

**MINUTES**  
March 25, 2006

The Board of Directors of the TN Bridge Association, Unit 144, met at the M. A. Lightman Bridge Club on Saturday, March 25, 11:30a. Present were Marvin Skaggs, Ilene Markell, Debby Schadt, Mary Oshlag, Lil Zisook, Carol Brehm and Sherry Thaxton.

Marvin called the meeting to order, and copies of January 21, 2006, Minutes were distributed to each member. Minutes were approved as submitted, and Ilene will post to the website.

As had been voted on at the Dec. 11 meeting, the Board will conduct separate meetings for Unit 144 and MAL business. We proceeded with Unit 144 items of business.

**Unit 144**

In Ernie's absence, Marvin read the **Treasurer's report** as follows: checking \$23,133.21; savings 15,497.23; total of \$38,630.44.

There was some discussion of how Awards would be presented that evening. Also, it was noted that our attendance for Awards Night would be affected because of U of M Tigers in the playoff.

The Board voted to move the 2007 Nate Silverstein Tournament to the Whispering Woods Convention Center-Hotel at Olive Branch. Several Board members have toured the facility, obtained an initial contract, and agreed that it will accommodate our needs. VT Gala is due to visit WW, revise the contract and sign it in the near future.

Next Board meeting is April 22 at 11:30a.

**M. A. Lightman Club business** as follows:

Treasurer's report indicated the following current balances: checking \$19,573.94; savings 21,196.07; total 40,770.01 (grand total Unit 144 and MAL \$79,400.45).

First Friday Night Dinner coordinators for next three months: April is Carol Brehm, May is Rachel Bass, and June is Lil Zisook .

Regarding the general survey which Marvin will send out to the Metro-Memphis area members, we agreed that he should include postage on the return envelopes, in an effort to have more people respond.

Marvin mentioned that the work on the parking lot fence is ongoing, and the suggestion box is also in the works.

Sherry brought up again at this month's meeting the need for some new tournament card tables. She has acquired a delivered price on 34" Cosco tables. After discussion, it was determined that both Lil and Debby will check other sources for both tables and chairs for the club. We are much in need of several new chairs.

It has been suggested that game results should be posted sooner. This is individual game Director responsibility. We do need to improve this.

There was discussion of the Wed. games and seems to be a consensus that the Swiss Team games are popular, and we will try the other Wed. evening games a while longer.

Marvin had received a letter from a club member, which he summarized. The Board discussed and made the following decisions: Marvin will take a look at the smoking room fan. If repair is needed, he will have it repaired. Ilene will make a sign to put on each smoking room door to remind smokers to turn on the fan, since smoke is an issue with many non-smokers. We voted to continue to maintain a smoking room for the present time.

All Board members had received a copy of Ellen Burns' letter in February. There was discussion of this and reactions during the next several days following the letter. Again, it was pointed out that people are welcome to attend Board meetings if they have any issue to bring before the Board.

Psych policy: a lengthy discussion ensued regarding the policy being instituted at MAL games. Stickers are available at the desk, and the person who psychs must report at that particular game that he has psyched. Again, this is in an effort to encourage new and novice players.

As always, there was discussion of how to make new players feel welcome at Lightman. Several different suggestions surfaced. Bottom line, we should ALL

encourage newcomers; however, some members are more gifted than others with friendliness, hospitality, etc. Be aware of newcomers, and make an effort to welcome them.

Ilene agreed that she will re-do the website.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:45p. Next meeting is April 22 at 11:30a.

Respectfully submitted,

Sherry K. Thaxton, Secretary