

**ACBL DISTRICT 5 BOARD MEETING
Sunday May 29, 2016**

MINUTES

ATTENDANCE

Officers Present: Marc Sylvester (Vice President), Brian Ellis (Treasurer)

Executive Board
Members Present: Barbara Bacon, Sharon Fairchild, Chris Urbanek

Executive Board
Members Absent: Jan Assini (President), Barbara Bergman, Mary Paulone Carns

Unit Representatives Present: Bob Ryan (107); Elizabeth Goldthwait (111); Dian Petrov, Saleh Fetouh (116); Barbara Greenspan, Bernie Greenspan, Bill Hogsett, Jim Zimmerman (125); Rick Klapthor (127); Bernie Fudor, Asim Ulke (142); Jill Otte (213); Barb Grzegorzewski (226); David Rupert (229)

Units Not Represented: 129, 148, 177, 185

Guests: Jim Fasnacht (107); Richard Goldthwait (111); Paul Caplan, Cathy Caplan (142); Terry Kessler (213); Steve Grzegorzewski, Bev Titzel (226); Lois Porter (229); Robert Hartman (CEO of the ACBL)

WELCOME

The meeting was called to order at 5:06 PM by Vice President Marc Sylvester, who asked for a moment of silence in memory of Lou Joseph. 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. He reported that regionals have been steady. In response to a question about spending the money we have made, and Brian said that we need a cushion in case money is needed in the future. Regarding spending on education: Brian said that \$20,000 has been set aside, and that bridge teachers need to submit their requests. The report was approved.

National Board Items—Sharon Fairchild distributed and discussed the District Newsletter. She asked that we share her report with our clubs, so that our constituents understand the programs our district provides. Robert Hartman commended our hospitality and friendliness at our regionals.

Fifth Column—No report but no problems noted.

SPECIAL COMMITTEES

REGIONAL TOURNAMENT REPORTS

All American Regional (ongoing) – Sharon Fairchild reported that attendance has been steady. The hotel sold out so in the future reservations should be made early.

Roni Atkins Pittsburgh Regional – Mary and Barb were absent. Mary emailed a report. Flyers were available and members were asked to distribute them locally and at any out-of-town tournaments they attend. The new site is in Monroeville at the new convention center. New this year is a full schedule on Tuesday, with a bracketed KO and a stratified pairs starting at 1:00.

Buffalo Regional – Chris Urbanek said that the tournament is Oct. 18-23 at the Adam's Mark. There is no conflict with the Niagara Falls (Ontario) regional.

Rock and Roll Regional (2017) – No report.

NAOP and GNT

Barb Bacon reported that the dates for the NAP qualifier have been changed to Oct. 8-9. There are bridge rates at the Comfort Inn. We need to encourage participation via our local clubs.

STaC

Mary was absent and emailed her report. The next STaC is June 13-19; registration is proceeding. The fee per table is \$7 rather than \$6, the entire increase going to the ACBL.

Website

It is requested that tournament chairs send the webmaster a copy of the flyer as soon as it has been approved by the ACBL.

Membership

Marc Sylvester reported.

- We have 3378 district members with 214 new members.
- We have 64.9% membership retention.
- Our average age is 73.02, the 3rd oldest.

Social Media

Marc suggested that members check out the Facebook page.

Education

Chris Urbanek reported.

- The education fund won't pay for teachers but will pay for supplies and refreshments.
- Two middle school programs are starting in Buffalo.
- Saleh Fetouh distributed information about "Bridge: The Next Generation", a 501C3 program in the Silicon Valley. The consensus was not to adopt this program.

OLD BUSINESS

Lebow Fund – Barb Bacon discussed the scholarship application. It will appear on the District 5 website and applications can be turned into Chris Urbanek.

NEW BUSINESS

Charity Funds – Fourteen charities were nominated to receive funds from the ACBL Charity Foundation. There were presentations concerning each charity. The membership voted in two rounds, and selected the following charities to receive \$6,000 each:

- Dale Association Senior Center, Buffalo

- The Midlothian Free Health Clinic, Youngstown
- Little Portion Priory, Buffalo
- Women's Recovery Center of Cleveland
- Greater Cleveland Food Bank

Starting Times at Regionals – We discussed start times for regionals with the possibility of changing from 1 and 7 to 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. Comments included that we would lose morning knockout participation; we would lose the attraction of the evening hospitality; and we would lose people who work during the week. We will discuss this again in Sept. Robert Hartman said that in many cities 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. works but outside the cities 1 p.m. and 7 p.m. often is preferred.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no additional business, the meeting was adjourned.

Mary thanks Steve and Barb Grzegorzewski for taking notes at this meeting.