | Unit Game Date Correction |
| 09/19//24 | 668 | 59.10% | 1 | 2 | 0 | 1 | Letter to Unit 176 Members |
| 10/02/24 | 600 | 52.70% | 84 | 0 | 0 | 1 | September Newsletter |
| 10/04/24 | 604 | 53.30% | 62 | 0 | 0 | 1 | Unit Game Sunday October 6 KOG |

For some unknown reason, the reads and clicks for the two emails in October were significantly less than the earlier emails. We will monitor this situation..

Future email notifications will focus on the September unit game, the October unit game/STAC game and the Fall Sectional / I/N Regional. The board agreed to continue publishing pictures of new Life Masters in the monthly newsletter when they are available.

Bill Higgins presented the September Membership Report.

The unit currently has 1308 members, a increase of one member from August. There were 8 new members, 3 reinstated members, one member transferred in , one member became unpaid and there were 6 members who became inactive.

Bill is going to write an article for the upcoming Table Talk encouraging members to promote the game and recruit their friends and relatives to play.

Bill Higgins presented an Election Committee Report.

Bill announced that Cheryl Rider and Bill Higgins have both agreed to run for an additional term on the board. Additionally, he presented two new candidates for the unit board election who have agreed to run: John Redfern and David Sterner. The board approved these 2 candidates. Bill and his committee continue to search for other candidates. At least one more would be preferable. Bio's and pictures for all candidates will be sent to Ed Yetter so that a poster can be made for the November Fall Sectional.

The Board discussed unit equipment.

Chuck Eastin handled the loaning of tables and bidding boxes to the Richardson's Women's Club. All equipment and supplies has been returned to storage. The board discussed whether there should be a charge for this service going forward. This will be tabled until next year.

The McKinney Bridge Club recently found themselves short of bid boxes at one of their games. The board agreed to loan them 20 bid boxes to ensure this doesn't happen again.

Milt Neher presented a Unit Game report.

The dates for all 2025 unit games are set. They will all be held at King of Glory Church and will be run by either Friendly Bridge Club or Valley View Bridge Club. The two clubs will decide which club is going to host which game and report to Milt.

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

Bob Holliday reported that he has received some negative feedback about the board's decision to raise the entry fee while at the same time cutting back on hospitality. This left some people with the impression they were getting less value for more money. The board voted to raise the budget for hospitality to \$700 to provide more value.

The board discussed food options for the 2025 Labor Day Regional and agreed that no internal food for lunch is needed considering the large number of restaurants nearby. Ed Yetter will work with the Courtyard to see if there are coupons or some kind of voucher that could be used to reduce the lunch cost for the players.

New Business

Nominations for the annual Goodwill and Texas Star awards are due by the end of the year. The board will decide who to nominate at the November meeting.

The November meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 13 at 10:00 AM, at King of Glory Church, prior to the Wednesday Valley View game.