

**DISTRICT 5 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE BOARD MEETING**  
**Saturday, August 31, 2013**

**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 10:20 AM and welcomed the members. He said that attendance has been decreasing at District 5 Regionals; also Buffalo NLM tournament and the Olympiad had decreased attendance. A brief discussion followed. Issues discussed were that there are many regionals close together in time and location; these attract mainly local participants. There is a concern that hotels will stop making tournament space affordable if they aren't selling rooms.

**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 following were discussed:

- Regional attendance is down by 400 tables so far in 2013 (net decrease in gross receipts of \$19,000 at \$48 per table). The increase in 2012 may be making the decrease this year seem larger.
- Financial condition
  - GNT lost \$6000, as expected
  - Summer STaC had profit of approximately \$1100
  - Year-over-year balance is up about \$16,000
  - Bottom line is that the treasury is OK but we would be losing money if entry fees hadn't been raised
- Olympiad, August 2013
  - Had only 26 tables (total for 3 sessions) and lost approximately \$1000
  - Chair Dick Early's ideas for consideration include
    - Ask units to commit to send some pairs and pay in advance
    - Increase MP limit (currently 750) to 1000
    - Have 2 strats (example: 0-1000/1000-2000)

- More central site
- Discussion: don't to raise the MP limit—doing so might intimidate potential participants.
- To be discussed at future meeting

**Report of the District Director** – Sharon Fairchild distributed her report to the members. She reviewed the following highlights:

- ACBL President Don Mamula resigned. Bill Cook is the acting president
- Sponsors are ***required*** to charge nonmembers a surcharge, which goes to the sponsor:
  - Regionals: at least \$4 per player per session
  - Sectionals (excluding STaCs): at least \$3 per player per session
- Masterpoint-limited events are allowed, including 1-day sectionals and ex-quota regionals
- There will be more 0-10,000 events at NABC's in view of the success of this format
- Upper masterpoint levels have been increased for various events

**Fifth Column** – No news

**Pittsburgh Labor Day Regional** (ongoing)—Mary reported that attendance is down slightly. There is one more year left in the current contract. She will meet with Hyatt and Monroeville Convention Center. Possible schedule additions are Gold Rush Swiss and additional Gold Rush Pairs.

**Rock and Roll Regional (2014)** – Jan said that plans are underway.

**All American Regional** – Sharon reported that she added another year of contracts at the Holiday Inn, through 2015, for both May and January tournaments

**Buffalo Regional** – John reported that he is searching for a site for October 2014. Chair will be John. Jan Assini and/or Marc Sylvester may be added.

**NAOP and GNT** – Sharon reported for Barb Bacon

- Our flight C team finished 2<sup>nd</sup> nationally. The team was Huei Rong Chern, Sue Lan Ma, Manju Ceylony, and Shakeel Ahmad
- 2013-14 NAP qualifier will be Oct 5-6 in Erie
- 2014 GNT will be May 3-4 (Flights A & C) and June 7-8 (Championship & Flight B), in Erie, PA. MP limit increased: A=6000; B=2500
- 2014-2015 NAP qualifier is unscheduled but Barb recommends Oct 4-5 at Erie. [The event was eventually scheduled Oct. 11-12, 2014]. MP limit for B increases to 2500
- Grass Roots Fund Month was moved to January and funds will be returned to Districts by March 31

**STaC** – Mary Paulone Carns reported that the Summer STaC went well, except that the rule requiring that playing directors and their partners are not eligible for overall awards wasn't well received by the smaller clubs, and some clubs didn't participate as a result. Representatives from several small clubs pointed out that they can't afford to pay a

director and the only way they can survive is to have playing directors. Similarly they can't afford to lose even 1 player who might not play if unable to play with the director and get points. Mary proposed a rule modification: in small games (fewer than 5 tables), playing directors and their partners are eligible for overall awards. The board agreed. Mary asked Sharon to help her determine if this modification is legal. [note: following the meeting the modification was determined to be legal and was added to the CoC for the District 5 STaC].

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

**Membership** – Marc Sylvester reported that membership is up from 2 years ago, but down 2% this year. He sent out 170 new member welcome kits. Membership loss is over 240, including members who lapsed, moved, or died. District 5 membership is 3658. Mark asked for ideas for promoting membership.

**Education** – Jan Assini reported:

- There is a teacher in Akron promoting and teaching lapsed players. The Education Fund will reimburse for his books
- Another school has been added to the Bridge Education program. Students are 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders. They can't afford ACBL membership
- Jan would like to invite Doug Henderson to the Full Board Meeting in May to discuss what the Cleveland program has been doing.
- The Board decided to give a free 1-year student membership to the top 10 pairs in the student duplicate game in May (20 members @\$15 is \$300). As a result these students will also get a new member letter which contains a free entry.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

**Bookseller** – Lou reported that Baron Barclay had agreed to provide a bookseller but they withdrew their offer. We will put an ad in the 5<sup>th</sup> Column and on the website as an attempt to recruit a player who may be interested in selling books.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

**Election of Officers** – Is tomorrow at the meeting of the Full Board

**Cellphone penalties** – Brian said that in Buffalo a team had a penalty but it was irrelevant because they had a blitz even after the penalty. He thinks there should be a victory point penalty. This issue had been discussed in the past and only one other board member agreed with Brian.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:30.