

DISTRICT V EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE BOARD MEETING
Saturday, January 19, 2008

MINUTES

ATTENDANCE

Officers Present: Roni Atkins, Mary Paulone Carns, Brian Ellis
Officer Absent: Jim Zimmerman

Representatives
Present: Jan Assini, Sharon Fairchild, Arlene Port, Mike Ryan, John Toy

Guests: Dick Rasmus, District Coordinator;
Sharon Robertson, Fifth Column Editor

WELCOME

At 10:40 a.m., Roni Atkins called the meeting to order. Roni is running the meeting for Jim Zimmerman who is out of town on business.

MINUTES FROM THE LAST MEETING

The minutes had previously been emailed to the members. The minutes were approved.

STANDING COMMITTEES

Treasurer's Report – Brian Ellis reported that the last few months were spent in the transition of the books from former treasurer Dick Early. District 5 regional tournaments are making money; the NAP loses approximately \$1000; All tax returns have been filed.

Report of the District Director – Sharon Fairchild distributed a written report. Roni thanked Sharon for her work during her year as ACBL President. Sharon reported that in 2007 there were more tables in play than ever before: over 3 million tables, including games on the internet. The building in Memphis was sold. Possible sites for a new home for the ACBL are being investigated. English is now the official language of bridge. It is illegal to speak in any other language after the cards are pulled from the board, with a few exceptions. The CEO received another 3-year contract. Sharon thanked all those who helped her during her Presidency

Fifth Column – Sharon Robertson reported that Jim Zimmerman wrote a column explaining various activities in District 5.

SPECIAL COMMITTEES

Cleveland Rock and Roll Regional – (In progress). Roni reported that to date the attendance is up approximately 5 tables per section and the tournament is going well. Sharon Fairchild is the chair for 2009.

All American Regional – Sharon Fairchild reported that flyers are available. There are no major changes. Barb Bacon is co-chair.

Buffalo Regional – John Toy reported that the next tournament starts June 24 in Grand Island. Because there are 2 Buffalo tournaments within 1 fiscal year, for the year 2008 the perqs for Executive Board Members will be for the calendar year rather than the fiscal year. Perqs were clarified to be as follows: Officers (President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, District Director) receive 12 nights lodging and 24 sessions of entries per year; non-officers receive 9 nights and 18 sessions.

Pittsburgh Labor Day Regional – Roni reported that there is a 3-year contract beginning this year. A portion of the hotel and of the ExpoMart will be torn down so there will be fewer rooms available. Players are encouraged to make reservations early. There have been various complaints concerning bid boxes, cards, and the snack bar closing early. The schedule will be adjusted to add a bracketed KO on Sunday; thus the pair game will be changed from Stratiflighted to Stratified since the field will be smaller.

NAOP and GNT – Sharon Fairchild reported that the GNT finals are May 3 – 4 and the GNP is October 11-12.

STaC – Mary Paulone Carns reported that the Winter STaC had a profit of \$1783, with 865 tables. The board decided to decrease the table fees by \$1 per table to \$6, for the Summer Sectional. There was a request by a club director to lower or eliminate the minimum table requirement (currently 5 tables) for participating in the main contest. The board voted to continue the current requirement. The board agreed that Mary could make minor adjustments to the Conditions of Contest if necessary to suit our particular circumstances. Mary will receive a stipend of \$250 per STaC, plus \$250 for expenses.

Website – Mary Paulone Carns reported that Bill Holt is doing a good job creatively and technically, and has been very responsive to requests. The board voted to grant perqs to the webmaster consisting of free entries for 24 sessions per year.

Bylaws – John Toy chairs the committee with members Sharon Fairchild and Lou Joseph. Any proposed changes to the bylaws require 90 days notification before a vote.

OLD BUSINESS

Education and Marketing Committee – Arlene distributed a proposal which she felt was a good example of a type of program that units could create. She also reported that at the upcoming Pittsburgh Sectional there will be a 2-session Swiss Team for newcomers in which pairs or individuals could have teams put together for them.

Possible Regional in Erie – Roni reported that she, Mary, and John Toy went to Erie to investigate the Convention Center. The facility is nice but the hotel rates are too high. There is another facility but the room rate there is high also. Judie Lamberton will work with these facilities but no Regional will be planned unless the room rates are under \$100.

NEW BUSINESS

Bid Boxes for Pittsburgh – Roni reported that some bid boxes are in poor condition and the players dislike the old-style format. These are the original boxes bought by District 5; since then both Cleveland and Buffalo have new boxes. The board voted to allow Pittsburgh to buy new boxes. Mary will research and buy 110 new sets and will sell the old boxes to players from District 5 for the bargain price of \$5 per set

District Tournament Coordinator – Dick Rasmus discussed the schedule for 2011 and 2012. Dick Early will continue to run the Olympiad (next scheduled in 2009). Sharon Fairchild will arrange the playing space.

District 5 Phone Line – Mary Paulone Carns reported that she obtained a second phone line to use for STaC business. She offered the use of this line for any District-sponsored event. Mary maintains the voicemail on the line.

Caddies – Roni requested and received permission to purchase T-shirts for caddies which can be used at all District 5 Regionals. Caddy pay was also discussed. Brian will look into state labor laws with respect to minimum wage and child labor.

Ann McGilvrey Award – Roni will be taking nominations. An announcement will run in the 5th Column. The meeting to choose a winner will be held at the All American Regional.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 12:15 PM.