

**DISTRICT 5 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE BOARD MEETING
January 18, 2014**

MINUTES

ATTENDANCE

Officers Present: Lou Joseph, Jan Assini, Brian Ellis

Representatives Present: Barbara Bergman, Mary Paulone Carns, Sharon Fairchild, Marc Sylvester, John Toy, Jim Zimmerman

Representatives Absent: None

Guests: Alex Bealles, District Tournament Coordinator

WELCOME/PRESIDENT'S REMARKS

President Lou Joseph called the meeting to order at 10:30 AM and welcomed the members. He welcomed new member Barbara Bergman and thanked outgoing member John Tscholl for his service.

He also mentioned a letter sent by a Superflight team, expressing disappointment that the dates for the 2014 GNT qualifier are in June, inconsistent with previous dates. Some members of the team have previously-planned commitments for the date. There was also a brief discussion about the CoC for the GNTs. New conditions initially intended for 2013 will be used for the first time in 2014. They will be published on the website.

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:

- Cash balance is approximately \$100,000. There are no big financial issues.
- Regional attendance:
 - Over 4 regionals, table count is down ~13%, or 550 tables
 - Cleveland January down 24
 - Cleveland May down 175 tables
 - Pittsburgh down 140 tables
 - Buffalo down 200 tables
 - There was a brief discussion about how many tournaments there are, that they are close in time and location, and maybe there are too many regionals
 - Lou appointed a committee to review the causes and solutions for decreased attendance: John Toy (chair), Barb Bergman (co-chair), Marc Sylvester

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

- The CEO received a new contract for 3 years. The BOD is happy with him.
- Tournament attendance is down.
- The Education Foundation has money for Learn Bridge in One Day. Barb Bacon is on the committee.
- There is a ban on electronic smoking for events at NABCs.
- Dues are going up by \$2.
- Club sanction fees are increasing by 1.4%.

It was moved and seconded that District 5 ban electronic smoking at District-sponsored events. The motion passed 7-1-1.

Fifth Column – No news

Rock and Roll Regional (2014) (ongoing)–Jan said that attendance to date is approximately even with last year.

All American Regional – Sharon brought flyers.

Pittsburgh Labor Day Regional – Mary discussed attendance which was down 140 tables in 2013. However attendance the previous year had been up 100 tables, so the drop isn't much, as part of a trend. Unscientific reviews suggest that attendance is falling among local players. There is one year remaining on the contract at the Hyatt. She has had discussions with the Hyatt and with Monroeville. The Hyatt is interested in working with us to promote the tournament to local residents. However results won't be known until after the 2014 regional. There is a possibility of extending the contract for 1 year (2015), and re-evaluate in September. The board agreed with that plan.

Buffalo Regional – John reported on the situation in Buffalo. The next tournament is scheduled for October.

- The Holiday Inn on Grand Island has been sold. They want us but the site is being refurbished and financial arrangements haven't been discussed.
- Most other possible sites are too expensive or they don't want us.
- The Fairgrounds in Hamburg is ½ hour closer to most of District 5, but is further for Canadians. There is good lighting, the price is right, and Patty Rasmus' son works there. However, is it "barnish" and there is no hotel on site. There are nearby hotels but none are interested in a room block and possibly not on rate breaks.
- Time is short and the Fairgrounds is the only viable option so John got the go-ahead for a 1-year deal there.

Rock and Roll Regional (2015) –Jan said that Jim Overcashier is chair. There is a contract with the Holiday Inn through May 2015. Jan asked for permission to look for different sites for 2016. Jim and Sharon looked at places near Harvard a few years ago, unsuccessfully.

NAOP and GNT – Sharon reported for Barb Bacon

- Dates for 2015
 - GNT: 4/25-26 Flights A & C
 - GNT: 5/2-3 Superflight and B
 - NAOP: 10/3-4
- Dates for 2016
 - GNT: 4/30-5/1 Flights A & C
 - GNT: 5/14-15 Superflight and B
 - NAOP: 10/1-2
- Sharon is requesting help for Barbara Bacon for moving supplies. Marc will work out a plan.

STaC – Mary Paulone Carns reported that the Winter STaC went well.

Website – Mary Paulone Carns reported for Bill Holt that there are no problems with the D5 website. The current tournament is using bridgeresults.com for results reporting and that site was down for a period of time during this tournament. Bill reconstituted the old results site at d5bridge.com which can be used as a backup.

Membership – Marc Sylvester reported that membership is 3462, and continues to decrease. There were 184 new members over the year, but more losses. Barb Grzegorzewski is interested in introducing college students to bridge. There are a lot of universities in Western PA. Marc will work with Barb to try to organize something.

Education – Jan Assini distributed a document showing youth and student memberships by district. District 5 has the lowest numbers. Barb Bergman reported that a group from Pittsburgh met with Doug Henderson regarding Bridge in Schools. The PBA is going to attempt to start a program. Jan said that the district's education funds could be used.

OLD BUSINESS

District Expenses – This item is on the agenda since the board agreed that expenses would be reviewed each January. There was no discussion.

Bookseller – Lou reported that he has identified a District 5 member to take the bookseller position. She is Rose Cassmer from Unit 125. The original plan was that District 5 would fund the initial inventory and she would run it as a business, keeping the profits. However, she would prefer not to own the business but rather to receive a free room. Lou, Brian, and Mary will discuss possible plans. Lou spoke with Baron Barclay who will provide a suggested inventory list. Their discount is 50% off books published by Devyn Press and 33% off other books. There are also discounts on convention card holders.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at noon.