

**New Hampshire Bridge Association
Board of Directors Meeting
Sunday, May 7th 2023**

The Board of Directors Meeting of the New Hampshire Bridge Association was held in Manchester at the Puritan Conference Center. The meeting was called to order by president Dave Lawrence at 11:30 am.

Other members of the Board of Directors in attendance included:

Lucia Carlisle, Sharon Kace, Peter Kingsley, John Pieper, Jane Verdrager, Sarah Widhu, Bill Kennedy, and Larr Cheetham. (*Absent: Joe Watts*)

Secretary's Report – Sharon Kace

Lucia Carlisle moved that the minutes of the February, 2023 meeting, as revised and sent to Board members on May 2nd, be accepted as written.

The report was approved unanimously.

Treasurer's Report – Lucia Carlisle

Lucia Carlisle sent the Treasurer's report to the Board members prior to the meeting. Dave Lawrence moved that the report be accepted as written.

The report was approved unanimously.

Lucia explained that the NHBA receives income from both the ACBL¹ as well as the 7NT Online BBO club².

John Pieper informed the Board that the Unit will also likely receive income from the four (4) Unit 150 Foundation games. For 2023, we have twenty-four (24) Unit 150 Club games and four (4) Unit 150 Foundation games sanctioned for 2023 with the ACBL.

John offered to research the income details and report at the next meeting.

¹ ~ portion of the annual ACBL membership dues paid by Unit 150 members

² ~ portion of online table fees attributed to BBO players from Unit 150

Election of Officers – Dave Lawrence

Dave Lawrence presented the slate of officers for 2023 and motioned for the slate to be accepted, effective with the adjournment of this meeting.

The motion was carried unanimously.

Expiring in 2024:

Peter Kingsley, Director

Dave Lawrence, Past-President [*non-voting*]

Expiring in 2025:

Bill Kennedy, President

Sharon Kace, Treasurer

Larr Cheetham, Secretary

Lucia Carlisle, Director

Expiring in 2026:

Joe Watts, Director

Jane Verdrager, Director

John Pieper, Director

NOTE: the final year of Dave Lawrence's 3-year term is available to be filled by a new person, with Dave assuming his new role as a non-voting past-president. The new Board thanked Dave for serving for four years as our Unit 150 President. *Thank you, Dave!*

OPEN Discussion of State Tournament

Dave explained that player attendance at recent annual State Tournament games has been continuously shrinking, noting that there was no game last year due the observation of COV-19 protocols.

Lucia noted that this is the 88th year for this tournament, which costs the NHBA ~ \$3,000 to cover expenses. Dave explained that May (as compared to summer or fall months) is the more appealing month to most players across the State. *Holding the event in the winter is impractical because the attendance would decrease due to the departure of so many snowbirds .*

Dave opened discussions to the floor.

Several suggestions and observations offered from the NHBA members in attendance are listed below:

- Can we open play to VT or ME players who regularly attend N.H. club games?
- Should we offer \$\$ incentive (~ discounted entry fee) to any first-time player?
- Can we sell the event better to Flight B or C players, using targeted correspondence and/or better Club manager involvement?

Several people observed that the \$100 cost per/player may be a disincentive for people, esp., when they do *not* realize the value of the good food, gracious accommodations, and enjoyment provided by this most-special social event.

Many are optimistic going forward, saying that this is only our first post-COV annual State tournament— something we will certainly build upon.

Sharon Kace and Larr Cheetham offered to collaborate on PRESS releases, starting with this tournament. Hopefully people will see their names in print (as well as their neighbors!) and more interest develop.

Miscellaneous

Bill Kennedy announced that the NHBA has purchased an annual Premium license, allowing our organization to have unlimited ZOOM time for our meetings.

Links to ZOOM meeting will be restricted to attendees and not used for *open-to-the-public* conference calls.

Meeting Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 12:30 pm.
NEXT MEETING: no date announced.