

ACBL DISTRICT 5 BOARD MEETING
Sunday May 26, 2012

MINUTES

ATTENDANCE

Officers Present: John Toy (President), Lou Joseph (Vice President), Brian Ellis (Treasurer)

Executive Board Members Present: Jan Assini , Sharon Fairchild , Mary Paulone Carns, John Tscholl, Jim Zimmerman

Executive Board Members Absent: Marc Sylvester

Unit Representatives Present: Jim Sullivan, Carolyn Sullivan (107); Tova Reinhorn (116); Barbara Bacon, Chuck Bisesi (125); Pat Smith (127); Barbara Bergman, Ken Bergman, Jean Picone, Gail Hastings (142); Jim Overcashier (213); Barbara Grzegorzewski (226);

Units Not Represented: 111, 129, 148, 177, 185, 229

Guests: Allen Selling (127); Pat Levy (213); Steve Grzegorzewski (226); Alex Bealles (229, Tournament Coordinator)

WELCOME

The meeting was called to order at 5:20 PM by President John Toy, who welcomed everyone to the meeting. All attendees introduced themselves.

MINUTES FROM THE LAST MEETING

The minutes, previously emailed to the members, were approved.

PRESIDENT'S REMARKS/CORRESPONDENCE

John summarized the information from the Executive Board meeting held the day before:

- The treasury is healthy, and is no longer losing money
- The nonmember surcharge is increasing from \$2 to \$4 at Regionals, to encourage bridge players to join the ACBL, starting in 2014

- Senior events will have the minimum age raised from 55 to 60, effective 2014
- District 5 Summer STaC is June 10 – 16
- GNT dates in 2014 are May 4-5 and June 7-8
- District 5 Membership is down 2% over the last year; we are second of 25 districts in new member retention
- There were 24 tables of children at the Bridge-in-Schools game on Thursday
- Brian Ellis is in charge of setting up Appeals Committees
- There was a meeting to discuss Perks for workers at Regionals. Each regional is different and there are specialized needs, but to the degree possible the chairs tried to standardize the perks

There was no correspondence reported.

STANDING COMMITTEES

Treasurer's Report— Brian Ellis presented the Treasurer's report. Highlights included:

- 3 regionals had profits
- The treasury is healthy. The balance is \$13,000 greater than a year ago, and there is more out in advances
- The only event that loses money is the GNT. This event will likely require subsidies indefinitely since we pay \$4000 to help with expenses for the finalists

National Board Items—Sharon Fairchild distributed her District Newsletter, having previously emailed copies to District Presidents. Some of the information was already discussed by John Toy. The Longest Day bridge events are expected to be run yearly, to raise money for, and awareness of, Alzheimer's Disease. The ACBL is in good shape.

Fifth Column—Mary Paulone Carns reported for Sharon Robertson that there have been no problems.

SPECIAL COMMITTEES

REGIONAL TOURNAMENT REPORTS

All American Regional – (in progress) Sharon Fairchild reported that the table count is down severely (approx. 125 tables), and we don't know why. She asked for comments. Among the suggestions as to causes were lack of publicity, the thought that the \$12 cost is excessive, lack of prizes for overall winners, bad condition of playing cards, and the relatively early Memorial Day this year. Sharon asked attendees to publicize District events at their local units and clubs and encourage local players to attend.

Buffalo Regional – John Toy reported that the next Regional is Tuesday June 25 through Sunday June 30. June isn't as popular as October, but in the years that Niagara Falls, Ontario has a fall tournament, we have ours in the summer. Pat Rasmus is retiring after the upcoming tournament. John brought flyers and asked attendees to distribute them.

Roni Atkins Pittsburgh Regional –Mary Paulone Carns reported that plans are going well. She brought flyers and asked that they be distributed. She repeated the request for attendees to advertise tournaments at the local level.

Rock and Roll Regional (2013) – Jim Overcashier reported that the tournament was successful.

Rock and Roll Regional (2014) – Jan Assini reported that Canton will run the tournament in odd-numbered years, and Cleveland will run it in even-numbered years. Jan plans to add a third Gold Rush Pairs, and change the morning KO to 2-day Compact KO.

NAOP and GNT

Barbara Bacon reported that the GNT is returning to Erie in 2014 over the 2 weekends of May 4-5 and June 7-8. In 2013 there were 6 teams in the championship flight, the largest attendance in many years. The NAOP Qualifying games start in June, and clubs may hold up to 2 qualifying games per month for the months of June, July, and August. Each unit must have at least 1 qualifying game. The NAOP finals will be October 5-6. John Toy asked attendees to encourage participation among their local players.

STaC

Mary Paulone Carns reported that plans are underway for the Summer STaC being held June 10 – 16.

Website

Mary Paulone Carns reported for Bill Holt. Bill continues to discover some tournaments for which he hasn't received flyers. He once again requests that chairs send him flyers so that he can publish them on the website.

Membership

Mary Paulone Carns reported for Marc Sylvester. 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 25 tables of students at the special game on Thursday. The volunteer list is growing but we can still use more volunteers. She reminded the attendees that the District has an Education fund to which Units may apply for funds.

OLD BUSINESS

Conditions of Contest for District 5 Events – Mary Paulone Carns emailed the proposed final version to each unit. There were no objections to these being adopted. Document is attached to these minutes.

NEW BUSINESS

Duplicating Machines/Electronic Scoring – Sharon Fairchild reported that Ken Van Cleve now owns a duplicating machine and electronic scorers. They have been in use during this tournament. In addition to speeding up the game, the scorers result in needing fewer caddies so some of the cost is recouped. We plan to use these at other District 5 regionals. We're happy that District 5 has joined the 21st century.

Bookseller – Lou reported that we thought we had a bookseller scheduled for the Pittsburgh tournament but the arrangements fell through. We are open to discussing this to anyone who is interested.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no additional business, at 6:00 PM, the meeting was adjourned.

District 5 CoC's for Regionals

Conditions:

In general the conditions apply to Championship-Rated events of two (or more) sessions. Side games and morning games may have fewer than the prescribed number of boards and fewer than the prescribed number of strats (or no strats) at the Director's discretion, as dictated by available time and attendance.

Starting times:

Morning games may be held at 9 AM

Championship-Rated 2-session events shall start at 1:00 or 1:30 with the second session at 7:00 or 7:30

Final-day Swiss Teams start at 11:00 AM

It is acceptable to have special games starting at other times (Fast Pairs, Senior Pairs)

Events:

There may not be more than 2 concurrent Championship-Rated events of 2 or more sessions starting on the same day

Any event that is legal as documented in the ACBL General Conditions of Contest may be held

Strats

All Open pairs and Swiss teams shall be stratified, strati-flighted, flighted, and/or bracketed.

All Knockouts shall be bracketed and/or handicapped

Strats:

Stratified events

A: 2000+

B: 750 – 2000

C: Under 750

Strati-flighted events

A: 3000+

A/X: 0 – 3000

B: 750 – 2000

C and D: at chair's discretion

A/AX pairs

3000+

0 – 3000

Average MPs: Qualification for masterpoint-limited events is determined by the masterpoints of the highest-rated player on a pair or team. Strats shall be determined by average masterpoints of all members of the pair or team.

Newcomer events: Strats and events are at the discretion of the Chair and Director.

Midchart may not be used except in the top bracket of a KO or flight A of a flighted or Strati-flighted event. Use of the midchart must be advertised in advance.

Pairs

All events will be scored across the field. All masterpoint-unlimited events shall have section places calculated across the field.

In masterpoint-limited events, section tops are calculated for each individual section while scoring across the field

Championship-Rated masterpoint-unlimited events shall play at least 26 boards per session (24 boards if there is a sitout)

Side games & morning games may play fewer boards

Swiss Teams

Swiss teams shall be scored at victory points

30-point VP Scale will be used

Final-day Swiss Teams will be 7 rounds of 7 boards with or without a short break

Championship-Rated Mid-week Swiss Teams shall play at least 54 boards

Side Games & Morning Swiss Teams may play fewer boards

It is acceptable to have Bracketed Swiss Teams except for the top flight

Knockouts

All Championship-Rated Knockouts are bracketed

Knockouts may be handicapped at chair's discretion

Compact KO's do not have a consolation round

A Side Team event shall be scheduled for the second session of a day when a Championship-Rated Compact KO is scheduled