

DISTRICT V EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE BOARD MEETING
Saturday, May 23, 2009

MINUTES

ATTENDANCE

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

Representatives Present: Jan Assini, Sharon Fairchild, Lou Joseph, Mike Ryan, John Toy, John Tscholl

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

WELCOME

President Jim Zimmerman, called the meeting to order at 10:45 a.m and welcomed the members.

MINUTES FROM THE LAST MEETING

The minutes had previously been emailed to the members. The following correction was made: Sally Veauthier was *elected*, not *appointed*, to the Educational Foundation. Following that correction, the minutes were approved.

STANDING COMMITTEES

Treasurer's Report – Brian Ellis reported that the profit from the Pittsburgh Regional is up slightly; and the profit from the January Regional appears to have increased substantially. However the increase is not as great as it appears, since there is a change in accounting procedures, whereby Board expenses are kept separate from Tournament expenses. The GNP/GNT lose money, and the District pays \$1000 per team plus entries. The Roni fund has \$2461 and is kept separately.

Report of the District Director – Sharon Fairchild previously emailed her report to the members. She reported that the ACBL is moving the headquarters building to Horn Lake, MS which is a suburb of Memphis. The building is already constructed but not complete so the inside can be finished to our specifications. There will be space for a library and the Hall of Fame. In response to a question, Sharon reported that "Triple Point Games" for charity may be held for any of 4 specific ACBL charities and certain months are exclusive to specific of these funds.

Fifth Column –Sharon Robertson asked members to let her know of any news.

SPECIAL COMMITTEES

All-American Regional (ongoing) – Sharon Fairchild reported that the table count is up 40 tables going into Friday, and that attendance at the KO was up on Friday. Morning pairs were added as the tournament was in progress, and many players complained that the midweek Swiss had 6-board rounds because otherwise the dinner break would be short. A discussion followed about various possible times for the afternoon and evening sessions, including making the times 1 and 7. This would make a short break between the morning and afternoon sessions. All agreed that changing the starting times from day to day was not a good idea. People like the evening session to start at 7 PM but don't like a short break or foreshortened sessions. Enforcing the time limit for Swiss matches (with 7 board matches) was mentioned. The following motion was made and passed: **Chairs may choose among the following times for the afternoon and evening sessions: 1 and 7; 1:30 and 7:30; 1:30 and 7.**

Pittsburgh Labor Day Regional – Mary Paulone Carns is chair with co-chairs Judy Haffner and Lou Joseph. The new site is the Hyatt Regency Pittsburgh International Airport. The site is beautiful and closer to Cleveland and Buffalo than the previous site. More team games have been added, and there is free parking. Mary distributed fliers to the members and asked them to distribute them to their local clubs.

Buffalo Regional – John Toy announced that the tournament is on Grand Island at Halloween. The new president of the ACBL will attend. He asked about the protocol for welcoming the president. He will take a group to dinner and do anything we want, especially meeting people and newcomers. The district provides a room and entries and he pays for transportation. Sharon suggested welcoming him with a sign and announcement. John mentioned possible conflicts in 2011 involving the Niagara Falls Regional in October, the Summer NABC in Toronto, and the Buffalo regional. This will be further discussed in Pittsburgh.

Cleveland Rock and Roll Regional – Jan Assini reported that she and Susan Stark are chairs. She plans to use starting times of 1 PM and 7 PM and plans to add additional KOs. Committees are set.

NAOP and GNT – Sharon reported for Steve Grzegorzewski. The GNT was held in Pittsburgh May 2-3. Expenses were low but the site was unappealing, there was no handicapped parking and parking was a problem. There was also a conflict with the Pittsburgh Marathon which made for some difficult traffic situations. Attendance was up by 4 tables over the average attendance since 2003 (34 vs. 30 teams) and up by 9 teams from a year prior. Local attendance was good. Next year's event will be in Cleveland, and it will be in Buffalo the following year. Jan is looking for a site for Cleveland.

STaC – Mary Paulone Carns reported that the registration for the Summer STaC is in progress and there are some new clubs registered. The ACBL is changing the registration procedure and also considering creating new conditions. Sharon Fairchild is the chair of a national committee to evaluate the CoC. Mary reported that the director requested that all results from clubs must be emailed. One club has been phoning in results, requiring a

disproportionate amount of work for the director. Mary will add to the CoC that results must be emailed.

Website – Is continuing successfully. Only 2 clubs are using our site to post weekly results but things are proceeding smoothly and those clubs are happy. Mary will continue to work with directors to teach them the procedure, if they are interested. The webmaster is still having difficulty getting results of some sectionals posted in a timely fashion, as he isn't getting the results sent to him.

OLD BUSINESS

Bylaws – The vote for the proposed new bylaws will be taken at the meeting of the full board tomorrow.

Fund for Renaming Labor Day Regional – The fund contains \$2465, obtained from 46 different donors. Mary investigated the options for Roni's brother to make his contribution in a tax-deductible way. She spoke with the persons in charge of the ACBL Charity Foundation and the Educational Foundation. Both can accept donations but neither is equipped to accept a directed donation. The board decided to suggest to Max that he may make his promised contribution to a charity of his choice. The board suggested the Susan B. Komen Fund since it was special to Roni but will allow him to donate to a charity of his choosing. Mary will communicate with him.

Education and Marketing Committee – Jan reported that she is still having great difficulty with schools which have impossibly strict requirements for outsiders. A teacher in Parma started a bridge club which has 8 students. She worked with the District and with the ACBL. It seems that the best approach would be to interest teachers who are already in the system. Jan spoke with 3 teachers in the area but they aren't interested. Dick Rasmus reported that Toronto had 117 tables of students at their Regional. He will give Jan their contact information. Jan is considering pursuing the option of local colleges.

Youth Bridge – The ACBL is trying to help people learn to work with youth and offers a seminar, "Teaching Bridge to Young People".

NEW BUSINESS

Olympiad – Sharon reported that the Olympiad is coming up in the middle of August. Dick Early is in charge.

Holiday Inn/Independence – Prices have been based on the number of days, and on a sliding scale based on the number of room nights. Prices have increased for May; in the past there have been good prices in January; however prices in the new proposed contract are high. The board agreed that Sharon could negotiate the best deal with the Holiday Inn.

Dates for Sectionals – John Tscholl questioned why Pittsburgh holds a summer Sectional opposite Canton on a weekend during which Canton has held a sectional for many years. A discussion followed regarding the limited number of desirable dates, the role of the District Tournament Coordinator, and the numbers of players who are affected by conflicts.

Stratification by average MPs in Pairs Games – Sharon Fairchild reported that the ACBL now allows stratification of teams and pairs by average Masterpoints. This can be done at local option and can have some restrictions (example: to require that anyone over a certain number of MPs must play in "A"). A motion was made to allow this stratification in District 5. Discussion followed about what the strats should be and what the maximum number of MPs should be. The motion was tabled until the next meeting, to allow time for units to give input.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 12:05 PM.