

DISTRICT V EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE BOARD MEETING
Saturday, January 15, 2011

MINUTES

ATTENDANCE

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

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

Guests: Alex Bealles, District Tournament Coordinator
Sharon Robertson, Fifth Column Editor
Barbara Bacon, GNT/NAOP Coordinator
Pat Rasmus, Buffalo Regional Representative

WELCOME/PRESIDENT'S REMARKS

President Mary Paulone Carns called the meeting to order at 10:30 AM and welcomed the members.

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 discussed the following:

Brian presented an abbreviated financial report. Highlights included:

- Regional financials are stable
- GNT and NAOP cost approximately \$ 7500.00 per year
- It was noted that the overall regional attendance is approximately 4000 tables which needs to be considered when discussing raising the entry fees

Brian also raised the issue regarding the minimum wage for caddies in accordance with Federal Regulations. Mary and Sharon felt that we were still ahead of the requirements in the three states involved. Brian will verify that we are in compliance.

He also raised the issue of perks and stipends as this issue was brought up to him by our accountants. The issue regards the requirement of form 1099's being issued for payments in excess of \$ 600.00 per year. As this is an Internal Revenue Service requirement, Brian will make sure that the 1099's are issued as required.

Due to a change in personnel at our accounting firm, a request for a filing extension was not filed in a timely manner. Brian noted that we may incur a penalty from the IRS for this oversight – if this happens he will discuss this with the accountants as the liability for the error seems to be mostly their fault.

Report of the District Director – Sharon Fairchild previously emailed her report to the members. *A copy of this report is attached.* Sharon again congratulated Pat Rasmus on her award as one of the two Volunteers of the year for 2009. Sharon also noted that the ACBL is making an effort to enforce the slow play policies to some extent. Alex Bealles confirmed the policies and the penalties that can be assessed.

Fifth Column – Sharon Robertson reported that the print issue is still in demand, especially when it is late. Mary advised Sharon that Carole Shanahan is now the District 5 reported for Unit 142. Sharon and Mary will coordinate with Carole to make sure the reports are turned in on time.

SPECIAL COMMITTEES

Rock and Roll Regional (ongoing) – Sharon Fairchild noted that the attendance is down considerably due to the inclement weather. She is planning to renegotiate the contract for the Rock and Roll Regional when the current tournament is completed. The space has been guaranteed by the hotel. Mary noted that Jan Assini will be the tournament chair for 2012.

All American Regional – Sharon Fairchild reported for Monica Early that the schedule is compete and that the contract has been confirmed for three (3) years. Mary noted that the flyer may have been printed without noting that the stratifications for the pair events were to be by pair average. John Toy moved that the flyers be redone if necessary to amend this omission, seconded by Jim Zimmerman. (carried)

Pittsburgh Labor Day Regional – Mary Paulone Carns reported that the tournament went well. She felt that the local attendance may have been down, but the out-of-town attendance had increased.

Buffalo Regional – Pat Reported that the tournament went fine. Attendance was steady. There was some decline in attendance of the top Canadian players due to the conflict with the World Bridge Federation Tournament. Brian reported that the tournament was down 27 tables from the previous year. John Toy and Pat reported that the Regional dates for the fall were being changed due to the Jewish Holidays and Canadian Thanksgiving. The revised dates are October 11-16.

NAOP and GNT – Barbara Bacon reported that the GNT flyers were available for distribution. The event will be held in Hamburg, New York. After this GNT the board will reevaluate the effectiveness of rotating the event between Pittsburgh, Cleveland and Buffalo. It was noted that so far the attendance has not increased. This issue will be discussed at the May 2011 Executive Board Meeting. The NAOP will be returning to Meadville – the contract has already been signed.

Winter STaC – Mary Paulone Carns reported on the success of the Winter STaC held in December 2010. Unfortunately our attendance was below 1000 tables for the first time in years due to the inclement weather on Monday and Tuesday of STaC week that caused the cancellation of several games.

Website – Mary Paulone Carns reported on behalf of Bill Holt, the District 5 webmaster. There are currently no problems except that Bill is not receiving flyers for all District Events and without the information these events cannot be publicized on the website.

Membership – Marc Sylvester reported that 49 new member packets have been sent since September 2010 with Unit 142 accounting for 23 of the new members.

OLD BUSINESS

Education and Marketing Committee – Jan Assini reported that there were 85 students playing bridge at this tournament on Wednesday January 12. There was a big article in the Cleveland Plain Dealer newspaper. Many of the students asked if they would be allowed to play in the next tournament. Unfortunately we lost our teacher Celeste Krejsa for the middle school program (which had almost reached 150 students). Jan is going to try and find some volunteers to replace her and keep the program moving forward.

Charity Fund Distribution – Sharon reported that all of the charities which were chosen to receive funds were grateful – many had special presentation ceremonies and Sharon received several letters of thanks. She noted that in addition to the funds distributed in accordance with the District members voting, she was able to donate an additional amount to a Hospice in Buffalo in memory of one of their players. Sharon noted that the program should continue although the funds available for distribution may be decreased due to the ACBL's curtailment of the overabundance of charity games. On average, our District receives these funds for disbursement every five years.

Entry Fees – Mary noted that while we have held the line on our entry fees for quite a long period of time, as a way of giving back to our members, we are now losing money at an alarming rate. In addition, by maintaining the \$10.00 entry fee for the regional, we are causing some hardship on those units that feel they cannot raise their sectional entry fees beyond the regional fees. Mary noted that if we wait too long to raise our fees, we will be required to raise the fees significantly at one time which will create ill will. Since it appears that a motion to approve this increase must be presented before the entire District Board, it was determined to present this to allow for the increase to take effect in 2012. John Toy moved that the entry fees for the District 5 Regionals be increased by \$1.00 per session to \$11.00, effective January 2012, subject to approval by the entire District Board. Seconded by John Tscholl. (carried)

Duplicating Machines and Electronic Timers – Sharon Fairchild reported on the several machines available. They are costly machines – some require special cards, some do not. Ken Van Cleve advised Sharon that the directors can do the duplicating for tournaments. Alternatively, we can hire someone with the equipment to duplicate the hands, but we would have to allow for travel and other expenses. Sharon felt that over time the benefits of purchasing a machine would outweigh the cost of hiring someone on a regular basis. In regards to the timers, the cost of new equipment is prohibitive compared to purchasing used laptops and using an available timer program. Additionally, the cost of transportation and storage of laptops will be far less than the timers which are

extremely delicate and easily broken. It was agreed to try the use of laptop timers at the May Regional.

Sharon also discussed her research on scoring machines. Although they are gaining prevalence, they are still very expensive. It was felt that we should wait until the technology has improved sufficiently and the cost has declined appreciably.

NEW BUSINESS

POSSIBLE NABC IN BUFFALO – Sharon Fairchild was approached by a representative from the Buffalo Convention Bureau regarding the possibility of a National in Buffalo. Sharon felt that she needed to know whether there was local support for this idea and whether or not this idea was even feasible in the minds of the ACBL. She spoke with Jeff Johnston in Orlando and was told that the ACBL is desperately seeking locations in the Northeast. It was felt that the Summer would be the best time for an NABC in Buffalo. Pat Rasmus advised that she and John Toy met with the Convention Bureau representative and tried to realistically consider the problems of a National in Buffalo regarding playing space and hotel space, the need for shuttles between the Adams Mark and other hotels. Pat and John thought that if this idea reaches fruition it would be in everyone's interest to have the District run the tournament as opposed to the local Unit. Pat and John both thought that there would be sufficient support and manpower depending upon how far into the future they are considering holding the event. Sharon was advised to tell the Convention Bureau to put together their package and make an offer.

The meeting was recessed at 11:37 AM and reconvened in hospitality suite 277 of the hotel for a presentation and demonstration of the Canton Unit's duplicating machine by Jim Overcashier and John Tscholl.

ADJOURNMENT



The District 5 Newsletter

District Director's Report

December 2010

I hope you all had a wonderful Thanksgiving! I spent mine in Orlando at the meetings, the Fall NABC and a very important award presentation. Patricia Rasmus of Hamburg NY was honored at the Aileen Osofsky Goodwill Committee as one of the two Volunteers of the Year for 2009. Pat's award was presented by 2009 ACBL President Jerry Fleming, who selected her for the award, at a dinner, surrounded by friends. It was truly a well-deserved honor and I was so pleased to be in attendance.

CEO Report

Membership will be up about 11,000 members by the end of the year, which is our average gain. And table counts are up for the year.

To cut costs and increase efficiency, management would like to send your membership renewal notice by email but you need to sign up on the website at MyACBL.

Elections

Craig Robinson will be the new ACBL President in 2011. Craig is our neighbor from Eastern Pennsylvania. Bill Cook from Jackson Mississippi is our new Treasurer, replacing Craig. Joan Gerard won election to a term representing ACBL on the World Bridge Federation. Rose Meltzer will head up the Aileen Osofsky Goodwill Committee for the remainder of Aileen's unexpired term. Carl Sharp of Chicago was named the 2010 Volunteer of the Year by outgoing President Rich DeMartino. Larry Cohen is the 2011 Honorary Member of the Year. Congratulations to all.

Appeals and Charges

The Committee reviewed the one year suspension of member #J471497 and upheld the findings and the discipline.

There is a change to the Code of Disciplinary Regulations which is amended to clarify that the sanction imposed in a disciplinary hearing will be communicated in writing, stating its effective date and that the disciplined party has a right to request a stay of discipline pending the outcome of an appeal.

Proposed By-law Change

The President of the ACBL must be an elected director representing their district to serve as President. The Chairman of the Board must be as well or the most recent President serving as an elected director will serve as Chairman. This bylaw will be voted on again at the next Board meeting. If it passes again it will be voted on by the Board of Governors before going into effect.

The ACBL may conduct up to 3 Regionals at Sea. Regulations for sanctioning Sectionals at Sea were codified.

Current events

In July of 2012, our CEO will be retiring. In the interest of a smooth transition, a committee put together a succession planning framework to outline the process that will be used to run in the interim and select a new CEO. A time-line of when things need to be done was included in the framework. The incoming President will be appointing a search committee the first of the year to begin the process. It is hoped that the incoming CEO will be in place before the current one retires for a smoother transition.

Bridge Play

The board approved stricter rules governing slow play. All players are expected to make a concerted effort to catch up. Directors are to issue increasing penalties for repeat violations. Slow play, especially habitual slow play is a violation of law and subject to penalty. Law 81C1 instructs the director of his duty to ensure that slow play not disrupt the game. Law 90A and Law 90B2 specifically provide for procedural penalties to be given in cases of undue slow play, and Law 91A empowers the director at his discretion to make such penalties disciplinary and therefore not subject to being overruled by an appeal committee. Further, Law 12C2 permits the director to award an artificial adjusted score when slow play prevents a board from being played. An appeal of a penalty for slow play may be taken to the Director In Charge but no further.

When there is a tie for the last qualifying position of an NABC+Swiss, all teams tied will qualify to continue in the event. If this results in an odd number of teams an additional team will be selected using our current tie breaking rules if necessary.

A motion to create a national event for those under 55 failed. This should be tried first as a regional event to see if it is popular.

Overall awards were established for invitational clubs that participate in ACBL-wide games that have overall awards for open games.

Teaching

Those teaching bridge to young people in schools through the School Bridge Program were eligible to receive a \$350 stipend if they received no money from any other source. Now they may receive money from another source as long as their total compensation does not exceed \$500.

Future NABCs

New Orleans, Spring of 2015

Chicago, Summer of 2015

Washington DC, Summer of 2016

San Francisco, Fall of 2018

Questions, complaints and suggestions are welcome. Just call 440-333-2536 or email me at shortsuit@sbcglobal.net. Sharon Fairchild