

DISTRICT V BOARD MEETING
Sunday September 2, 2007

MINUTES

ATTENDANCE

Officers Present: Mike Ryan, Jim Zimmerman, Dick Early

Executive Board Members Present: Roni Atkins (142), Mary Paulone Carns (142), Arlene Port (142), John Toy

Executive Board Members Absent: Sharon Fairchild

Unit Representatives Present: Jim Sullivan, Carolyn Sullivan (107); Donald Huber (111); Bill Finkelstein, Cleveland Fleming (116); John Bacon, Brian Ellis, Hope Ellis, Gary Sikon, Susan Stark (125); Judie Lamberton (127); Bill Holt, Maryanne McNeirney (142); Bud Kury (185); Barbara Hale (213); Barbara Grzegorzewski (226); Nancy Welsh (229)

Units Not Represented 129, 148, 177

Guests: Susan Huber (111); Dick Rasmus (116); Shirley Irish (127); Jenny Fumarole (213); Steve Grzegorzewski (226); Alex Bealles (229)

WELCOME

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 PM. The President, Mike Ryan, welcomed everyone to the District V board meeting, and all attendees introduced themselves.

MINUTES FROM THE LAST MEETING

There were the following **corrections** and additions to the minutes:

--Terry Fraas represented Unit 229

--Date of GNT is **May 3-4, 2008**

--Bill Finkelstein stated that his motion regarding distribution of minutes was as follows: **Minutes of the Executive Board, Minutes of the Full Board, and Financial Reports shall be distributed by email to the units as soon as they are available.**

The minutes were approved, with the above additions and corrections.

PRESIDENT'S REMARKS/CORRESPONDENCE

Mike Ryan reported that he received a letter from Judie Lamberton, which will be discussed under new business.

STANDING COMMITTEES

Treasurer's Report--Dick Early reported that the Akron Regional earned \$6000, and interest was \$4700. There were the usual expenses. The Treasurer's report wasn't available until last week because the records were being audited.

Report of the District Director--Sharon Fairchild was absent and had previously emailed her report to the unit presidents. Copies of the report were available. Jim Zimmerman noted that STaC Conditions of contest were changed so that if it is a district-wide STaC, all clubs in that district must be offered the opportunity to participate. The change is effective Jan. 1, 2008. Also, Units will be receiving a communication from the ACBL detailing government regulations affecting non-profit organizations, incorporated or not. Reporting income will be required for all non-profits. Gross receipts will be reported. Units are encouraged to consult a professional if in doubt about how to proceed. This is form 990 or form 990-EZ.

Fifth Column--Sharon Robertson was unable to attend. Mike reported that there have been no problems. In answer to a question, Dick Early reported that the total expenses for the 5th Column are \$1000/issue (6 times a year), plus \$900 salary for the editor, and a free entry to those who write articles; thus the total is \$6900 plus entries.

SPECIAL COMMITTEES

REGIONAL TOURNAMENT REPORTS

Cleveland All American Regional – Sharon Fairchild was not present.

Buffalo Regional – John Toy reported that the Regional is next month. He emphasized the great hospitality and prizes.

Rock & Roll Regional – Jim Zimmerman distributed fliers and asked representatives to emphasize the \$10 fee to all. At the recent Cincinnati Regional, table fees were \$16. The executive board feels that keeping prices down is the best way to pay back the members of District 5 for their support.

Pittsburgh Labor Day Regional – Roni Atkins reported on the ongoing regional. Table count is down some. She is planning to eliminate the morning pair games

in the future, due to lack of attendance. A Compact KO may be added on Sunday. If so, the pairs will probably be changed to Stratified from Stratiflighted because of small sizes of events.

NAOP AND GNT

Steve Grzegorzewski reported that the NAOP is Oct. 13-14 at the Meadville Days Inn. Rooms are available. Players were encouraged to make their reservations early as rooms are selling out at other properties in Meadville. The GNT will be May 3-4, 2008. It was suggested that members promote this event to C players, as there are many points available in a relatively small field.

STaC

Dick Rasmus reported that the STaC will run Dec. 3 – Dec. 9. The website will be available around mid September. Notification will be in the Fifth Column. Bill Finkelstein made the following motion (seconded by Cleveland Fleming), and requested that the portions be voted on separately:

1. STaC fees be lowered to \$1 from the current \$1.75
2. That participating clubs have a choice of 2 strat structures:

	#1--current	#2--suggested
A	Unlimited	Unlimited
B	Below 2000	Below 1000
C	Below 500	Below 300

3. That District 4 be invited to participate in the District 5 STaC

In answer to a question, it was clarified that STaC profits go into the general District 5 Treasury, and support of the GNT is no longer tied to the Summer STaC. Also, ACBL fees for the STaC are approximately \$3.00 per table.

Discussion included suggestions that the unit representatives poll their members for their preferences; that having 2 “mini-STaC”s (the effect of having 2 strat structures) actually increases total available masterpoints, since with large fields the increase in MP’s tapers off; that including District 4 would increase the size of the field possibly to the detriment of District 5 Members (resulting from the tapering of MP increases in big fields plus some events would be won by District 4 Members). Roni Atkins moved and Mary Paulone Carns seconded that a vote on these motions be delayed until the May meeting. Reasons are: the motion is complex; some people didn’t understand part 2 of the motion, and the financial impact isn’t clear. In the interval, Unit Representatives should poll their members to get a sense of their desires regarding these motions. The latter motion was passed 19-5-1.

OLD BUSINESS

Education and Marketing – Arlene Port reported that most units haven't taken advantage of the funds available to them. Pittsburgh has instituted a supervised play series, and has had classes which were advertised in other than the usual media, for which the ACBL paid 75% of the advertising expenses. There is a form available on the District webpage on which Units can document their expenses and apply for reimbursement for education/marketing.

Bill Finkelstein reported that his unit had an annual meeting associated with an extra charge for amenities, the latter of which was waived if people joined that day. Also, ABA members who join the ACBL pay only \$10 for the first year.

In answer to a question of whether funds are available for purchasing a sign for a bridge club: these funds are earmarked for education.

Distribution of Agendas and Minutes – Mary Paulone Carns, as acting secretary, reported that at the previous meeting, the board voted that minutes would be distributed by email to each individual unit representative who would be attending the upcoming meeting. Mary pointed out that she has no way to know who the representatives will be until there is an RSVP, and even then she doesn't have email addresses for each representative. She stated that for this meeting, she emailed the minutes to the unit presidents and asked them to distribute them to the representatives. She plans to continue this practice.

Naming Rights – Roni Atkins distributed a proposed schedule for naming rights for District 5 Regionals. The board accepted this schedule:

Naming of Entire Tournament	\$10,000
Name the Entire Day	1,000
4 Session KO Event	500
2 Session Regional Event	300
Side Game Series	200
Single Session Novice Event	100

Audit Committee – Brian Ellis reported that he audited the financial records; that all of the money is accounted for and there are no conflicts in the data. Bill Finkelstein read a portion of the bylaws and pointed out that he thinks that the current practice of remitting funds from the STaC to the STaC Coordinator, rather than to the District, is poor practice and in violation of the bylaws. Mike Ryan asked the Audit Committee to look into this. Bill also asked to see the form 990s, the Annual Financial Reports, and to see a list of the perks available to members of the executive board.

NEW BUSINESS

Election of Officers –

Position	Nominee	Nominator	Second
President	Jim Zimmerman	Barbara Hale	M. McNeirney
Vice President	Roni Atkins	Dick Early	Susan Stark
Treasurer	Brian Ellis	Gary Sikon	Bill Holt

There being no other nominations, the nomination process was closed. Each nominee was elected. Incoming President Jim Zimmerman appointed Mary Paulone Carns as Secretary. He presented gift certificates to Mike Ryan in thanks for his service as President, and to Dick Early in thanks for his 26 years of serviced as Treasurer.

Possible Regional in Erie – Judie Lamberton spoke concerning the new Bayfront Convention Center in Erie and requested the board to consider holding a Summer Regional there. Jim Zimmerman will appoint a committee to travel to Erie to investigate this possibility. Because Regionals are scheduled years in advance, if this happens it won't be for at least a few years.

Buffalo Regional – Bill Finkelstein requested that the Buffalo Unit have input into the operation of the Buffalo Regional. Jim Zimmerman said he will take this request under advisement.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no additional business, at 6:35 PM, the meeting was adjourned.