

**ACBL DISTRICT 5 BOARD MEETING  
Sunday August 31, 2014**

**MINUTES**

**ATTENDANCE**

Officers Present: Lou Joseph (President), Jan Assini (Vice President),  
Brian Ellis (Treasurer)

Executive Board  
Members Present: Barbara Bergman, Mary Paulone Carns,  
Sharon Fairchild, Marc Sylvester

Executive Board  
Members Absent: John Toy, Jim Zimmerman

Unit Representatives Present: Jim Sullivan, Carolyn Sullivan (107); Elizabeth  
Goldthwait (111); Chris Urbanek (116); Hope Ellis,  
Barbara Greenspan, Bernie Greenspan, Susan Stark  
(125); Elaina Dylewski (127); Ron Franck, Jane Marshall,  
Barbara Weinstein (142); Bud Kury (185); Jill Otte (213);  
Steve Grzegorzewski (226); George Cross (229)

Units Not Represented: 129, 148, 177

Guests: Robert Hartman, ACBL CEO; Barbara Bacon (125,  
NAOP/GNT Coordinator); Sandi Bross (111); Tonia  
Barbaro (127); Terry Kessler (213); Barbara  
Grzegorzewski (226); Jane Crowley (229); Alex Bealles  
(229, Tournament Coordinator)

**WELCOME**

The meeting was called to order at 5:10 PM by President Lou Joseph, who welcomed everyone to the meeting. He introduced Robert Hartman, CEO of the ACBL. All attendees introduced themselves.

**PRESIDENT'S REMARKS/CORRESPONDENCE**

None

**MINUTES FROM THE LAST MEETING**

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

## **STANDING COMMITTEES**

**Treasurer's Report**— Brian Ellis presented the Treasurer's report, focusing on the 3 months since the last meeting. Highlights included:

- The treasury balance is approximately \$100,000, about the same as a year ago
- GNT had an operating loss of approximately \$1500; with team subsidies the loss is \$6500
- All American Regional made \$7400
- We have a bookseller. We spent approximately \$2000 for initial inventory; she sold approximately \$800 in merchandise
- There is no report from the Summer STaC due to a technical glitch
- In answer to a question, "What is the GNT Fund Game?", special games were explained. Grass Roots month will be in May during which clubs can run special games to support the GNT/NAOP. Income from these games is sent by the ACBL to the district.

**National Board Items**—Sharon Fairchild reviewed the highlights of the District Newsletter. She had previously emailed the newsletter and had copies available.

- There is the possibility of a new event which addresses the gap between the Gold Rush and the A/X pairs. It also adds a lower strat to the Gold Rush.
- There are new 0-10,000 events at the NABCs.
- Starting Jan. 1, clubs may hold games during a time period when they don't normally hold a sanction, up to 2 games per year.
- Some nationwide games were changed from evening to daytime. Sharon would like to know how this is working.
- The ACBL has a resource center on the website to help clubs with marketing.

Robert Hartman commented that the ACBL is helping to introduce bridge clubs in colleges. Also the collegiate scholarship will be \$20,000 (up from the previous \$2,000). And the collegiate qualifying event lasts over a semester compared with the previous 1 day.

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

## **SPECIAL COMMITTEES**

### **REGIONAL TOURNAMENT REPORTS**

**Roni Atkins Pittsburgh Regional (ongoing)**—Mary Paulone Carns reported that things are going well. Attendance is down about 40 tables to date.

**Buffalo Regional** – John Toy reported that the tournament is Oct. 21-26 at the Fairgrounds in Hamburg, NY. The site is closer for all of District 5 but further for Canadians. Room rates are better because there are multiple smaller motels. There is free parking, a casino in the area, good hospitality and prizes, and early starting times. John distributed flyers.

**Rock and Roll Regional (2015)** – Jan Assini reported that plans are going well. Flyers have been distributed.

**All American Regional**– Sharon Fairchild is waiting to make the schedule until newly-developed events have been voted on (at the NABC in November).

### **NAOP and GNT**

- Lou welcomed Barb Bacon as a member of the executive board. Barb reported that the NAOP will be in Erie Oct. 11-12. Flights B and C will now qualify 4 pairs per flight, as is already the case for flight A. The GNT will be held over 2 weekends at the Erie Bridge Center. Dates for 2015:
  - GNT: 4/25-26 Flights A & C
  - GNT: 5/2-3 Superflight and B
  - NAOP: 10/3-4
- Sharon Fairchild said that Marc Sylvester will take over the CoC for the NAOP and GNT.

### **STaC**

Mary Paulone Carns reported that the Winter STaC is December 8-14.

### **Website**

Mary Paulone Carns reported for Bill Holt that there have been no problems except for a coincidental website outage since Friday.

### **Membership**

Marc Sylvester reported that District 5 had 3583 members as of June 30. That is a 2% drop over 12 months, but an increase over 3 years ago. Over 3 years there have been 622 new members and there has been 63% retention over 3 years. We continue to send a welcome letter containing a free play to new members. Average age is 72.64 which is 24<sup>th</sup> highest of 25 districts. Marc and Barb Grzegorzewski have plans to meet with college professors and students to try to establish a bridge presence on some local campuses.

## **Education**

Jan Assini asked members to let her know if anyone has a connection to any colleges. The Inner City (Cleveland) School program has 5 schools where bridge is being taught. The district has money available for school programs. Barb Bergman said that there is a Pittsburgh-area after school program starting in October. Mary reported that the LB1D had 24 students yesterday.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

**Olympiad** – Sharon Fairchild reported that Dick Early wants to continue to have the program, but wants an administrator so he can do only the teaching. Susan Stark volunteered to fill this position. The next Olympiad will be in August 2015.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

**Election** – President: Lou Joseph was the only nominee and was elected unanimously. Vice President: Jan Assini was the only nominee and was elected unanimously. Treasurer: Brian Ellis was the only nominee and was elected unanimously. Lou reappointed Mary Paulone Carns as Secretary.

**Social Media** – Marc Sylvester will be setting up a Facebook page for the District. It will be used to promote bridge. In response to a question asking how this is different from the District website, Robert Hartman commented that it is more social. It will link to the ACBL website and other Districts and Units. People like to see their pictures.

**Cleveland 499er Sectional** – Barbara Greenspan announced that this event will be held October 18-19.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no additional business, at 5:50 PM, the meeting was adjourned.