

North American Youth Bridge

Summary of Meeting on Bridge Teachers for Youth held in Gatlinburg, Tenn. on April 11th, 2011. Seminar co-chairs: Patty Tucker (wimsey@mindspring.com) and Chris Shaw (ccshawjr@yahoo.com).

Summary of Present Involvement

18 states now have youth bridge programs with a total of 73 school programs. 9 states were represented at this meeting.

The meeting was organized around 3 areas: educational, financial and retention.

Educational

1. ACBL: They have been tapped for the last 10 years to develop more for youth bridge. They do supply books, manuals, T-shirts, trophies, cards but do not promote or market to the under 19 age group. (Sharon Anderson is the marketing contact there)

*It was suggested that everyone make contact with district reps to the ACBL board to ask for more involvement especially since there will be a new CEO on board in the next 1 ½ years and we would like to encourage the search committee to appoint someone that is willing to promote youth bridge.

Carla Burke volunteered to write directly to ACBL.

2. Western Illinois University STAR-online program

This is a new professional development program being offered to teachers that meets state requirements for continued certification. It is a program aimed at teaching teachers how to teach bridge online and receive credit hours. The start date is July 20th with a "Bridge in Day" seminar. Contact Debbie Danner, de-danner@wiu.edu or 309-298-2444 x 296.

3. NCTM (National Council of Teachers of Math) Standards and Expectations.

"Bridge: A Path to Math" has an NCTM Standard identified for each of its 45 lessons and they are preceded by a State of Georgia code number. When it is finished, a list will be posted on the internet that identifies which lessons support what Standard.

*Each locality needs to get a copy of state requirements and document where there is a fit and use the list to promote bridge at teacher conventions and with local administrators.

4. Since the 1st hurdle to address in getting a program in school is the administrator it was decided an informational packet needed to be written that could be given to them as an introduction to the benefits and logistics of starting a program in their school district. Chuck Langley volunteered to write the Informational Packet.

5. HHJB (Hilton Head Junior Bridge) has worksheets available on line at www.HHJB.org

6. BTFY (btfy.org) is a website to offer guidelines and continuing information to anyone wanting to start a new bridge program. A curriculum is available and it is a depository for ideas.

7. Research continues on documenting test scores in existing programs.

8. An introductory video, "Bridge2Learning" is available for viewing on Utube. It was made by four middle school students who explain how to play bridge.

9. Curriculums need to be reviewed and consolidated for easy access and to reduce confusion.

Financial

1. Fund Raising: This has been more diligently pursued lately as ACBL funds were not forthcoming. Several inquiries have been made but as yet no success. Suggestions were made to investigate companies with a youth audience such as juice or shoe or jeans company.

2. Grant writing is another avenue-need a grant writer.

3. Get units and districts on board.

Retention

1. Encourage interschool competition.

2. Hold Charity Games (explanation needed)

3. Hold bridge tournaments on the internet (with limited access for safety of students) Bridge Base on Line (BBO) has offered to set up games with limited access and at no cost to us. They would like to have a youth bridge online coordinator to administer this.

4. District and Sectional tournaments need to be encouraged to set up youth events so that they can play with their peers on their level.

5. Promote bridge camps across the country.

6. Publicity: We need to get more information out. Bill Meara is a PR person and will contact ad agencies for some pro bono work.

Miscellaneous

Communications need to be reviewed, edited, consolidated and made available to anyone in a concise list with explanations of their involvement in youth bridge.

Need to write a Mission Statement for North American Youth Bridge League.

These are the recommendations of the group. Some are already in the planning phase and some are already available. Others need to be pursued.