

**CHICAGO CONTRACT BRIDGE ASSOCIATION**  
**MINUTES**  
**OCTOBER 17, 2024**

The meeting was called to order at 6:45 pm by President Loring Knoblauch. Present and constituting a quorum were:

<b>Bill Anspach</b>	<b>Adrienne Cohen*</b>	<b>Guy Franklin*</b>	<b>Missy Ravid*</b>
<b>Phyllis Bartlett</b>	<b>Betsy Downs</b>	<b>Bob Maxson*</b>	<b>Jamie Rubenstein</b>
<b>Jan Churchwell</b>	<b>Kathy Fortney*</b>	<b>Steve McConnell</b>	<b>Suzi Subeck*</b>

\* Participated via Zoom.

Absent: **Steve Donahue, Mark Stein.**

Also present: David Joyce.

President's Report: President Knoblauch announced the following:

1. Joe Connelly resigned from the Board;
2. President Knoblauch had written a letter thanking Joe for his many contributions;
3. Adrienne Cohen has been appointed to fill out the remainder of Joe Connelly's term (one year).

Betsy Downs moved to accept the appointment of Adrienne Cohen. Motion passed unanimously.

Phyllis Bartlett agreed to chair the Awards Committee again.

**TREASURER'S REPORT (Missy Ravid)**

Treasurer Ravid sent reports in advance of the meeting. She is in the process of filing the annual 990 form (establishes NFP status). President Knoblauch will send her the invoice from the Glen View Club for the August meeting. After discussion the Board decided not to add Zelle to the payment options.

**MINUTES (Jan Churchwell)**

Steve McConnell moved to approve the Minutes of the meeting of August 29. Motion passed unanimously.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Executive Committee:** The committee met on Zoom on September 20. Loring Knoblauch, Bob Maxson, Missy Ravid, Jan Churchwell and Suzi Subeck were present. The committee made the following recommendations:

1. Simplify the Annual Dinner. Order in pizza and soft drinks. Missy Ravid, Suzi Subeck, and Jan Churchwell will coordinate plans and establish a cost per person. Board members will pay for their dinners;
2. Establish tournament budgets ahead of time;
3. If a tournament has co-chairs, there will be one per diem which the chairs may split as they wish;
4. Treasurer Ravid will present a draft Budget for 2025 at the February Board meeting which will include a budget for WinterFest 2026. This will be added to the list of Treasurer's duties in the Operation Manual. The WinterFest 2025 budget should be set as much as possible now;
5. Inventory CCBA equipment at Eagle Storage; create a plan to replace worn supplies;
6. Create a position to oversee all tournament details. VP Maxson suggested that Betsy Downs be asked to do this. Jan Churchwell said Suzi Subeck had been handling all these details as Tournament Support Coordinator for a long time already. The committee suggests that Suzi and Betsy discuss and report;

7. President Knoblauch will inform Betsy Downs of the suggested changes to the Annual Dinner plan.

Discussion: There will be no bar. The Board agreed that all food should be prepared by a licensed facility. The cost per person will be at least \$10, and Judy Riehs' willingness to manage reservations under the new arrangement will be confirmed. The Board approved all recommendations.

Eagle Storage was asked to bring all CCBA supplies to the Labor Day Tournament. Only 55 tables were brought. Suzi Subeck will ask Eagle to count the number of tables; there should be over 100.

**Tournament Oversight (Suzi Subeck):** Suzi Subeck thanked Guy Franklin for his excellent report on the Labor Day Tournament and CCBA equipment. The report was sent to the Board in advance of the meeting. The committee will meet to discuss the points in Guy's report.

**Website/Communications (Kathy Fortney/Jamie Rubenstein):** Betsy Downs reported that the digital survey sent to players after the Labor Day Tournament was well-received. A survey will be sent after all CCBA tournaments; this will be added to the Operation Manual.

There are still problems with effective distribution of flyers.

The updated Bylaws are on the website.

**Governance (Bill Anspach):** Review of list of current Appendices. Most will be deleted. Lists of past Presidents and Award Winners should be kept for institutional knowledge. The list of items that Presidents need for the Annual Meeting will be moved to the body of the Manual ("Duties of the President by month").

Henceforth the Website/Communications Committee will be the "Communications Committee."

**Nominating (Steve McConnell):** The five Board members whose terms expire are Betsy Downs, Guy Franklin, Bob Maxson, Missy Ravid, and Mark Stein. Guy Franklin does not wish to be reslated. Steve McConnell moved to invite Amin Hakim to join the Board. Motion passed unanimously.

Amin Hakim will be invited to attend the December Board meeting.

**I/N/Education (Guy Franklin):** Phyllis Bartlett offered to donate boards to a group of players at Queen of Angels School.

**Clubs (Phyllis Bartlett):** Some Temple Jeremiah games have been growing, but the Snow Birds will be leaving soon. Dan Zagorin's Monday lessons are very well-received. The downtown Chicago Club remains operational thanks to assistance from donors. Some unsanctioned duplicate-style games are being run — e.g. at senior centers.

Jan Churchwell moved that the CCBA offer a free play to any Bridge student who wants to go to a club game. Motion passed unanimously.

## **TOURNAMENTS**

**Stan Subeck Regional (Suzi Subeck):** A report was sent in advance of the meeting. Email Suzi Subeck if you wish to volunteer or have questions. All arrangements are on track.

**WinterFest 2025 (Betsy Downs):** Betsy Downs moved to hold a raffle at the Annual Dinner. Attendees will receive a numbered ticket, and 10% of attendees will win. The prize will be a Free Play at the 2025 Windy City Regional. President Knoblauch will conduct the drawing. Motion passed unanimously.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

Guy Franklin referenced points from his report. The Weber Center did not have enough chairs for all players; Hall's Rental supplied the rest. Also, some chairs were not comfortable.

There are “indirect costs” for tournaments which should be acknowledged in any fee and budget discussion. The Board should tip site employees who help with set-up or take-down.

Tournament Entry Fees: Betsy Downs suggested that fees be reviewed annually. Following discussion, President Knoblauch moved to increase Sectional Fees to \$14 (\$7 for students with valid ID) and Regional fees to \$16 (\$8 for students). Motion passed; there was one “No” vote.

Game Stratifications: Betsy Downs had sent out a report in advance of the meeting. Following discussion, Jamie Rubenstein moved to set the strats for all tournaments as follows:

A: 5000+ MP's  
B: 2000-5000  
C: Under 2000

Gold Rush strats will be 250/500/750.

Motion passed unanimously.

**Next Board Meeting: December 19, 2024, 6:30 pm, GVC.**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:43 pm.

Jan Churchwell  
Secretary

### **ACTION ITEM**

**Nominating Chair Steve McConnell will direct the slating of officers for 2025 at the December meeting.**

### **RECAP OF MOTIONS**

**Betsy Downs moved to accept the appointment of Adrienne Cohen to the Board to replace Joe Connelly. Motion passed unanimously.**

**The Minutes of the Board meeting of August 29, 2024 were approved. Steve McConnell moved. Motion passed unanimously.**

**Nominating Chair Steve McConnell moved to invite Amin Hakim to join the Board in 2025. Motion passed unanimously.**

**Jan Churchwell moved that the CCBA offer a Free Play to any Bridge student wishing to attend a club game. Motion passed unanimously.**

**Betsy Downs moved to hold a raffle at the Annual Dinner. Winners will receive a Free Play to the Windy City Regional. Motion passed unanimously.**

**President Loring Knoblauch moved to increase tournament entry fees from to \$14 for Sectionals (\$7 for students with valid ID) and \$16 for Regionals (\$8 for students). Motion passed (one “No” vote).**

**Jamie Rubenstein moved to set stratifications for all CCBA tournaments as shown above. Motion passed unanimously.**