

DISTRICT 5 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE BOARD MEETING
Saturday, May 25, 2013

MINUTES

ATTENDANCE

Officers Present: John Toy, Lou Joseph, Brian Ellis

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

Representatives Absent: Marc Sylvester

Guests: Alex Bealles, District Tournament Coordinator
Barb Bacon, GNT/NAOP Coordinator (attended for that item only)

WELCOME/PRESIDENT'S REMARKS

President John Toy called the meeting to order at 10:40 AM and welcomed the members. He said that the meeting regarding Perks for Tournament workers had been held on Thursday. He announced that Jan Assini and Joanne Weingold had won the Whitehead Womens Pairs at the Spring NABC. There was a round of applause. Jim said that Gus Costanzo has been promoted to Tournament Director. He also mentioned that the Longest Day promotion, to raise funds for Alzheimer's Disease, is planned to be a yearly event. Those tournaments that conflict (ex: Canton, this year), may hold special events to raise money for this cause.

MINUTES FROM THE LAST MEETING

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

COMMITTEES

Treasurer's Report – Brian presented the financial report. The District is doing well. He has heard no complaints about the new fees (now in place for 1 year). The balance in the treasury is increasing.

Report of the District Director – Sharon Fairchild previously emailed her report to the members. She mentioned the following highlights:

- Tournament surcharges are increasing for nonmembers, as of January 1, 2014: NABC's and Regionals \$4 per session; Sectionals \$3 per session. Fees will go to the local organization. The goal is to get people to join.
- The age for Senior events is 60, starting in 2014. Those currently eligible will be grandfathered.

- The STaC rule prohibiting playing directors and their partners from being in the overalls has been relaxed: the local sponsor may decide to waive this rule. Consensus of the District 5 Board is not to waive the rule.

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

All American Regional (ongoing)—Sharon reported that attendance to date is down by over 100 tables. She doesn't know the reasons. Detroit had a regional last week—their attendance was down also; and Cincinnati's regional is next week. Too many tournaments close in time and location may be part of the problem.

Buffalo Regional – John reported that rooms sold so far are 260, compared to 596 last October. Traditionally attendance has been less in the summer than in the fall. The Holiday Inn/Grand Island has been sold, and is being refurbished. Management is in flux and John hopes to have a meeting soon. The contract expires, and Patty Rasmus is retiring, after the upcoming tournament. John is considering several people as possible tournament and committee chairs. Mary spoke to Marc who didn't investigate any possibilities in Erie. Several years ago, negotiations were unsuccessful because of very high room rates. Scheduled dates for future tournaments:

October 21-26, 2014

June 23-28, 2015

October 25-30, 2016

Pittsburgh Labor Day Regional – Mary reported no news. She brought flyers for distribution.

Rock and Roll Regional (2013) – Jan said that the tournament went fine. Canton will be in charge in 2015 and Jan will step down as a chair but will continue to advise as needed.

Rock and Roll Regional (2014) – Chairs are Jan Assini and Susan Stark. Plans are going well.

NAOP and GNT – Barb Bacon attended the meeting for this item only.

- GNT: Attendance is increasing (25 tables this year), and the maximum capacity of the Erie Bridge Center is 25 tables. Thus unless we change sites we will need to continue to have the event over 2 weekends. The most workable weekends are May 4-5 and June 7-8. The former will be used for flights A & C, and the latter for Superflight and B.
- NAOP: will be at the Erie Bridge Center the 1st weekend of October
- Conditions of Contest for GNT: Conditions of contest which were adopted and used in 2011 & 2012 weren't used in 2013 because of a clerical error. Barb suggested we revert to the previously agreed CoC with the following change: If there are 4 or 5 teams, more than 2 teams advance to the second day. It was decided that with 4 teams, 3 will advance (then the second day would have a round robin followed by a 2-team final); and with 5 teams, 4 would advance (KO format on second day).
- Other Sites: Barb asked for, and was granted, permission to investigate other sites in the Erie Area, to enable the GNT event to be held over one weekend.

- Finances: Brian reviewed the information. These events aren't likely to ever be self-sustaining and the District will need to continue to subsidize them.
- Advertising/Marketing: Attendance continues to be low. Barb asked for suggestions.
- Financial support: Alex mentioned that some Districts have a surcharge on Regional Team events to support GNT finalists (\$1 per person per session).

STaC – Mary Paulone Carns reported that plans are in place for the upcoming STaC June 10 – 16. The Buffalo Unit requested that hand records be used. This issue was discussed in detail several times in the recent past and the reasons for not using hand records haven't changed. Mary previously discussed this with John who will report to the Buffalo Unit.

Website – Mary Paulone Carns reported for Bill Holt that there are no problems. All District Regionals now have the capacity to post bulletins, results, recaps, and hand records via the District 5 website. The Board offered thanks to Bill.

Membership – Marc Sylvester was absent and had emailed a report to the members. In summary, membership is down about 2% from last year, making us 22nd of 25 districts in that measure. We are 2nd in retention of new members; highest in length of membership, and 2nd in average age (72.31 compared to 70.37 average). Marc continues to send out welcome letters and a coupon for 1 session at a District 5 regional. 176 new member packets were mailed in the last 12 months. The urban areas led the district in new members: Pittsburgh-60; Cleveland-37; Buffalo-20.

Education – Jan Assini reported that there were 24 tables on Thursday in the game run for the Bridge-in-Schools students. Steve Vrooman and Doug Henderson have been very active in the program. Currently there are 5 inner-city schools participating and a private school might join. We have great teachers; many are retired school teachers. Jan is considering the possibility of giving some free entries to the teachers. Such an endeavor would have to be fair. We have the funds. The Education Fund still gets requests for reimbursement, which are being fulfilled. Mary mentioned that the Pittsburgh unit is running LB1D again, during the Regional.

OLD BUSINESS

Duplicating Boards –Ken Van Cleve has purchased a duplicating machine and electronic scorers. They have been being used successfully at this tournament and there are plans to use them in Pittsburgh. The price is \$600 and will be \$500 for January. Cost for electronic scorers is 50¢ per table.

Bookseller – Lou reported that Baron Barclay previously told him they had obtained a bookseller for Pittsburgh; but this week they told him the seller had cancelled. There is someone who has contacted John about Buffalo; Lou and John will talk to him.

Conditions of Contest – Mary has finalized the Conditions of Contest for District 5 and sent them to the members of the Executive Board and the Full Board. If there is no

objection during the meeting tomorrow, the CoC will go into effect and be published with the minutes.

Perks for Regional Workers – The Regional Chairs met on Thursday between sessions and reviewed the perks with the intent of standardizing perks from regional to regional. This was accomplished to a degree but there are some special situations; thus each chair may continue to use discretion in determining perks.

NEW BUSINESS

Forming Appeals Committees – Brian said that in the past he had the job of forming appeals committees. John appointed him to resume this function.

Condition of Playing Cards – Some players have been complaining about the condition of the playing cards. The cards are provided by Ken Van Cleve so this issue will be discussed with him.

New Caddy Shirts – Jan purchase new caddy shirts from Jerry Udell.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at noon.