

**ACBL DISTRICT 5 BOARD MEETING
Sunday September 4, 2016**

MINUTES

ATTENDANCE

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

Executive Board
Members Present: Barbara Bacon, Barbara Bergman, Mary Paulone
Carns, Sharon Fairchild, Jim Overcashier

Executive Board
Members Absent: Chris Urbanek

Unit Representatives Present: Robert Ryan (107); Elizabeth Goldthwait (111); Dian
Petrov (116); Barbara Greenspan, Bernie Greenspan
(125); Rick Klapthor (127); Ron Franck, Lorraine Hanna,
Jane Marshall, Ruthie Neafach (142); Bud Kury (185); Jill
Otte (213); Barb Grzegorzewski (226); David Ruppert
(229)

Units Not Represented: 129, 148, 177

Guests: Ken Gibson (107); Lynn Rafferty (111); Terry Kessler
(213); Steve Grzegorzewski (226); Lois Porter (229)

WELCOME

The meeting was called to order at 5:10 PM by President Jan Assini. All attendees introduced themselves.

PRESIDENT'S REMARKS/CORRESPONDENCE

Jan announced that Jim Overcashier is a new member of the Executive Board, serving a 1-year term to complete the term of Lou Joseph.

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 the trend of decreasing attendance is continuing. The apparent treasury balance is up by \$10,000, but we received \$20,000 in returned cash advances, so the real balance is down by \$10,000. GNT lost money, and Cleveland (May) had a small profit.

National Board Items—Sharon Fairchild discussed the District Newsletter. She had previously sent a copy to all District members who have an email address.

Fifth Column—e-mail blasts are being sent when issues are posted.

SPECIAL COMMITTEES

REGIONAL TOURNAMENT REPORTS

All American Regional – Sharon Fairchild reported that it is not possible to offer a full day event on Tuesday because the space had previously been committed. The new site is nice. The schedule next year will be similar. The District will change the ceiling of B in stratified events to 2500 from 2000, starting in May 2017.

Roni Atkins Pittsburgh Regional (ongoing) – Mary reported that things are going well at the new site. There are a few glitches to be worked out. There has been positive feedback about the site. There were some problems with reservations. Representatives were asked to tell their constituents to contact Mary if there are reservation issues in the future.

Buffalo Regional – Jan Assini reported for Chris Urbanek. The deadline for the bridge rate is Sept. 17.

Rock and Roll Regional (2017) – Jan reported that Monica distributed flyers. The reservation deadline is Dec. 17 and the site is expected to sell out.

NAOP and GNT

Barb Bacon reported that we have a contract with the Erie Bridge Association to use their site through 2018. The NAP is Oct. 8-9. There is a bridge rate at the Comfort Inn for which the deadline is Sept 9. A question was asked about how players can learn when qualifying games are. Barb sent flyers to club managers and asked them to publicize games. Steve G said that when he was in charge, he posted a list that he obtained by contacting all club managers. The opinion was voiced that players don't want to pay the extra fees to play in the qualifying games. It was suggested that emphasizing that 25% of overall points are gold might help attendance. If the event is going to grow, it has to start at flight C. An

email blast is planned. Also a pdf flyer could be attached to email and printed locally.

STaC

Mary reported no problems.

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 3482 district members with 219 new members. Most growth is in the small units.
- D5 new membership retention is #1 in the ACBL.
- Average length of membership is 21.25 years, 25th of 25 in the ACBL. This is considered to be a negative, as it suggests that there aren't enough new members.
- Our average age is 73.19, the 2nd oldest.

Social Media

Marc said that we have a Facebook page, but it gets very little use. He takes pictures at tournaments and posts them.

Education

Jan Assini reported for Chris Urbanek.

- Buffalo now has a BiS program.
- Pittsburgh's BiS program has 3 schools.
- There is bridge education in a middle school and high school in Crawford County, and Barb G. is working on establishing a college team.
- Cuyahoga Falls is working on getting into a school, teaching grades 7-8.
- There are educational funds available through the District.
- Barb G. said that there are "Teach Me to Play" books for sale at ½ price.
- Brad Sevcik, originally from District 5, won the college teams competition, which awards a large cash prize.

OLD BUSINESS

Starting Times at Regionals – Brian Ellis continued the discussion which was started in May, regarding the possibility of moving District 5 regional starting

times to 10 and 3 from the current 1 and 7. (Buffalo already uses the earlier times). Representatives were supposed to get feedback and present it here. Pittsburgh wouldn't be able to start at 10:00 on Tuesday (site not available, and won't be available in the future; rush hour is a problem), but Cleveland could potentially change, but not before January 2018 because of the contract. Comments included that people who work would be unable to attend with earlier times and that we don't want to send the message that bridge is a game just for retirees. A straw vote had 20 of 28 in favor of the change. This item will be on the agenda again in May 2017.

NEW BUSINESS

Ann McGilvrey Award – Jan Assini encouraged representatives to make nominations for this award. Marc Sylvester will accept nominations.

Victory Point Scale – Jan Assini said that District 5 uses the 30-point scale, and we are the only District outside of Florida that uses this scale. The plusses and minuses of each scale were discussed. It was decided to take a straw vote, then the representatives will go back to their units and solicit opinions. This item will be on the agenda in May. The results of the straw vote were: 20-point scale—7 votes; 30-point scale—10 votes.

Election – Sharon Fairchild took over the meeting. Each of the following were nominated, and were the only nominations for the office. All were elected by acclamation.

President—Jan Assini

Vice President—Marc Sylvester

Treasurer—Brian Ellis

Jan Assini then appointed Mary Paulone Carns as Secretary.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no additional business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:15.