

**ACBL DISTRICT 5 BOARD MEETING
Sunday May 24, 2015**

MINUTES

ATTENDANCE

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

Executive Board
Members Present: Barbara Bacon, Barbara Bergman, Mary Paulone Carns,
Sharon Fairchild, John Toy

Executive Board
Members Absent: Marc Sylvester

Unit Representatives Present: Jim Sullivan, Carolyn Sullivan (107); Elizabeth
Goldthwait (111); Chris Urbanek, Betty Metz (116);
Barbara Greenspan, Steven Garfunkel, Fran Mulkins,
Susan Stark (125); Elaina Dylewski (127); Ron Franck,
Ken Bergman, Jane Marshall, Barbara Weinstein (142);
Jill Otte (213); Steve Grzegorzewski (226); Larry
Puntureri (229)

Units Not Represented: 129, 148, 177, 185, 229

Guests: Sandy Bross (representing 111, from 226); Pat Smith
(127); John Tscholl (213); Barb Grzegorzewski (226);
Alex Bealles (229, Tournament Coordinator)

WELCOME

The meeting was called to order at 5:20 PM by President Lou Joseph, who welcomed everyone to the meeting. 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. Highlights included:

- Regional attendance continues to drop
- Financial condition is about the same as a year ago
- Tournament financial reports
 - Pittsburgh made money
 - NAOP made money
 - Buffalo broke even
 - STaCs made money
 - Rock 'n' Roll made money
- He pointed out that District 5 expenses must be covered by these events
- We have assets in the form of the bookseller's book inventory
- In response to a question, Brian said that the funds in the treasury could fund upcoming losses. There has to be a reserve.

National Board Items—Sharon Fairchild discussed the District Newsletter. The report is available on the internet.

- Grand National Teams: At the national level, teams will have their entries paid for the first 2 days. This saves money for the District. We were previously paying the entries for all days.
- There are some minor changes to allowable conventions.

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

SPECIAL COMMITTEES

REGIONAL TOURNAMENT REPORTS

All American Regional (ongoing) – Sharon Fairchild reported that the tournament is running smoothly. The tournament will be at a new site, The Embassy Suites, starting next May. Sharon plans more advertising to attract people to the new venue.

Roni Atkins Pittsburgh Regional –Mary Paulone Carns reported that the upcoming tournament will be the last at the Hyatt. The tournament will be at the Monroeville Convention Center starting in 2016. Mary brought flyers for distribution.

Buffalo Regional – Lou introduced Betty Metz and Chris Urbanek, the chairs. Betty said that the tournament is moving to the Adams Mark in downtown Buffalo. Downtown Buffalo is having a renaissance, and the site is very nice. There is free parking and committee chairs have been recruited.

Rock and Roll Regional (2016) – Jan Assini reported that she and Susan Stark are chairs. There will be flyers in Pittsburgh in September.

NAOP and GNT

Barb Bacon reported that we are considering collapsing the 2 weekends previously used for the NAOP into one weekend for 2016. This will be possible if there is a backup site available for overflow. Pat Smith will work with Barb Bacon on this. We need help getting players, especially flight C, to participate. Club qualifiers for the NAOP start in June. If clubs advise the webmaster, a calendar of club qualifying games will be posted on the website.

STaC

Mary Paulone Carns reported that announcements for the Summer STaC, normally sent by the ACBL, didn't go out yet. She will send them out as soon as the tournament ends. There are some new rules concerning participating clubs.

Website

Mary Paulone Carns reported for Bill Holt that things are good. He is still requesting that tournament chairs forward an electronic copy of their flyer as soon as it is approved by the ACBL.

Membership

Mary Paulone Carns gave a report for Marc Sylvester, which is summarized here. Membership in District 5 continues to decline. We are currently 24th/25th in district size. As of the end of the first quarter of 2015, our membership was 3,381, down 3.32% from last year. We are 7th / 25th in new member retention into a second year, which is a positive measure. But new member recruitment is still where we need to focus. We continue to be first for average length of membership with the ACBL. Certainly this measure echoes our need to recruit additional new members.

He continues to send out letters each month to all new members in District 5. This letter comes with a certificate for one session of free play in a District 5 regional. Over the past twelve months, 192 new members have been welcomed to our district.

Education

Jan Assini asked for volunteers to help with the Bridge in Schools programs. Barb Grzegorzewski is working at Allegheny College. The group has grown from 4 to 14 students. She is considering recruiting some of the Erie colleges. She and Jan are planning to visit Hiram. There is a possibility of a tournament in

District 5 if enough colleges can be recruited. Allegheny College will pay college students to help Barb teach bridge in High Schools as part of a work/study program.

OLD BUSINESS

Olympiad – Sharon Fairchild reported that plans fell through. Susan Stark said that Dick Early wanted to try a new format that wasn't permitted by ACBL rules.

Lebow Fund – Mary reviewed the repurposing of the Lebow fund to promote bridge education for school students. She encouraged representatives to notify their local players that these funds are available. This year there were 3 scholarships awarded to students who participated in the bridge program in Cleveland schools. These students were nominated by their teachers based on their interest in bridge, cordiality, and scholarship.

Social Media –Mary Paulone Carns gave a report for Marc Sylvester, which is summarized here:

On May 2nd I launched a District 5 Facebook page. The link is:
<https://www.facebook.com/ACBLd5>.

Thus far, there hasn't been much activity. To help promote it:

1. I have requested that an announcement be put in the bulletin for the Cleveland regional.
2. I sent a request to Bill Holt to add a link to d5bridge.com .
3. I have requested that Sharon Robertson include it in the Fifth Column.
4. I have invited many of my Facebook "bridge friends" to like the page.

The Facebook wall is open for posts. Feel free to add photos and tag bridge players. I will try to remember to post flyers for upcoming tournaments. Hopefully we can make it a quick and convenient place for those with Facebook to get information about District events. Also, if you see posts about tournaments on your newsfeed, please be sure to click "like." That will help to promote the event or activity so more people can see it.

NEW BUSINESS

Strats – Barb Grzegorzewski suggested that in the stratified pairs opposite the Gold Rush, the ceiling for B be raised to 3000.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no additional business, at 6:00 PM, the meeting was adjourned.