

**ACBL DISTRICT 5 BOARD MEETING
Sunday September 6, 2015**

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, John Toy

Executive Board Members Absent: Barbara Bacon

Unit Representatives Present: Bob Ryan, George Grant (107); Elizabeth Goldthwait
(111); Chris Urbanek, Meg Klamp (116); Barbara Greenspan, Bernie Greenspan, Sue Wintner, Bill Hogsett
(125); Elaina Dylewski (127); Ron Franck, Lorraine Hanna, Bill Holt, Jane Marshall (142); Sarah Crall (177);
Bud Kury (185); Jill Otte (213); Joanne Ende (226);
David Rupert (229)

Units Not Represented: 129, 148

Guests: Mike Goldthwait (111); Wayne Waugaman (representing
127, from 226); Maria Toner (177); Terry Kessler (213);
Barbara Spencer (226); Alan Leaver (229)

WELCOME

The meeting was called to order at 5:10 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 distributed the Treasurer's report through July 31, the end of the fiscal year. He discussed these highlights:

- Treasury balance is similar to a year ago
- There have been about \$6000 in expenses since July 31
- Regional attendance is down some
- GNT is down \$2400 with about \$3000 still to be paid
- Regionals are still making money, but must cover District 5 expenses
- Having a bookseller is working well; players like it; we have \$2000 in inventory; she gets 3 room nights in return for working 4 days

National Board Items—Sharon Fairchild distributed and discussed the District Newsletter.

- The Tournament Director system has been redesigned. Ken Van Cleve is our field supervisor. This is a promotion for him.
- NABC in fall 2021 is in Austin, TX; fall 2025 is in San Francisco

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 the current tournament is running well. The tournament is moving to Monroeville starting in 2016.

Buffalo Regional – Chris Urbanek said that there is a good group of volunteers. The prize room will be similar to the past. The playing area at the Adams Mark is nice. Downtown Buffalo is undergoing revitalization. She brought flyers and asked members to distribute them.

Rock and Roll Regional (2016) – Jan Assini has flyers. The upcoming tournament is the last at the Holiday Inn. Future tournaments will be at the Embassy Suites.

All American Regional – Sharon Fairchild reported that this tournament is also moving to The Embassy Suites. The rooms are beautiful with a bedroom and a sitting room. The \$109 rate includes WiFi, breakfast, a manager's reception, and free parking. The ACBL now permits a 2-session gold point event on the first day. She asked for a show hands indicating interest. There will be a club directors' refresher course held over 2 mornings.

NAOP and GNT

Sharon Fairchild reported for Barb Bacon. The NAP qualifier is Oct. 3-4 in Erie. The GNT qualifier has been moved to one weekend, April 30-May 1, 2016 in Erie. There will be backup space in case of unexpectedly high attendance.

STaC

Mary Paulone Carns reported that she is evaluating the strats in an attempt to have approximately equal sized fields for each strat.

Website

Bill Holt said that there is an interface for Fast Results on the website. He requested that tournament chairs send him a copy of the flyer as soon as it has been approved by the ACBL.

Membership

Marc Sylvester reported that current membership is 3749, down 2.9% in the last year. Biggest losses were Cleveland, 4.7% and Pittsburgh, 4.4%. Average age is 73.05. We are the second oldest district, behind Florida. ACBL average age is 71.32. Our average length of membership is 21.72 years, highest in the ACBL. That is not considered to be a good thing. We are 9th of 25 districts in New Member Retention. Barb Grzegorzewski is working with a professor and approximately 12 students at Allegheny College. Yesterday at the Executive Board meeting, it was decided to discontinue letters and free play coupons sent to new members. Very few are used and it's an expense to the district.

Social Media

Marc Sylvester maintains a Facebook page for District 5, and there is a link to it on the District 5 website. Please "like" us, post pictures, and add bridge stories.

Education

Jan Assini distributed copies of the charter of the restructured Howard Lebow Fund. This year there were 3 scholarships of \$150 each presented to students in the Cleveland school bridge program. In the future there will be an application/nomination form on the District 5 webpage.

Lorraine Hanna reported on an after-school program in the Pittsburgh area. There are 3 or 4 tables, and this year there will be a beginners' and intermediate

class. There are lots of volunteers. There are plans to add an in-school program in another district in the fall.

Bill Holt reported on LB1D, which was held yesterday. There were 10 tables of students and 11 volunteers. Feedback was very positive. 20 of the students plan to attend the free supervised play follow-up next week, which consists of 12 prepared deals. Whirlwind Bridge charges \$150/year for an organization to run an unlimited number of programs.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

Tournament Coordinator – Lou reported that Alex Bealles resigned; the new coordinator is Barb Bergman. She is designing a new spreadsheet and will send emails to each unit Tournament Coordinator.

Charity Funds – Sharon reported that the District will receive money from the ACBL Charity Foundation in 2016. There will be \$30,000 which can be divided as many as 5 ways. Players are encouraged to nominate local charities, which must be 501c3 approved. Sharon will receive nominations; a procedure will be announced. Mary will send emails to Unit Presidents when a procedure has been developed.

Election – Lou thanked the board members, executive board, tournament chairs and officers for their hard work during his presidency. He then opened the floor for nominations. Each of the following was the only candidate for the position and was unanimously elected:

- President: Jan Assini
- Vice President: Marc Sylvester
- Treasurer: Brian Ellis

Mary Paulone Carns was appointed Secretary.

Bridge in Canton – Terry Kessler reported that Unit 213 has leased space, and there are games every day but Sunday.

ADJOURNMENT

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