

**ACBL DISTRICT 5 BOARD MEETING**  
**Sunday Sept 1, 2013**

**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, Marc Sylvester, John Tscholl, Jim Zimmerman

Executive Board Members Absent: None

Unit Representatives Present: Jim Sullivan, Carolyn Sullivan (107); Terence Murray (111); Chris Urbanek, Meg Klamp (116); Mike Creager, Ken Kranyak (125); Elaina Dylewski (127); Barbara Bergman, Ron Franck, Bill Holt, Jane Marshall (142); Bud Kury (185); Terry Kessler (213); Barbara Grzegorzewski (226); George Cross (229)

Units Not Represented: 129, 148, 177

Guests: Becky Murray (111); Tonia Barbaro (127); Steve Grzegorzewski (226); Jane Crowley (229); 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 biggest issue is decreased attendance. All four regionals lost tables this year; additionally the Buffalo NLM Sectional went from approximately

20 tables to 10 and Olympiad attendance is down. The solution is not obvious.

- Olympiad Issues: Dick Early, the chair, thinks that changes should be made. Pittsburgh has prizes whereby they send players to the Olympiad; maybe other units could do that. Masterpoint limits could be changed, but, if increased, might lose attendance from those with fewer points. Dick also needs help in running the event.

John also discussed the Ann McGilvrey Award. We need more nominations. He asked members to go back to their units and encourage nominations. There was a round of applause for Barb Grzegorzewski, the winner this year. Letters of nomination should be sent to the new Vice President, and a nomination lasts for 3 years.

### **STANDING COMMITTEES**

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

- Regional attendance is down by 400 tables compared with last year. That represents \$19,000 in receipts at \$48/table.
- Financial condition is OK but we would be losing money if we hadn't raised fees. The Buffalo Regional will probably have a profit of approximately \$3500 (final accounting not done yet).
- In response to a question, Brian said that hotel expenses are higher in PA because we pay taxes there but not in the other states.

**National Board Items**—Sharon Fairchild distributed her District Newsletter. She reviewed the following:

- As of January 1, the ACBL-mandated nonmember surcharge for sectionals is at least \$3 per person per session, and for regionals it is \$4. These fees must be advertised and they go to the sponsor.
- The ACBL president resigned. Bill Cook will finish the term.
- There are new events at the NABC with MP ceilings of 10,000 points.
- There are new MP ceilings as shown below

Event	Year Effective	Flight	Ceiling
NAP	2014-2015	B	2500
GNT	2013-2014	B	2500
GNT	2013-2014	A	6000

- In answer to a question about attendance in other districts, Sharon said
  - The MABC and Northern CA are booming.
  - There are too many regionals, and the ACBL allows regionals too close together. Total tournament attendance is the same or increasing but it is divided into more pieces. The Pros go to the bigger tournaments.

- Online Bridge is handing out more masterpoints and costs substantially less (a 12-board game is \$1).
- The possibility of eliminating the Buffalo tournament in years when it would otherwise be in the summer was discussed.

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

## **SPECIAL COMMITTEES**

### **REGIONAL TOURNAMENT REPORTS**

**Roni Atkins Pittsburgh Regional** – (in progress) Mary Paulone Carns reported that things are running smoothly. Attendance is down, but not as much as other District 5 tournaments have been this year.

**Rock and Roll Regional (2014)** – Jan Assini reported that there was a glitch in the flyer requiring reprinting. Flyers will be mailed when they are ready. Morning Compact KO are being added.

**Buffalo Regional** – John Toy reported that Patty Rasmus retired. The next tournament is in the fall of 2014 when Jan Assini and Marc Sylvester will help until local people can be identified. The Holiday Inn on Grand Island has been sold and no site has been identified for 2014.

**All American Regional** – Sharon plans to add Gold Rush Swiss opposite the Open Swiss. A discussion was held regarding starting time on the final day. The Swiss will be held at 10:00 on the final day next May, as an experiment.

Sharon also asked for nominations to the Goodwill Committee.

### **NAOP and GNT**

Sharon reported for Barb Bacon. NAOP will be in Erie on Oct. 5-6. Flyers are available. GNT will be May 3-4 (Flights A & C) and June 7-8 (Superflight and B).

### **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. She was contacted by representatives from several small clubs who 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 plans a rule modification: in small games (fewer than 5 tables),

playing directors and their partners are eligible for overall awards. The CoC will be changed if the ACBL agrees that 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**

John Toy thanked Bill Holt for his hard work. There was a round of applause. He requested that people send him electronic copies of their flyers as soon as the flyer is approved.

### **Membership**

Marc Sylvester reported that we had 170 new players over the last 12 months. He sends a welcome letter and a free play for a session at a District 5 Regional. Current membership is 3658, a 2.35% decrease over 12 months. We are last in new member gains and 5<sup>th</sup> in new member retention. Average age is 72.5, the second oldest in the ACBL. We are first in average length of membership (21.64 years), which isn't considered to be good. Marc asked for ideas about how to gain and retain new members. He mentioned the possibility of training and sponsoring youth teams. At the Executive Board meeting, it was agreed that the top 10 pairs in the School "Field Trip" event will get a free 1-year student membership to the ACBL. Thus they will also get a free play as part of the welcome package.

A comment was made that some areas have only daytime games, thus there is no chance to attract and/or retain the working population.

### **Education**

The School program is doing well in Cleveland, but most of the children can't afford ACBL membership. The program is progressing so that older students are teaching the new ones. In May, Doug Henderson will attend this meeting to discuss Bridge in Schools. The District has funds for the units to use for education. Contact Jan or look on the District 5 website.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

**Bookseller** – Lou Joseph said that we haven't been able to find a bookseller. We will advertise in the Fifth Column. District 5 would be willing to fund an inventory if someone would volunteer.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

**Election** – The following officers were the only nominees for their position and were elected unanimously:

President: Lou Joseph

Vice President: Jan Assini

Treasurer: Brian Ellis

Lou took over the meeting immediately following his election.

Lou appointed Mary Paulone Carns as secretary.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no additional business, at 6:20 PM, the meeting was adjourned.