

Minutes MLK Tournament
January 15, 2012
Tampa, Florida

The meeting of the SS of the American Bridge Association, Inc. was called to order by SVP, Gloria Christler. It was determined that a quorum was present. Richard Banks, Treasurer rendered prayer.

Minutes of the Sectional meeting held in November were read. One correction was noted. That correction was noted and made, "the meeting was in Tampa, not in Orlando." The minutes were approved with this correction.

UPDATE by SVP

Last 3-4 months have been very busy: Working on the MLK Tournament and Spring National, simultaneously; Promoting cruise raffle; Selling tee shirts for the Spring National. The SVP thanked Roberle Pratt and members, Beverly, Brenda, and Ruth for providing hospitality for this tournament. They have done a wonderful job. She also recognized the presence of our National President, George Hudson; National Secretary, Willetta Phipps; former President of ABA, Henry Irwin who now serves as Chair of National Staff Development; former ABA Presidents, Richard Bowling and Jeri Wilson, and Cheryl Jones, President of the ABA-ECF.

ABA President, George Hudson greeted the body and expressed thanks for confidence shown by electing him to this office. This administration has already instituted tournament play on line. This is an opportunity for people who do not travel much, to play bridge and earn master points. For more information about this program, he asked that one should contact Hank Irwin. For information on Mentor/Mentee Program, contact should be made with Eric Shelton of Atlanta. The President further disclosed that in the next few months, other innovations will be presented. He concluded his message by stating that two issues were of great concern to him relative to the Spring National. Those issues are food and lighting. However, he is certain that these issues will be resolved by the time the Spring National convenes. This is a great MLK Tournament here in Tampa. He is enjoying himself and he implored members to make their reservations while they are here. Rooms are going FAST!

TREASURER'S REPORT

Richard Banks distributed financial reports to members. He reported that most activity occurred during the period of December 1-31, 2011. Deposits were mainly

for the cruise raffle and for the chartered bus from Atlanta to Tamps. Jeri Wilson noted that the word, "script" should be replaced with the proper word and spelling of scrip. Willetta Phipps moved that this report be accepted. Motion was seconded and passed

TOURNAMENT CHAIR

Larry Chanay, TC, reported that on December 29, 2011 a meeting was convened with eleven members of MABU present. At this meeting, responses from Sectional members were articulated by the Chair. These recommendations were proposed:

MLK Tournament does not need fixing; keep it in Florida\

Membership has already voted to have two Sectionals, if we revert to one, we will have to work harder to improve a Grade A

Select another date(s) for Sectional rather than Thanksgiving because

Thanksgiving is near the end of the year and is a congested time for a tournament

No date(s) were suggested as an alternative

Memphis was recommended as an alternate site for a sectional

Attention must be given as to how fliers are printed; clarity is a must for newer players about availability of pair games at tournaments

TC, Chanay stated that Chattanooga and Birmingham have scheduled tournaments for 2012. There are not a lot of tables in play at this tournament, and there are no convenient places for food (unless you have transportation) However, the camaraderie is good. TC moved that his report be accepted. Motion was seconded and carried.

SVP responded by stating that possible dates for a sectional is the 3rd weekend in September in Atlanta. It was noted that this time will frame will impact Birmingham's Tournament. Stanley Henderson of Daytona Beach has been asked to pursue that area as a possibility. Also, Jo Anne McDowell has been approached to investigate Fort Lauderdale. Other sites that were mentioned are Orlando and Sarasota. Bernadine Rice wanted to know if the section has a ceiling for room rates. When considering sites, room rates should be a great consideration.

SVP concluded the discussion by stating that SS will work to avoid conflicts with sister Sectionals. TC Chanay concluded his report by commending the Directors for doing a great job at this Tournament. He further promised that caddies would be used for the Spring National.

CO-CHAIR SPRING NATIONAL 2012

Vernice Whitfield described activities planned for the Spring National. Ads are slowly coming in. They must be sent quickly. If help is needed, she is available.

Pre-registration is \$15.00 (receive journal and name tag). Lots of tee shirts are for sale would like to see 100% wearing shirts at Spring National

MERIT AND LIFE MEMBERSHIP CHAIR

Leatrice Bell recognized the presence of 2011 Merit Award recipient, Helen Toney There were four nominees for Merit Sward for 2012. The Committee voted to submit the name of Raymond Harris of Memphis, TN as the recipient of this award. There were no nominees for Life Membership. Committee members: Velma Graham and Jo Anne McDowell. Leatrice Bell moved that her report be accepted. The motion was seconded and approved.

CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS COMMITTEE

Chairperson Bernadine Rice made the following comments:

This document was last revised in 1999

The document should be written in manner that is clear to the reader

The document should address the process for the election of officers

Section 6.5 of By-Laws no adhered for this election

In the process of reviewing and revising election procedure

SVP stated that this is her last year in this position as she is ineligible to serve another term. She will serve until the end of the year.

ELECTION

Vernice Whitfield, Chair of Election distributed procedure for election. There will not be any mail balloting. Willetta stated that accommodations must be made for absentee balloting.

The house was opened for the election of officers of the Southern Section of the ABA for 2013-15. Those officers are Section Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer. Pinkie Freeman of Orlando nominated Johnnie Saunders of Tampa, Florida. Birnell Hatcher of Atlanta, nominated Dr. Anderson Williams of Atlanta. Dr. Williams declined the nomination. There were no nominations for Secretary nor Treasurer. It was duly noted that the Secretary cast one vote for SVP, Secretary and Treasurer, This was done. The motion was seconded by Richard Banks and carried.

COMMENTS FOR THE GOOD OF ALL

Rosetta Boyd recommended that each club should appoint a communication person for Partnerships and roommates. This information should be kept updated. She also recommended that each club Secretary be responsible for getting ABA

communication to each member in his/her club. The SVP commended Rosetta for the great work she is doing as webmaster for the SS.

The SVP recognized Cheryl Jones, Chair of the ABA-ECF. Ms Jones greeted members by stating that she appreciates the support she has received and looks forward to serving this organization. She reminded members that contributions are welcomed and tax deductible. Evelyn Adkins, SVP of Southwestern Section greeted members and encouraged attendance at their Sectional "Juneteenth" Barbara Hutson, SVP Great Lakes Section greeted members and encouraged attendance at their Sectional March 15-18,2012. Carrolena Key, SVP Of Mid-Atlantic Section greeted members and encouraged attendance at their Sectional.

Meeting adjourned.

Edith V. Knowlton, Secretary