

**DISTRICT V BOARD MEETING
Sunday May 30, 2010**

MINUTES

ATTENDANCE

Officers Present:	Mary Paulone Carns (President), John Toy (Vice President)
Officers Absent:	Brian Ellis (Treasurer)
Executive Board Members Present:	Jan Assini , Sharon Fairchild , Lou Joseph (142), John Tscholl, Marc Sylvester
Executive Board Members Absent:	Jim Zimmerman
Unit Representatives Present:	Jim Sullivan, Rick Roberts (107); Christine Urbanek, Margaret Clamp (116); Virginia Young, Sue Pisanelli, Frank Scali, Susan Stark, Geraldean Jones (125); Shirley Irish (127); Sue McQuillan, Asim Ulke, Sandra Schuchert, Steve Schwarzwaelder (142); Bud Kury (185); Jim Overcashier (213); Barbara Grzegorzewski (226); George Cross (229)
Units Not Represented:	111, 129, 148, 177
Guests:	Lou Finley (148); Don Little (213); Steve Grzegorzewski (226); Iola Croner (229), Alex Bealles (229, tournament coordinator), Sharon Robertson (5 th Column)

WELCOME

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

MINUTES FROM THE LAST MEETING

The minutes were previously emailed to the members, and were approved.

PRESIDENT'S REMARKS/CORRESPONDENCE

President Carns announced that the Executive Board had adopted a formal cell phone policy effective immediately, outlined as follows:

The presence of cellular phones and similar electronic devices will be deemed legal at District 5 events within the following guidelines:

- 1) Devices must be turned off completely or if on, in silent ring or vibrating mode ONLY.
- 2) Devices CANNOT be used inside any room when a bridge event is currently in session
- 3) The first offense will carry a full board (matchpoints) or 12 IMP (teams) penalty dependent on the event the offender is competing in at the time of the offense
- 4) The second offense will result in the offender being expelled from the session for the duration of such session
- 5) If the offense is committed by a non-playing attendee the first offense will cause such attendee to be expelled from the session for the duration of such session

STANDING COMMITTEES

Treasurer's Report— President Carns presented the Treasurer's report in the absence of Brian Ellis:

- Accounting procedure for District 5 regional expenses has been changed to reflect actual expenses per tournament
- A one-time extraordinary expense occurred at the Buffalo Regional due to the reception for the ACBL President
- All three regionals held since the last full board meeting (Pittsburgh 2009, Buffalo 2010 and Cleveland January 2010) were profitable
- The Winter STaC was profitable
- The NAOP and GNT continue to lose money due to operational expenses, team subsidies and related expenses
- The Olympiad loses money but due to its importance as an educational event it will continue to be subsidized. We are considering accounting for it under educational expenses
- Brian Ellis will change the reporting period to a tax year basis instead of a calendar year basis

National Board Items--Sharon Fairchild distributed a written report, which had been previously emailed to unit presidents. The move to Horn Lake Mississippi has been completed and preparations are being made for the grand opening celebration.

The new requirements for Life Master status have been changed effective the beginning of 2010.

Due to the proliferation of special games with extra points being awarded, the ACBL has changed the policy regarding these events, limiting the number and times such games can be held, and reducing the ratings. See Sharon's report for complete explanation (report attached)

Liability insurance for those tournaments that serve alcohol is available at an additional charge through the ACBL. Current insurance does not cover this.

Sharon Fairchild advised the members that due to an increase on donations to the Charity Foundation, we will be receiving \$ 30,000.00 for distribution, which can be divided between up to seven (7) charities. The requests must be made prior to November 17, 2010. She needs suggestions as soon as possible. It was asked that Board Members contact their respective Units for suggested charities. Suggestions have included the Gathering Place (Cleveland), The Crohn's and Colitis Foundation. The final decisions will be made at the Labor Day Regional 2010 full board meeting. The only criteria is that any charity must be a registered 501C(3) charity. It can be local or national charity.

Fifth Column—Sharon Robertson reported that there are no problems, but reminded everyone that submissions are due in a timely fashion one month prior to publication.

SPECIAL COMMITTEES

REGIONAL TOURNAMENT REPORTS

Cleveland All American Regional (in progress) – Sharon Fairchild reported that the tournament was operating smoothly, and will probably end up down 40 tables over last year, noting that last year's attendance was very high.

Pittsburgh "Roni" Labor Day Regional – President Carns advised that the flyers were out and available for distribution. All plans are progressing smoothly.

Buffalo Spooktacular Regional – John Toy reported that the tournament will be held at Grand Island. He noted that this year due to a scheduling conflict with the World Pairs in Philadelphia, the NAOP will be held concurrently at the Buffalo Regional on Saturday and Sunday. He hopes that this may increase attendance at the tournament.

Cleveland Rock and Roll Regional– Jan Assini reported that the January 2010 Regional was a great success.

Sharon Fairchild reported that the January 2011 tournament is being worked on. The schedule is almost finalized.

NAOP and GNT

In the absence of Barbara Bacon, President Carns reported that the GNT held at Solon OH this year did increase the local attendance but decreased the out of town attendance. This was similar to the turnout experienced in Pittsburgh. The Board has agreed to review the rotation program (alternating sites between Pittsburgh, Cleveland and Buffalo) after next year when one full cycle will have been completed.

STaC

President Carns reported that the Winter STaC went well. Plans are underway for the Summer STaC.

Website

In Bill Holt's absence, President Carns reported that the Website has continued to operate smoothly and efficiently. There has been some discussion of having an online partnership desk. President Carns will discuss this with the webmaster. She also pointed out that all clubs in the District are entitled to post their club results on the ACBL website, and it is relatively easy to do.

Membership

Marc Sylvester advised that the District will resume sending welcome letters, information packets and one (1) free play to any District 5 event to new members.

He presented a report which showed where District 5 stands in relation to other ACBL Districts, regarding membership, average age, average member years, etc. He noted that we are still near the bottom regarding membership retention among all ACBL Districts. We are also the only District to show a net negative change over a twelve month period. Certain Units in our District have shown gains, however. Our District does have the second highest retention rate among all ACBL Districts.

OLD BUSINESS

Education and Marketing – Jan Assini reported the success of certain inner city schools in Cleveland that were able to incorporate bridge into their curriculum and math programs. She commended the wonderful volunteers that made the program successful. The ongoing problems are lack of volunteers and the difficulty in getting into certain school districts. She would welcome all

suggestions and input from members. There is money available for these programs, both within our Education Fund and from the ACBL.

NEW BUSINESS

See President's remarks above regarding newly adopted cell phone policy for District 5.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no additional business, at 6:20 PM, the meeting was adjourned.



The District 5 Newsletter

District Director's Report

April 2010

I didn't spend a lot of time in Reno due to a family wedding elsewhere. The facility was adequate from what I could see before the bridge began.

The ACBL board spent a lot of energy looking forward to what our marketing programs should emphasize in the near future, studying the latest technology and how it impacts bridge, and what our future on the internet ought to be.

Right now a lot of ACBL energy is going into managing a smooth move to our new headquarters building. The move is being held up by some technology issues. Hopefully the problems will be resolved soon.

ACBL has produced two free 30 second radio ads that will be available in April to clubs and teachers. Local information can be inserted. Clubs and teachers will have to pay for air time but this cost will qualify for Cooperative Advertising reimbursement.

ACBL used to mail hand records for special games and went to having clubs download and print their own. We will go back to mailing them for the convenience of our clubs except for Charity games.

The month of February is reserved for Junior Fund Games, the month of April is reserved for Charity Games and the month of September is reserved for International Fund Games and in those months any and all ACBL sanctioned club games can be special games for the named funds. In the remaining nine months of the year one game per month per sanctioned session may be a special game for the Junior Fund, the Charity Foundation, the Educational Foundation or the International Fund. The masterpoint rating for all of these special games will be 70% of sectional rating maintaining the current cap of 6.00 masterpoints. This is a change from 90% of sectional rating and unlimited games in the non-special months.

Any club that, in any calendar year runs one or more allowed special local charity games that are sanctioned for extra masterpoints must make available for public inspection an accounting of all funds raised in such games no later than February 28th of the following calendar year.

There will be a new NABC+ event called the Super Senior Pairs (age 70+) that will be held the last 2 days of the Fall NABC beginning in 2010 as a 4 session event with two qualifying and two final sessions held at 10 AM and 3 PM. The event will award platinum points and will not qualify for senior masterpoint races and shall not qualify for eligibility to become a Grand Life Master.

A unit may hold 3 extended team games. They may use 2 of these to run a 2 stage event with a round robin phase of at least 4 matches to qualify to a Knockout bracket.

Units or Districts that provide beer, wine or liquor at their tournaments may want to consider a \$500 insurance policy that I am told is available to cover liability for this as it is not covered in our regular insurance.

The requirements for ranks up to Life Master are modified as indicated in the attached table.

These requirements apply to members who join or re-join January 1, 2010 or later. They are thus retroactive to January 1. They do not apply to those who were members before January 1, 2010 and maintain their membership continuously.

Rank	Min Pts	Min Gold	Min Red/Gold	Min Silver	Min Black	Min Black	Max Black	Max Black	Max Transparent	Max Transparent
					now	proposed	now	proposed	now	proposed
Junior Master	5	0	0	0	0	0	5	5	1.66	5
Club Master	20	0	0	0	0	5	20	20	6.66	15
Sectional Master	50	0	0	5	0	10	45	45	16.66	25
Regional Master	100	0	5	15	0	15	60	60	33.33	40
NABC Master	200	5	15	25	0	20	155	155	66.66	70
Advanced NABC Master	300	25	25	50	50	50	200	200	100	100
Life Master	500	50	50	75	75	75	325	325	166.66	165

Effective Retroactive to January 1, 2010

Look for the GNT District finals May 1 and 2 in at the Solon Valley Party Center in Solon OH. Flights are determined by masterpoint holding on September 1, 2009 (Superflight=unlimited, A=0-5000, B=0-2000, C=0-500 Non Life Master). Call District Coordinator, Barb Bacon (440-331-8702) for more information.

I hope to see you at the Memorial Day Regional in Independence (Cleveland) OH May 25th to 31st. The events will be stratified by average masterpoints for pairs and Swiss Teams. See the District 5 website www.d5bridge.com for the schedule.

Questions, comments or suggestions are welcome. Sharon Fairchild 440-333-2536 or shortsuit@sbcglobal.net.

Dear _____,

On behalf of the District 5 Executive Board, I would like to welcome you to the American Contract Bridge League (ACBL) and District 5! It is my hope that the many opportunities available to learn and play bridge will satisfy your interests. The purpose of this letter is to provide you with some ideas for exploring the game in our area and beyond.

A great place to start your search is on the District 5 website: just direct your web browser to **d5bridge.com** . While you will find many resources available on this site, let me point your attention to a few to get started:

- The Upcoming Tournament Calendar: Lists all tournaments in our District. Most tournament chairs have flyers attached so that you can learn about the schedule of events, find a partner, or even look for a hotel if the tournament is out of your immediate home area.
- The 5th Column: This is the District 5 newsletter. Published six times a year, this newsletter will keep you up to date on your home unit and other units in the district. It is also a convenient place to find upcoming tournaments and results of past tournaments.

At your leisure you should also consider visiting the main web page for the American Contract Bridge League. The web address is **acbl.org** . There is certainly information for all of us: materials to help better learn the game, information about major national and international bridge events, and even a great utility to help you find a club game either in your home town or in other places while you are traveling. This utility is the first option under the "Play" tab on the main ACBL web page.

I hope that you will become active learning and playing the wonderful game of bridge in our clubs, our sectional, regional, and even national tournaments! I am pleased to report that District 5 Regional tournaments are among the best in the nation: we have excellent hospitality, a full schedule of bridge events for players of all levels, and perhaps the cheapest entry fees (at \$10 per session) anywhere in the ACBL! To get you started in our great regional tournaments, a certificate for a free entry is included with this letter.

Should you have any questions about District 5 bridge please do not hesitate to contact me by email at marcsylvester@hotmail.com . For our members who do not have Internet access and need more information, you can contact me by phone at 814.397.6949.

Again, welcome to District 5! I hope to see you at the bridge table soon!

Marc Sylvester, District 5 Membership Chair



F r e e E n t r y

***Good for one free session at any ACBL District 5
Regional Bridge Event***

Amount: \$10 for one session entry only

d5bridge.com

To: _____

Issue date: _____
Expires 1 Year from Issue date

Signed: _____