SOUTHERN SECTION MEETING

September 24, 2016

BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA RAMADA INN

A.) MEETING CALLED TO ORDER AT 10:12 A M BY SVP BIRNELL HATCHER

- B.) Changes and additions to meeting agenda:
 - Apologized for the condition of the hotel
 - Requested positive attitude
 - had planned to discuss Constitution and By-laws but in the absence of Ms.
 Middlebrooks will leave these topics for the new administration and add:
 *Scholarship report, staff development report, recognition, and announcements
- C.) Agenda was moved and seconded with the noted additions.
- D.) Prayer by SVP Birnell Hatcher
- E.) Minutes read by Sec. Lillian M. Holeman
 - Correction of the spelling of Evelyn Adkins
 - Andy Williams wanted to know if we were using the old or new constitution. He was told that we are still using the old.
 - Ruby Turner wanted to know why added name to ballot could not just be removed.
 SVP explained that we were discussing corrections to the minutes at this time.
 Minutes reflect what occurred in the meeting
 - Shirley Williams stated there was a vote of 31 to 2 to use the ABA Constitution and that we will have By-Laws and abolish our constitution.
 - Jackie McLoyd said that she didn't hear at the meeting that other names could be added to the ballot. Sec. Lillian Holeman, SVP Birnell Hatcher and others concurred that they heard it. SVP Birnell Hatcher stated that some heard it and others didn't.
 - Willie Boyd Saddler suggested that Robert's Rules of order be checked about meeting procedures concerning nominating and election committees.
- F.) Rubye Geer moved that the minutes be accepted with the necessary corrections.

- G.) TREASURER'S REPORT BY TREASURER DWIGHT BUSH: Passed out written report with explanation.
 - Question about SVP expenses for Spring National. Wanted to know if there was a
 certain amount allotted .SVP Birnell Hatcher explained that there was no allotted
 amount but the organization doesn't usually pay for her travel. This time it was a
 holiday and spring break. She could not afford to fly standby as she usually does
 because she may never have gotten there.
 - <u>Purchase returned</u> came from bank error, credit card return from hotel and return of office supplies.
 - \$2880.00 was for Tunica bus trip to increase participation in the tournament.
 Sponsored by the Southern Section. Birmingham was invited to participate but declined. Nothing was lost or gained.
 - We had a beginning balance of \$8,994.03; income of \$25,791.20 and expenses of \$16,689.56. The ending balance \$18,045.67.
 - Edith Knowlton questioned why the Section Dues did not equal to the Southern Section membership. It was explained that we report what we receive. Life Members and 2nd year new members do not pay. Also some clubs send their dues to the National Office and we do not report on these until we receive them.
 - Total report is available for viewing.
- H.) M.L.K. Tournament Report by Dwight Bush: Passed out report with explanation.
 - Total income: \$10,468.00; Total expenses: \$10.337.23 and net profit \$130.77.
- I.) Tournament Chair Report by Eric Shelton (acting tournament chair).
 - Tournament chair is needed. Contact SVP or Eric Shelton if interested.
 - Overview of duties and responsibilities were given
 - Gave daily table count for this tournament up to this point
 - Joint venture between Sectional and club. The club was given a budget for hospitality.
 This is a first. Working well. This club gave up their grade "A" game to allow the
 Sectional game to be held at this time. The club would host, did the work and will
 share in the profits.
 - This joint venture could be continued with other clubs which would improve the attendance and profits. The profits would financially help the club, enabling them to buy Bridge Mates and etc...
 - We have out grown this hotel. We will be paying more to get more. We will not be returning to this hotel.

- Gloria Christler wanted to know if this joint venture of profit sharing between the clubs and the Section is Constitutional. It will be given to the Constitutional Committee to check the constitutionality.
- Wanted the members to be aware of this pilot program because they will probably be voting on it soon. A motion was made by Shirley Williams that there be a profit sharing for this club and the Section for this tournament. Voted on by members and passed.
- Bennie Patton wanted a copy of the constitution to be brought to all meeting to answer questions concerning the constitutionality of actions. SVP Birnell Hatcher stated that she had one with her and would continue bringing it to future meetings.
 She also stated that it was on the Southern Section website for all to print off a copy.
- Bennie Patton wanted more popular sites to be considered for the Sectional tournaments. He feels that this one was well attended because of the election. Will be noted for the next administration to act on.

J.) SVP Birnell Hatcher Update:

- Attended seven (7) tournaments
- Richard Banks won Merit award from the Southern Section.
- Nationwide game held on September 10th
- Plan to attend:
 - I.) Columbus Grade "A" tournament Nov 4 -6
 - II.) MABU Grade "A" in Atlanta
 - III.) Plan to play in the Nationwide Games in December.
- Copy on file for your viewing.

K,) REMINDERS BY SVP BIRNELL HATCHER.

- Submit immediately your Grade "A" dates for 2017. May 4 -6 already taken.
- Dues increase to \$50 for National; same \$7.00 for Sectional. Total of \$57.00.
- Be sure to send the \$50.00 to the ABA National office and the \$7.00 to the Sectional Secretary.
- We need nominations for Life Members (haven't had one for the last 4 years) and
 Merit nominations. Submit to Leatrice Bell by December 1, 2016.
- Support all Grade "A" games to help make them successful
- Asking Constitutional and By-laws committee to consider one (1) Sectional per year.
 We are the only sectional that has two. Harder to select dates because of full calendar.

- ABA membership declining. Please use all your resources to help recruit new members and reach out to reclaim inactive members
- See Evelyn Lewis if you are interested in becoming a certified bridge teacher
- Gave goals for mentor/mentee program. Get a handbook: "Just Talk" for \$2.00 per copy. See Evelyn Lewis, Eric Shelton or Worth Christler to purchase one.
- PLEASE ORDER NAME TAGS FROM NATIONAL OFFICE BY CLUBS IF POSSIBLE
- THANKS TO ALL CHAIRPERSONS, COMMITTEE MEMBERS, SUPPORTERS AND WELL WISHERS FOR THE PAST FOUR (4) YEARS OF MY ADMINISTRATION.
- OUR WEBMASTER, ROSETTA BOYD HAS DONE A WONDERFUL JOB OF KEEPING OUR
 WEB PAGE UP TO DATE. If you need a partner, go to aba-ss.com web page partnership
 tab. This will give you a chance to talk to the partner before the tournament.
- The new administration will need a new webmaster Rosetta Boyd is giving it up.
- Submit copies of funeral programs to our History and Archives chairperson: Delores Turner. This will prevent members from being overlooked during the Memorial Program.
- Betty Jennings of Nashville concerned about lack of support for their tournaments.
 Because of small membership, they have their tournament jointly with ACBL and split the profits. They always get Andrew Echols to direct and they were embarrassed because only four (4) ABA out of town members came. They wanted to know if it was mandatory to have the game or could they just pay the \$25.00.
- Andy Williams said that all clubs must have a Scholarship and ABA Benefit game or pay the \$25.00.
- SVP Birnell Hatcher said that she would get with her and clarify.
- Edith Knowlton wanted to know if there is an active Ethics committee. Yes. No report because Dr. Charles Walker. Chair, is ill. Winton King is acting chair while Dr. Walker is ill.

L.) SCHOLARSHIP REPORT BY OLIVIA B GREEN

- a. Scholarship selections for 2016 2017
- 1. JerNiyah Beckley 2nd renewal
- 2. Robyn Golden 1st renewal
- 3. Lauren Frederick = 1st renewal
- Each section is a allowed (3) \$1000 scholarships per year
- Unlike other sections, we have had plenty of applicants for scholarships. In years
 passed we could use another section's unused money. This year, all sections
 used their money and we could only accommodate the 3 allotted to us.
- Point of personal privilege to congratulate Cheryl Ransom for all of her hard work in making this tournament a success.

M.) SOUTHERN STAFF DEVELOPMENT REPORT BY SHIRLEY WILLIAMS

- Two workshops held since the January 2016 meeting
 - a.) Bridge mate upgrades
 - b.) Team game training
- Continued to conduct tele-conference training and emailed instruction to SS directors
- Two new level directors and one upgrade
- 3 directors in training
- Will start putting City game points on line
- Encourage clubs to purchase Bridge Mates.
- Manual for team games will be published soon by Worth Christler and Shirley Williams
- Worth Christler stated that clubs could get a small grant from the National Foundation up to \$500 to help with Bridge Mates purchase.

N.) ELECTION COMMITTEE CHAIR- JOHNNIE SAUNDERS GAVE THE PROCEDURES FOR THE ELECTION WITH DATES: Ballots mailed by October 24 with a stamped envelope for return. Must be returned by December 15, 2016. Voting on site at the M.L.K. tournament. Johnnie Saunders said that she had been given the procedures to use. Gloria Christler wanted to know who formulated them. It was a committee. Andy Williams wanted to go on record that he thought that the procedures should be brought before the body for approval before use.

- Gloria Christler wanted the return date of the ballots to be 1/8/17.
- Willetta Phipps made the motion that return date be changed. Motion moved and 2nd that the date for ballot return be moved from December 15, 2016 to January 8, 2017. The election report was accepted with the date change. The tournament will be held January 12 – 17th. Installation of new officer will take place immediately after the election.
- Francis Scales from Tennessee wanted the meeting to moved forward so that we would not be meeting until it was time to play.
 Members agreed.

O.) NOMINATION OF OFFICERS:

- SECTIONAL VICE PRESIDENT:
 - a.) Lydia Alexander (nominated by Cheryl Ransom]
 - b.) Evelyn Adkins (nominated by Jackie McLoyd)
- SECTIONAL SECRETARY:
 - a.) Gwendolyn White (nominated by Gail Williams)
 - b.) Lillian M. Holeman (nominated by Emma Fountain)*****
- SECTIONAL TREASURER:
 - a.) Dwight Bush (nominated by Olivia Green)****
 - b.) Richard Banks (nominated by Edith Knowlton)

**** indicate incumbent

P.) RECOGNITIONS:

- BARBARA ADAMS, SVP FOR GREAT LAKES SECTION
- DOROTHY NANCE, SVP FOR SOUTHWEST SECTION
- ERIC SHELTON, NATIONAL VICE PRESIDENT
- WILLETTA PHIPPS, NATIONAL SECRETARY
- BILL TURNER, NATIONAL WEBMASTER
- SHIRLEY WILLIAMS, Nationwide Coordinator

Q.) ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- SPRING NATIONAL IN RENO NEVADA: 4/1/17 4/7/17
- COLUMBUS GRADE A November 3 5, 2016
- MABU GRADE A PRE-THANKSGIVING TOURNAMENT:11/18 -20, 2016
- FUNMAKERS GRADE B October 15, 2016

R.) Miscellaneous:

- Moment of silence requested by Winton King.
- 63 MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE
- Thanks to Andrew Echols, director, and his assistant Gloria Simmons for a well administered tournament.
- Thanks to all club presidents for their work and cooperation
- Nancy Montgomery thanked SVP Birnell Hatcher for her service.

ADJOURNMENT