

August 28, 2020

To the Bridge Center of Buffalo Membership from the Board of Directors:

The Bridge Center Board of Directors (BCD) has received a petition from the Bridge Center membership (BCM) to convene a special membership meeting for the purpose of informing BCM of the current status and future of the BCB. Currently BCM totals approximately 190 persons, all of which must be invited to this meeting. BCD cannot limit the number of persons in attendance to under 50, and we would not be able to suitably enforce social distancing measures (both of which are required to be in compliance with the governor's executive order regarding gatherings). We therefore will not be holding a special meeting of BCM. BCD is offering instead, the following "State of the BCB".

LEASE

The current lease at 3362 Sheridan Drive expires August 31, 2020. At the August 3, 2020 Board meeting, BCD decided not to renew the lease that was proposed to us at that time. Since that meeting, BCD has been diligent in working with Gary Blum, the landlord, to secure a lease agreement that will not only keep our club at its current location but would allow us to reopen in a safe environment and would include lease terms that are financially advantageous for BCB. We have finalized our negotiations and are happy to report that we have reached an agreement with Gary Blum to keep BCB at its current location. Mr. Blum has agreed to the following: **BCB is under no obligation to sign a lease until such time as we decide to open.** In the meantime, he is free to obtain a new tenant for the space. BCB can continue to store our property at the current location. **IF and WHEN** BCB decides to open **AND** the space is still available, BCB has agreed to sign a **month to month lease with a 90-day termination clause for either BCB or Mr. Blum.** This clause was important to ensure that we do not have a long-term lease obligation if the Club is financially unable to stay open. The rent will remain at the current rate of \$2815 per month.

RE-OPENING

BCD intends to re-open the Bridge Center of Buffalo (the Club) when it is safe to do so AND appears to be financially sustainable. To that end, BCD is forming a Planning Committee for the Club Re-opening, chaired by Tova Reinhorn with

volunteers from the BCM. Please contact Tova at tova.reinhorn@gmail.com if you are interested in serving on this Committee.

ONLINE BRIDGE

In the meantime, while waiting for the BCB to re-open, BCD is asking the entire BCM to support BCB by playing online in BCB games. There are limited games offered on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. The Delaware Club continues to have their game on Wednesday evening and BCB receives 40% of the net proceeds from this game. Dian had been directing BCB open games on Wednesday, Friday and Sunday. These games have been cancelled because of lack of participation. The ACBL sponsors games 3 times daily called "ACBL SYC black point" games. SYC stands for "support your club" and BCB receives a portion of the proceeds from the entry fee paid by any member of the BCB that plays in these games. Through June, BCB has received \$5,571 in income from all of these games. Also, Ruth Nawotniak just completed teaching Bridge Basics online which netted BCB \$133 profit.

Kathy Pollock, Ruth and Art Morth have all been instrumental in helping BCM to navigate through the process of registration and playing in the limited online games. BCD is now asking all BCM, especially A and B players to support the Club by playing in our online open games. These games are more profitable to the Club than the ACBL SYC games. The Board of Directors is very disheartened by the lack of A and B players playing in our open games online resulting in having to cancel these games. During this difficult time, playing bridge online in the BCB games is the only way for you, our members, to support the Club.

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING AND ELECTIONS

The annual Membership meeting has been postponed until further notice. All Board members with expiring terms will continue as members of the Board until such time as the annual meeting can be held and voting for new Board members can take place. The current Board members with expiring terms are Sharon Benz, Jim Easton and Tova Reinhorn. Nominations will be accepted in writing by mail or email beginning October 1 through October 31, 2020. The new mailing address for the Club is 34 Pendennis Place, Buffalo, New York 14225.

If you have any questions, please contact any of the BCB Board members. All questions will be discussed by the entire Board and will be answered as quickly as possible.

Sincerely,
The Bridge Center of Buffalo Board of Directors

Sharon Benz
Jim Easton
Terry Fraas
Pat Haynes
Tova Reinhorn
Chris Urbanek
Marilyn Wortzman