

DISTRICT V EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE BOARD MEETING
Saturday, August 30, 2008

MINUTES

ATTENDANCE

Officers Present: Jim Zimmerman, Mary Paulone Carns, Brian Ellis

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

Representative Absent: Jan Assini

Guest Absent: Sharon Robertson, Fifth Column Editor

Guests: Dick Rasmus, District Tournament Coordinator
Lou Joseph, member of the Bylaws committee
Judy Haffner, Co-chair Labor Day Regional

WELCOME

At 10:42 a.m., Jim Zimmerman called the meeting to order. A moment of silence was held in memory of Roni Gitchel Atkins. Jim congratulated Mike Ryan for the good performance of his Grand National Team.

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 Buffalo and Rock and Roll Regionals made money; the All-American Regional lost money and to date attendance is slightly down at the Labor Day Regional.

Report of the District Director – Sharon Fairchild reported that all is going well with the ACBL. The new president is planning to attend the tournament in Buffalo. There will be new requirements for Life Master, for new members as of January 1, 2010. Requirements include 500 total points of which more have to be pigmented. The Youth NABC was held in Atlanta and was a success. The ACBL has hired the chair, Patty Tucker, to coordinate youth programs.

Fifth Column – Mary, reporting for Sharon Robertson, said that there are no problems.

SPECIAL COMMITTEES

Pittsburgh Labor Day Regional –Mary Paulone Carns reported that attendance is approximately even to date. Roni gave Mary her records for the regional, and Mary is helping Judy Haffner and Lou Joseph during the current tournament. Mary and Judy met with Roni a little over a week ago.

Cleveland Rock and Roll Regional – Sharon has flyers. She reported that she decided against starting KO's every day, but added some Compact KOs.

All-American Regional –Sharon Fairchild reported that the regional lost money. Rent is up and attendance is down. Rent would be less if we used more room nights.

Buffalo Regional – John Toy reported that the Buffalo Tournament did well. Attendance was very good early in the week. This is partly because of the Canadian exchange rate; the Canadians like Grand Island; and moving away from July 4 and July 1 (Canadian holiday). The next tournament is in October 2009 at Grand Island.

NAOP and GNT – The dates are October 11 - 12, 2008 and May 2 – 3, 2009 respectively.

STaC – Mary Paulone Carns reported that the Summer STaC had 921 tables, with 1263 players earning masterpoints. This compares to 2007 with 759 tables (but unit 116 didn't participate) and 2006 with 935 tables and 1374 players earning masterpoints. There was a profit of \$1086.75. She decided against using hand records. The decision was for several reasons, the most important of which was that there are many small games and preduplication is required if there are fewer than 7 tables. The Winter STaC is December 8 – 14; invitations will go out within the next month.

Website – Is continuing successfully. Mary and Bill are working together to develop the ability for clubs to post recaps online. Bill will develop the site (similar to the Pittsburgh website) and Mary will teach interested directors how to post. A suggestion was made that there could be tutorials at each regional.

OLD BUSINESS

Education and Marketing Committee – Arlene reported that the program is progressing slowly. She has received several new requests. She stated that the idea is for the funds to provide seed money for programs which should then be able to be self-sustaining. It was pointed out that the funds are still available but are no longer earmarked for specific units.

Bylaws – The proposed new bylaws contain two substantive changes:

- Members of the executive board are entitled to a vote on the Board of Directors;
- The Executive board may contain no more than 2 appointed members from the same unit.

The plan was for the Full Board to vote on the proposed new bylaws at the meeting tomorrow. However, the published copy of the proposed bylaws contains an error. The correct wording of Article 6, Section D is: "Each member of the Executive Committee shall be entitled to one vote on the Board of Directors. Members of the Executive Committee shall not be considered or counted as one (1) of the votes allotted to his or her Unit, unless the member is so appointed by the Unit President. In no case shall an individual have more than one vote". In the reformatted new bylaws this will become Article 6, Section A 4.

This change will be incorporated into the proposed bylaws which will be sent to the Unit Presidents, and voting will be deferred to the May meeting to fulfill the 90-day notice provision of the current bylaws.

New Locations for GNT – Lou Joseph attended as a member of the Committee to Investigate Rotating sites for the GNT. The committee recommends that the GNT rotate sites among Pittsburgh, Cleveland, and Buffalo, starting in 2009. Lou investigated over 25 possible sites in the Pittsburgh area and has identified the Days Inn on Banksville Road, which is available for May 2 – 3 at a rate of \$400 for the playing rooms and \$72 sleeping rooms. Lou recommends this site. The issues of whether we have a contract with Meadville, and how to deal with the fact that Meadville has already been advertised as a site, were discussed. The board agreed that if there is no contract in Meadville, or it can be cancelled, that the Rotating Sites proposal should be accepted. The plan should be announced at the January Regional, advertised in the 5th column and on the Website, and teams who recently participated should be individually notified.

NEW BUSINESS

Fund for Renaming Labor Day Regional – Mary reported that Max Bazerman, Roni's brother, wants to seed a fund to rename the Regional in memory of Roni. The current guideline, passed on Roni's motion, is that the naming of a District 5 tournament for one year costs \$10,000. After discussion, the Board agreed to accept Max's offer. At Max's request, the existence of the fund will be advertised and donations will be accepted. At the end of the donation period, Max will provide the remainder of the funds to complete the entire \$10,000. In honor of Roni's extraordinary efforts on behalf of bridge in District 5, the Board voted to extend the period of the name change from 1 year to the indefinite future. Mary will administer the donation process. [Addendum: after the meeting, Jim appointed a committee of Mary, Sharon, and John Toy to suggest uses for the money in the fund].

Bookseller Fees – Sharon reported that in January, the bookseller was there for only a few days but was charged based on the attendance at the whole tournament. The board agreed that if the bookseller is there only for a portion of the tournament, that he will be charged fees based on the days that he is there.

Perqs and Masterpointing across the field – These items were deferred to January because of the lateness of the hour.

Site for Pittsburgh Labor Day Regional – The Expo Mart is closing, and the Radisson is closing and reopening as a Doubletree. Jim reported that Sharon and Judy Haffner met with the General Manager of Oxford Development. The company is developing and will operate a Convention Center at the site of the former Wicke’s Furniture Store, across the street from the current tournament location. The building will contain 85,000 square feet, divided into 2 sides: one for trade shows and the other similar to a hotel ballroom, which appears to be about the size of the space we currently use. The management assured that arrangements similar to the current ones will be made, including hotel arrangements, specifically honoring the currently contracted rates, with the room rebate continuing. If the convention center (scheduled to open June 1) isn’t ready in time, we can be accommodated in the hotel. We have a contract through 2011 but it isn’t enforceable since the Expo Mart and the Radisson will no longer exist. Oxford Development representatives will contact Sharon or Judy in a few weeks to arrange for a written contract.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 12:10 PM.