

**DISTRICT 5 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE BOARD MEETING**  
**August 30, 2014**

**MINUTES**

**ATTENDANCE**

Officers Present: Lou Joseph, Jan Assini, Brian Ellis

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

Representatives Absent: Jim Zimmerman

Guests: Robert Hartman, CEO of the ACBL  
Alex Bealles, District Tournament Coordinator

**WELCOME/PRESIDENT'S REMARKS**

President Lou Joseph called the meeting to order at 10:07 AM and welcomed the members. He welcomed Robert Hartman.

**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. He mentioned the following:

- The balance is just over \$100,000
- Financial calculations from the GNT and Summer STaC aren't final
- The GNT has an operating loss of approximately \$1500 and subsidies are \$6300
- Cleveland All American Regional made \$7400
- Brian tried to arrange for Jan Assini to be a secondary signer on the checking account. This change would require a letter from the president. Brian will email Mary with the necessary information.

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

- Some new events are planned but need to be voted on in November
  - One possible change is allowing 3 flighted events with 2 strats each
  - There would be one such event allowed per district as of January 2015
  - This event isn't suitable for our small tournaments
- The masterpoint plan is being reviewed. Robert commented that team game awards are much higher than pair awards. There will be an increase of approximately 25% in MPs for pair games. Other tweaks are planned to increase consistency.

- The “Gold Rush Problem” is being addressed—Districts can add a middle flight for players between 750 and approximately 2000 MPs.

**Fifth Column** – No news.

**Pittsburgh Labor Day Regional (ongoing)** – Mary reported that the tournament is running smoothly but attendance continues to fall. New features are an online Partnership Desk, Fast Results, and a morning Gold Rush Pairs. We have one more year in the current contract. Mary discussed the fact that the perceived lack of support among local players for the Airport site continues. Meanwhile the Hyatt has hinted that they have some unfavorable changes planned for the future. The board suggested seriously investigating moving to Monroeville, starting in 2016.

**Buffalo Regional** – John reported that plans are in place. Hotels are independent so it isn’t known how many rooms have been reserved. Betty Metz and Chris Urbanek have agreed to run the regionals starting in 2015. The next tournament is June 23-28, 2015. Patty and John will be available to give advice but will have no part in running the tournament. Lou will speak with Betty and Chris.

**Rock and Roll Regional (2015)** –Jan said that Jim Overcasher brought flyers.

**All American Regional**– Sharon said that the schedule isn’t complete yet. She hopes to run the Gold Rush with the proposed new strats.

**NAOP and GNT** – Sharon reported for Barb Bacon. There will be a change in operating method. Marc will be in charge of the CoC, as Barb isn’t comfortable with this part of the job.

**STaC** – Mary Paulone Carns reported no problems.

**Website** – Mary Paulone Carns reported for Bill Holt that there are no problems with the D5 website.

**Membership** – Marc Sylvester will give a report at the meeting of the Full Board.

**Education** – Jan Assini reported that the Cleveland program in the city schools continues. Barb Bergman reported that there is an after-school program in the Pittsburgh area starting Oct. 6. Mary said that there are 25 people signed up for LB1D being held this afternoon.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

**Olympiad** – Sharon Fairchild reviewed a letter sent by Dick Early to board members. He is willing to continue teaching but he needs a chair. He doesn’t want to do the administrative jobs. Several candidates were considered. Lou will speak to the candidates.

**GNT CoCs** – There were 2 committee reports discussed.

- Barb Bergman reported for Jim Zimmerman. This committee discussed 2 issues:
  - Issue #1— Can a person or pair play in the GNT qualifying event if not intending to participate at the National level?
    - The committee voted NO.
    - Following discussion, the members voted 4-4, on this issue, therefore the proposal was defeated.
  - Issue #2— Can players be augmented for the National championship if they didn't play in the district qualifying event?
    - The committee votes YES. The board agreed.
    - A formal vote wasn't taken since a YES vote wouldn't change current practice
- Mary reported on the Superflight Committee. Gail Carns chaired this committee. The committee discussed 2 issues:
  - Carryover
    - The committee suggested full carryover
    - The board agreed
  - Conditions and number of teams advancing to Sunday for 2 to 10 teams
    - The board disagreed with having only 2 teams advance from an original 4 teams. The conditions will be revised from those suggested by the committee, to reflect the board's preference of reducing 4 teams to 3 on Saturday; then 3 teams to 2 in the first session on Sunday
    - The eventual conditions are attached to these minutes.
- Marc will review the conditions for all flights and present suggested revisions

### **NEW BUSINESS**

**Social Media**— The ACBL is encouraging all Districts to have a Facebook page. Marc will take care of this.

**Issues with GNT/NAOP**—Brian discussed the following:

- Site: The size of the space in Erie forces the GNT to be divided into 2 weekends. That makes the event less social, and there is no post-game hospitality on Saturday evening. He wants to move the events back to Meadville. The extra costs incurred by using 2 weekends for the GNT remove most of the savings otherwise enjoyed by moving to Erie. Current attendance would allow us to convert to only 1 weekend in the spring, which could potentially be done for 2016. Lou will ask Barbara Bacon to get all of the financial information and to give a report with a cost comparison between the two sites.
- Compensation: After taxes, the net is about \$175 per person if there are 4 people on the team, yet in aggregate, because there are 4 teams, the compensation (not counting entry fees) is \$4000. Is it worth it?

**Electronic Bulletins**—Currently, District 5 regionals publish a paper version of the bulletin, and a pdf version of the bulletin is posted online. Additionally, Fast Results offers a function whereby they send a notification of the availability of the online bulletin. The

printer that we use for the RONI Regional is closed on Labor Day, so this year the bulletin will be electronic-only on Monday. Mary will keep track of any comments she receives.

**Election Tomorrow**—Mary reminded the members that the election of officers will take place at the meeting of the Full Board tomorrow.

**Membership Change on Executive Board**—Lou announced that Jim Zimmerman has retired as a member of the Executive Board, and Jim declined to accept Lou's offer of a non-voting advisory position. Lou has appointed Barbara Bacon to fill the vacant position.

**Open Meeting of the Full Board?**—Mary received a request from a unit who wanted to send an extra representative to the meeting of the Full Board. Because of tradition, the request was declined. The issue was discussed. The board decided that the meeting may be open to non-representatives, but the person needs a reservation and must pay for their meal in advance. Mary will send this information to the Unit Boards before the May meeting.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:40.