

DISTRICT V EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE BOARD MEETING
Saturday, January 15, 2012

MINUTES

ATTENDANCE

Officers Present: John Toy, Lou Joseph, Brian Ellis

Representatives

Present: Jan Assini, Mary Paulone Carns, Sharon Fairchild, Marc Sylvester, John Tscholl, Jim Zimmerman

Representatives

Absent: none

Guests: Alex Bealles, District Tournament Coordinator

WELCOME/PRESIDENT'S REMARKS

President John Toy called the meeting to order at 10:40 AM and welcomed the members.

MINUTES FROM THE LAST MEETING

The minutes had previously been emailed to the members. The minutes were approved. Mary had previously emailed a current Executive Committee roster to the members. There were no corrections.

STANDING COMMITTEES

Treasurer's Report –Brian presented an abbreviated financial report. Highlights included:

- The District is losing money
- The Olympiad lost approximately \$1400; these expenses will be moved to Education for accounting purposes
- NAOP lost approximately \$2300.00
- Buffalo attendance was down approximately 100 tables; over the entire district, Regional attendance dropped to 3800 tables in 2011 compared with 4200 tables in 2010
- As of the end of November there was \$75000 in the treasury. This compares with previous years as follows
 - 2010 \$96000
 - 2009 111,000
 - 2008 122,000
 - 2007 127,000

The next topic involved the bookseller. He hasn't paid his fees for the last 5 regionals, and hasn't responded to collection attempts, including a registered letter. The ACBL will intervene. There are some unconfirmed reports that he has retired. A discussion was held about the possibility of getting a different bookseller for future regionals. It was mentioned that smaller regionals such as those in District 5 have trouble attracting booksellers. Mary had a bookseller contact her in 2009 and she will attempt to locate that person.

Ohio is raising the minimum wage to \$7.70 per hour. Our current caddy pay of \$70/day (8 hours) is sufficient to fulfill this requirement. [note: following the meeting a review of previous minutes indicates that our agreed rate is \$74/day if 2 sessions are worked].

Report of the District Director – Sharon Fairchild previously emailed her report to the members. Highlights are:

- Sanction fees are increasing by 4 cents/table effective April 1
- Tournament Director fees are increasing by 4%
- All online masterpoints count for rank changes
- The colored point requirements were increased for levels above Life Master

Fifth Column – As agreed at the previous meeting, Sharon Robertson will no longer be expected to regularly attend these meetings. The Fifth Column will be online only starting immediately. Sharon will continue to do the setup. The deadline has been moved to the 15th of the month before publication since there is no longer a lead time for printing. The board requested Sharon to send a reminder to columnists who are nearing the deadline.

SPECIAL COMMITTEES

Rock and Roll Regional (ongoing) – Jan Assini reported that there are no problems so far. Attendance is up approximately 100 tables so far.

All American Regional – Sharon Fairchild distributed fliers. Gold Rush Pairs were added to Friday and Sunday.

Pittsburgh Labor Day Regional – Mary Paulone Carns reported that the tournament went well. Judy Haffner has resigned as a co-chair and the tournament will proceed with the remaining 2 co-chairs (Mary and Lou). Attendance was down approximately 100 tables. Both chairs perceive that the locals are not supporting the tournament. Mary presented an online questionnaire following the tournament. The most common complaints were that the snack bar isn't open all day and that the local players prefer a Monroeville location. The former issue will be reviewed with the Hyatt. Most players preferred earlier times. Mary is planning to add Gold Rush Pairs Friday and Sunday and will move start times to 1 and 7.

Buffalo Regional – John reported that the tournament is in late October for 2012 and late June in 2013.

Rock and Roll Regional (2013) – In the future, this regional will be run by Akron and Cleveland in alternate years (Akron in odd years; Cleveland in even). Monica Early has

resigned. Jan, John Toy, and Jim Zimmerman are working with a group of people who were identified as potential chairs for the Akron group.

NAOP and GNT – Sharon Fairchild reported for Barbara Bacon. District Finals for the GNT will be held over 2 weekends at the Erie Bridge Club: May 5-6 (Flights A and C) and May 19-20 (Championship Flight and B). Saturday times are 1 and 7; Sunday times 10 and TBA. There will be an open Swiss on Sunday, which will replace a consolation event. This will be rated as a Unit Championship since new entries will be allowed. Erie will advertise this event to local players. Marc cautioned that historically Erie players tend not to enjoy Swiss Teams.

There was a GNT/NAOP Coordinators' meeting in Seattle. Topics addressed included advertising, best practices, and better processes to identify local qualifiers. The ACBL will advertise, with the first effort being a cover story scheduled for the March issue of the ACBL Bulletin.

The Erie Bridge Club is interested in holding the NAOP finals in 2012. The dates are October 6-7. Since 2005, the most tables in this event is 30. The consensus was to try this site. Erie wants to hire their own caddies, but Barb and Sharon will caddy for free. The board agreed to have Erie hire one caddy for Sunday for each weekend.

STaC – Mary Paulone Carns reported no problems with the STaC.

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

Membership – Marc Sylvester reported that membership is 3543 as of December, representing a 1% decrease year over year. Average age is 71.6 (second highest in the ACBL). There have been 204 new members, each of whom was sent a certificate for a free play at a Regional.

Education – Jan Assini reported that the Bridge in Schools teaching program lost a school, as well as some volunteers. A couple resigned in part because they felt that the concept isn't being supported by the ACBL. There is another field trip planned for the May Regional.

OLD BUSINESS

District Finances and Expenses – Jim Zimmerman reported that he got information from the chairs of the 4 tournaments regarding perks for workers. There were some differences among tournaments, mostly due to different situations (Example: Pittsburgh requires someone to distribute parking validations).

He discussed a few specific positions:

- 5th Column Perks. Currently \$900/year plus 12 room nights and 24 bridge sessions. After discussion involving several options, the members voted 6 – 2 to change the perks to \$900 plus 6 room nights and 24 bridge sessions.

- Perks for bulletin editors at Regionals. These vary among regionals from \$75/day, to rooms and entries for all days.

The conclusion was that tournament chairs should review perks and decide whether any changes are warranted. As an aside, the Tournament Coordinator receives \$400/year and Mary will add this information to the perks database.

Possible NABC in Buffalo – Sharon reported that the ACBL NABC Advisory Committee voted against this in part because of high room rates. The ACBL personnel worked via the Buffalo Convention Center.

Howard Lebow Fund – Mary reported that this issue had been omitted from the agenda of the Education Foundation in Seattle and is scheduled to be on the agenda in Memphis in the Spring.

Duplicating Boards – Sharon Fairchild reported that Tournament Directors will duplicate boards if there are openable boards available. In Buffalo, Dick Rasmus duplicated boards (reportedly for a \$500 fee; he owns the machine). Mary spoke with Ken Van Cleve who originally agreed to have the directors duplicate boards for the 2011 Pittsburgh Regional. After some personnel changes, he decided that the directors couldn't do it unless the special boards were available. Furthermore, there must be enough boards available for 1 whole day's pair games (not just one session). Currently the district doesn't own boards, but all supplies, including boards, are provided by Ken as a side business. He isn't planning to purchase new boards and wasn't excited about negotiating a discount if we provide our own boards. The board decided to table this issue for a year and re-evaluate regarding impending new technology and District 5's financial position.

Timers – Alex reported that new small timers were tried in Pittsburgh. They were too small; also time can't be added to a round; the timers can pause but have to be manually restarted; and there are no remotes. The larger timer carried by the same company is identical to what the District owns currently. We have 3 timers of which 2 are operable. Sharon Fairchild will check on the third timer. If it is working, we'll use it. If it isn't working, we'll order a new one.

Sectional Conflicts Committee – Sharon Fairchild reported that the committee, consisting of herself, Alex Bealles, and Dian Petrov, developed a definition of conflicting sectionals: There will be no concurrent sectionals in adjacent units, or if both border the same population center. Furthermore, there will be no sectionals opposite GNT, NAOP, or District 5 Regionals, except for restricted sectionals.

NEW BUSINESS

Bid Boxes for GNT/NAOP – This issue was resolved previously.

Inter-Unit Competition – Mary reported that a member of Unit 142 developed the concept of an Inter-Unit Competition. His idea is that units could compete against each

other by having flighted Swiss Teams competitions. He has identified a sponsor; the winning unit would win funds to be used for the promotion of bridge. Various scenarios were discussed. The members developed some conditions that would need to be fulfilled for this idea to move forward:

- Initially each unit would provide up to 1 team, consisting of members of each flight, similar to the Eight-is-Enough concept
- The event would be held in a central location, and not during another District-5 sponsored event
- A written proposal may be submitted incorporating at least these conditions

Mary will discuss this with the original proposer.

Tables and Bid Boxes for Cleveland – Jan reported that Unit 125 is considering purchasing the bridge tables which are currently owned by the former Solon Party Center. These are the same tables which are rented for the Regional. The members agreed that the District can subsidize the purchase of tables which are in excess of what Unit 125 needs.

Jan also said that the Cleveland Regionals are down a crate of bid boxes. She may purchase additional boxes.

Hospitality Suite Supplies – Sharon said that since the District is eliminating the second hospitality suite, the District owns extra equipment (utensils, trays, coolers). The Hospitality Chairs for Cleveland will take the disposable supplies. The Hospitality chairs in Pittsburgh don't need extra supplies. For now, Jim Overcashier will store the excess equipment. Mary mentioned that she also has some extra equipment in her basement.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 12:35 PM.