

**DISTRICT V EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE BOARD MEETING**  
**Saturday, September 4, 2010**

**MINUTES**

**ATTENDANCE**

Officers Present: Mary Paulone Carns, John Toy, Brian Ellis

Representatives Present: Sharon Fairchild, Lou Joseph, John Tscholl, Jim Zimmerman, Marc Sylvester, Jan Assini

Guests: Alex Bealles, District Tournament Coordinator  
Barbara Bacon, GNT/NAOP Coordinator

**WELCOME**

President Mary Paulone Carns called the meeting to order at 10:45 AM and welcomed the members. She noted that the elections needed to be added to the meeting's agenda, advised that the full board meeting scheduled for Sunday had been relocated, and that Sharon requested the clock(s) be discussed.

**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 delivered the Treasurer's report, copy attached. Highlights are as follows:

- The District's net worth has decreased approximately \$ 15,000.00 over the past 12 months of our fiscal tax year which ends on July 31 plus \$4000.00 STaC fees that have not been billed by the ACBL as of this date
- The new rotating schedule for the GNT's has produced a smaller loss than we previously sustained in Meadville
- Cleveland All American Regional produced a small profit
- There were extraordinary expenses at Buffalo because of the ACBL Presidential reception
- 5<sup>th</sup> column expenses do NOT include free entries given to 5<sup>th</sup> column contributors

**Report of the District Director** – A copy of this report is attached, as presented by Sharon Fairchild. There was a discussion regarding local units' responsibility vs. National level responsibilities vis a vis sanctioning members for certain violations. Sharon advised that only certain violations become the responsibility of the National Disciplinary Committee due to legal considerations

**Fifth Column** – Sharon Robertson was not present at the meeting. Mary Carns reported there were no issues

## **SPECIAL COMMITTEES**

**Pittsburgh Labor Day Regional** – (ongoing) Mary Carns reported that all is going well. The disappointing turnout for the first few days has almost been erased by the pick-up of the latter part of the week. The chairs are disappointed with the lower than expected turnout, given the amount of publicity, but the out of town attendance seems to be greater than usual, and there has been only positive feedback. She noted that we have signed the agreement with the Hyatt for another three (3) year contract as negotiated and reported previously. Mary extended her thanks to Sharon Fairchild and Barbara Bacon for assisting her in negotiating and receiving several new “perks” in the new contract that have also been extended to us for this year, including staff rate rooms; and free internet for five (5) rooms. Mary also noted that the room rate will only increase by \$5.00.

**Buffalo Regional** – John Toy reported that everything was on track for the upcoming Regional, flyer attached. There was discussion regarding the NAOP to be held Saturday and Sunday, and Sharon is to talk with ACBL regarding the possible attendance consequences on the Buffalo tournament, and the possible extra hospitality expenses that may be incurred due to the scheduling (due to the World Bridge Series Championship in Philadelphia); John also requested that Executive Board Members advise him as soon as possible as to whether and or when they plan to attend the tournament.

**Rock and Roll Regional** - Sharon Fairchild reported that flyers have been prepared and are starting to be distributed, copy attached. Jan Assini advised that there will be attendance at one session by those students participating in the bridge programs being offered at the Cleveland schools. The board agreed on a reduced entry fee of \$1 for those participants and scholarship entries for those that are unable to meet the fee, those amounts to be underwritten by the District Education fund.

**All American Regional** - Sharon Fairchild had nothing to add to her last report. Results can be found in the attached financial data.

**NAOP and GNT** – Barbara Bacon reported on arrangements for 2011 NAOP in Meadville. The hotel has agreed to hold the rates.

2011 GNT is scheduled to be held in Buffalo. John Toy discussed the possibility of holding it at the Buffalo Raceway in Hamburg, NY on April 30 and May 1. We would be allowed to provide our own hospitality for the most part; the proposed room can hold 50 tables. John and Barbara will investigate finding a local hotel to package the deal and plan the advertising.

Barbara handed out proposed conditions of contest for both the GNT and NAOP, copies attached. Gail Carns’ comments are also attached. It was suggested that a committee be formed to review and create the conditions which will then be e-mailed to board members for comments and review. It was suggested that one (1) super-flight player from

each of the major metropolitan areas in the District be asked to join the committee. It was suggested that the committee include Danny Gerstman, Ken Kranyak and Gail Carns. There is a sense of urgency of regarding turning the conditions over to the ACBL within the scheduled deadline (9/20/2010) if we choose to adopt these guidelines for the current upcoming GNT in May 2011. If the deadline for the NAOP is later, we will hold off discussion for that event until the January 2011 executive board meeting.

**STaCs** – Mary Carns reported that the Summer STaC ran smoothly and was financially successful; there is no reason to assume the Winter STaC will be any different.

**Website** – Mary Paulone Carns reported on behalf of Bill Holt, the District 5 webmaster. There are currently no problems.

**Membership** – Marc Sylvester reported little has changed as referenced by the QUIP report. He reminded all board members that starting in September we will send out one free play voucher worth \$10.00 with new membership packages, and that these are now ready; they are good for any District 5 sponsored event. He will also be distributing flyers and letters which will include links to the District 5 events.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

**Education and Marketing Committee** – In response to Jan Assini's question, Brian estimated that approximately \$13,000.00 is available in the Educational Fund. He noted that the Education Fund is not a separate fund, but is included in District 5 general funds.

Jan reported that the participation in the Cleveland school bridge programs has more than quadrupled. She advised that the biggest hurdle is the lack of teachers, and requested any assistance that might be available. Additionally, there will be a special session at the upcoming January Regional (see above). She also advised of the program funded by the Gates Foundation and Cleveland is hoping to coordinate with their program.

**Distribution of Charity Funds** – Sharon Fairchild noted that several suggestions had been received for the distribution of the \$30,000.00 in charity funds:

- Lawrence County (PA) Association for Retarded Citizens
- Family and Community Services, Inc. – Portage County, OH
- Crohn's and Colitis Research Initiative of Northeast Ohio
- Susan G. Komen Foundation
- Sigel Foundation, University of Pgh IBD Center
- Cleveland Whist Club Scholarship Fund
- FIRE (Foundation for Individual Rights in Education)
- The Little Portion Friary – Buffalo, NY
- Niagara Hospice – Roswell Park Cancer Institute – Buffalo, NY
- The Gathering Place – Cleveland, OH
- Empty Bowl Project – Westmoreland County, PA
- Big Brothers and Big Sisters

Sharon will print a list and short description of each organization to be distributed at the full District 5 board meeting Sunday evening, at which time a vote will be taken to

determine the distribution of the funds. Sharon's suggestion was to give \$ 5000.00 each to the six charities that receive the most votes. (In the case of a tie, we will split \$ 5000.00 between the last two; in the case of a three-way or greater tie, there will be a run-off vote.) An attendee at the meeting chosen as spokesman for each charity will give a one (1) minute presentation at the full board meeting prior to the vote. Care will be taken to make sure that only voting attendees will receive ballot. Voters will be able to vote for a maximum of six (6) charities. It will be stressed that only certified 501(C) charities are eligible.

**Insurance** – Mary Carns was able to clarify the ACBL position on insurance coverage in regards to tournaments serving alcoholic beverages. It was determined that if the alcohol is given away completely free of charge, the current policy covers lawsuits that arise from accidents. Since the alcohol that is served at District 5 tournaments falls within these guidelines we do not require an additional policy for liability coverage.

**Cell Phone Policy** – Mary Carns reported that the policy seems to be working well. Sharon advised that although our policy is identical to the National ACBL policy, there is some discrepancy in the penalty assessed during Swiss Team Events depending upon how badly a team is already doing, i.e. if the team is already being blitzed then an additional VP assessment would be meaningless. Mary suggested that we adjust our penalties to read "12 IMPS at knockouts; 3 VP at Swiss Teams". A motion was made, seconded and failed to pass, so the policy will remain at 12 IMPS for team events.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

**Election** – Will be held at the full board meeting to be held on Sunday

**Timers** - Sharon Fairchild brought up the matter that one of our three (3) timers is broken. She and Dick Rasmus will investigate the cost of repairing versus purchasing a new one.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

A motion for adjournment was proposed by Jim Zimmerman and seconded by Jan Assini. The meeting was adjourned at 12:15 PM.