

DISTRICT 5 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE BOARD MEETING
Saturday, January 19, 2013

MINUTES

ATTENDANCE

Officers Present: John Toy, Lou Joseph, Brian Ellis

Representatives

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

Representatives

Absent: John Tscholl

Guests:

Alex Bealles, District Tournament Coordinator
Don Mamula, ACBL President

WELCOME/PRESIDENT'S REMARKS

President John Toy called the meeting to order at 10:35 AM and welcomed the members. He introduced Don Mamula, ACBL President.

MINUTES FROM THE LAST MEETING

The minutes had previously been emailed to the members. The minutes were approved.

COMMITTEES

Treasurer's Report – Brian presented a partial financial report. The District is doing well. He has heard no complaints about the new fees (now in place for 1 year). As of July 31, the balance in the treasury was about \$94,000. He presented interim figures for regional attendance. The NAP qualifier made money, in part because the move to Erie allowed food costs to decrease. He thanked Barb Bacon. Buffalo attendance was up with a profit of about \$15,000.

Report of the District Director – Sharon Fairchild previously emailed her report to the members. She ceded her time to Don Mamula, the new ACBL President. He said that Sharon is on the Steering Committee for the ACBL Strategic Plan and Chair of the CEO Committee. Plans are for an annual review. His plan is for the organization to be on track, on target, and on budget. The ACBL is in good shape. We lose approximately 12,000 members per year. He is hoping to improve retention. He sees the strengths of District 5 to be that players get a good bridge experience due to friendliness and hospitality.

Fifth Column – Jan said that Sharon has no issues or complaints.

Rock and Roll Regional (2013) (ongoing)—Jan said that attendance is down. The biggest loss is in the 1-session NLM events. The chairs are Jim Overcashier and Jill Smith, with Jan as advisor. She is impressed with their performance; in 2 year Jan will step down. There have been some complaints about the bulletin; the editor has no experience and needs guidance.

All American Regional –Sharon distributed fliers. There will be a new schedule, developed with input from Ken Van Cleve. There will be a third Gold Rush Pairs, which will be held Thursday, Friday, and Saturday.

Buffalo Regional – John reported that attendance was good. The next 2 regional will be in June 2013 and October 2014. Patty Rasmus is resigning after the 2013 regional. She does almost everything herself. Additionally the Holiday Inn on Grand Island has been sold and it isn't clear what will happen after June. There was a discussion about candidates for chair and possibilities for sites. One alternative would be to hold some tournaments in Erie. The success of the GNT and NAOP show that District 5 players will travel. But Canadians are a large source of support, and they would be lost if the tournament were held in Erie.

Pittsburgh Labor Day Regional – Mary reported no news.

Rock and Roll Regional (2014) – Chairs are Jan Assini and Susan Stark. They are considering changing the format of the morning events; two compact Kos would be held: Wed-Thurs and Fri-Sat.

NAOP and GNT – Sharon Fairchild reported for Barb Bacon. Dates for NAP Qualifier are: Flights A & C: April 27-28; Superflight & B: May 4-5. Sharon thanked Bill Holt for designing flyers. In answer to a question, Sharon explained the Grass Roots fund and its games. Don Mamula remarked that Sectionals are allowed to run a special fund game, which could be for the Grass Roots Fund. These games are regionally-rated, resulting in a 40% increased masterpoint award. The fee is an additional \$1 per player per session. The event must be in the sanction application and advertised on the flyers. The possibility of having a District-wide surcharge on team events, to subsidize District 5 Teams who go to the national level, was discussed.

STaC – Mary Paulone Carns reported that the following changes will be made to the CoC:

- Playing directors and their partners will not be eligible for Overall awards, but will receive club awards only. This has been mandated by the ACBL
- Last-minute registrations are prohibited. Exceptions may be made by the coordinator for special circumstances.

Website – Mary Paulone Carns reported for Bill Holt that there are no problems.

Membership – Marc Sylvester gave a limited report. He continues to send letters to new members, containing free entries. He asked chairs to consider honoring expired entries.

Education – Jan Assini reported that there is a sixth school in Cleveland teaching bridge. A former principal has become involved, and there is a new private school. We aren't getting any ACBL memberships from this program, in large part because of finances. The possibility of subsidizing membership from educational funds was discussed. The possibility of collecting old bulletins to distribute to the schools was also discussed. A competition between schools is planned during the Regional in May.

Mary reported that Unit 142 is planning to hold another LB1D in Pittsburgh next week, and probably in during the Regional.

OLD BUSINESS

District Expenses – Jim had no news. John suggested that there be a meeting of tournament chairs in May to develop guidelines to standardize perks for common positions. It was mentioned that workers are unhappy when they learn that others doing similar jobs receive different perks. The meeting will be held Thursday May 23 between sessions in room 545.

Duplicating Boards –Ken Van Cleve is purchasing a duplicating machine and electronic scorers. He will have the ability by May to provide preduplicated hands and electronic scoring for pairs games. He submitted a written proposal. The board agreed in principal. Details will be negotiated by Mary and Sharon.

Bookseller – Lou contacted Baron Barclay and several other booksellers. He was able to find a bookseller for the upcoming Pittsburgh Regional. He got guidelines including prices and suggested inventory if someone wanted to take on this task. Baron Barclay offers a 50% discount, and other providers offer a 37% discount. We will advertise on the website and in the 5th Column to try to get someone to take on this task.

Conditions of Contest – Mary presented a revised draft of District 5 Conditions of Contest for Regionals (CoC). A few changes were made in wording. The Strats for A/AX pairs held opposite the Gold Rush pairs will be 3000+/0-2000. The document will be presented at the meeting of the Full Board in May

NEW BUSINESS

Extending Rock 'n' Roll Regional through Monday – John said that since this tournament is held on the weekend of Martin Luther King Day, that we might consider holding events on Monday. Points discussed were that Monday attendance in general has been declining; weather is an issue with many people having to work on Tuesday. There was no consensus that Monday games should be held.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 12:10.