

ACBL DISTRICT 5 BOARD MEETING
Sunday May 25, 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, John Toy

Executive Board Members Absent: Marc Sylvester, Jim Zimmerman

Unit Representatives Present: Jim Sullivan, Carolyn Sullivan (107); Elizabeth
Goldthwait (111); Chris Urbanek, Patty Rasmus (116);
Barbara Greenspan, Sharon Robertson, Joni Waletzky,
Kathy Sulgrove (125); Ron Franck, Ken Bergman, Jane
Marshall, Barbara Weinstein (142); Terry Kessler (213);
Tom Yusavich (226); Larry Puntureri (229)

Units Not Represented: 127, 129, 148, 177, 185

Guests: Richard Goldthwait (111); Doug Henderson (125); Jim
Overcashier (213); Jane Yusavich (226); Phillipe
Westreich (229); 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. The members gave a round of applause to Sharon Robertson, the winner of the Ann McGilvrey Trophy. The members welcomed guest Doug Henderson who will speak about the Cleveland-Area Bridge in Schools Program.

PRESIDENT'S REMARKS/CORRESPONDENCE

Lou Congratulated Sharon Robertson, and welcomed John Toy, who had been ill.

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:

- Regionals made a decent profit
- Treasury balance is about the same as a year ago
- There was a 10% decrease in attendance over all tournaments
- He distributed the written report for each tournament and other District 5 events
- Question: what are the total income and expenses for the year?
 - Income from ~4000 tables @ \$48 per-→~\$200,000 gross revenue
 - Expenses are allocated to tournaments and to the District

National Board Items—Sharon Fairchild discussed the District Newsletter. She had previously emailed the newsletter and had copies available.

- The ACBL website is being redesigned. There is a link on the old page; both will run in tandem for a while.
- The ACBL is becoming involved with social media. There is a Unit Facebook kit available.
- The Longest Day activities are June 21
- Some special games will be eliminated. See newsletter for a list. These duplicate other games or have a low attendance and/or high cost. If anyone wants to preserve any of these, contact Sharon.

Fifth Column—Sharon Robertson reported that things are running smoothly. It is easier to keep up to the minute since there is no longer a print version.

SPECIAL COMMITTEES

REGIONAL TOURNAMENT REPORTS

All American Regional (ongoing) – Sharon Fairchild reported that the tournament is running smoothly. Attendance is up (by 74 tables as of last evening). There was a Fast Pairs on Wednesday at 10 and 2 which attracted 9 tables. People liked it so it will be run again. In response to a question Sharon said that regulations prohibit running a stratified Swiss opposite the Gold Rush. The simultaneous event must be A/X.

Roni Atkins Pittsburgh Regional –Mary Paulone Carns brought flyers.

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. It is “Gatlinburg style” with multiple motels. There will be traditional prizes and hospitality. There will be new starting times of 10 and 3—there have been a lot of requests for this. (Niagara Falls, ON had a big attendance increase when their times changed). John thanked Patty Rasmus and Jan Assini for all of the work they did while he was ill.

Rock and Roll Regional (2015) – Jim Overcashier reported that committees are in place and the flyer is at the printer.

NAOP and GNT

Sharon reported for Barb Bacon. Dates below assume the event will stay in Erie.

- Dates for 2014
 - GNT: Flights A & C were held in May
 - GNT: 6/7-8 Superflight and B
 - NAOP: 10/11-12
- Dates for 2015
 - GNT: 4/25-26 Flights A & C
 - GNT: 5/2-3 Superflight and B
 - NAOP: 10/3-4

The order of events has been A & C first weekend and Superflight/B the second weekend. The reasoning is that if someone doesn't qualify the first weekend s/he can “play up” the second weekend. An informal poll showed no strong feelings about changing this order. There was discussion about better publicity and also a suggestion that increasing the upper limit for B & C might help. The latter is a decision that would have to be made by the ACBL.

STaC

Mary Paulone Carns reported that the Winter STaC went well, and the rule was implemented allowing playing directors and their partners to be in the overalls in small games (fewer than 5 tables). The Summer STaC is June 9-15.

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

Jan Assini gave a brief report for Marc Sylvester. All new members receive a letter and a coupon for a free play at a District 5 regional session.

Education

Jan Assini said that there were 88 students playing bridge on Thursday via the Field Trip. We will offer free student memberships to selected students.

Jan introduced Doug Henderson, who heads the Bridge in Schools program in the Cleveland area. Doug spoke to the group. He said that he became involved via his long-term advocacy of urban education. The program is currently in 3 schools and a fourth has been recruited. It targets Middle School students. He taught a class of 20 students during the school day for a period of 1 hr 15 min. Lou asked him for tips in starting a program, noting that Cleveland has been successful and other areas in District 5 have not. He personally met with school district officials and presented bridge as “chess with cards and a partner”. They had a pilot program, and found an interested principal. The program worked better during the school day than after school. Kathy Sulgrove who previously worked in the program commented that it worked better as an elective, rather than a mandatory class. Lou commended Doug for his hard work and his success.

OLD BUSINESS

Bookseller – Lou Joseph said Rose Cassmer is at the tournament and selling. People seem to be happy about that. He thanked Mary and Brian for helping to set up the program.

Olympiad – Sharon Fairchild reported that Dick Early runs the Olympiad every other year. It is a 2-day tournament for 0-750 players, and he reviews the hands afterwards. It is a lot of work. Dick wants to continue the event but he is looking for an administrator. Volunteers are requested.

Regional Attendance – Barbara Bergman reported that we have an aging population, and membership is decreasing. She thinks that a quick fix for falling attendance might be earlier starting times. The Buffalo Regional in October may serve as a test, but since it has a new site, the effect might be diluted.

NEW BUSINESS

Bridge Finesse – Mary reported that the District is working with Bridge Finesse, which provides an online partnership desk and Fast Results. These services are available to all Regionals and Sectionals in the District. They request a donation of \$25 per sectional, sent to the ACBL Education Foundation, if the services are used and if the Unit can afford it.

Promoting District 5 Events – Sharon reported that District 5 is known for its hospitality and the NLM programs. She suggested that there could be pictures on the internet showing people having fun at bridge tournaments.

Barb Greenspan said that club managers feel left out and feel that they don't get services from the District. She suggested that there be meetings of club managers at tournaments. Lou appointed Barb to coordinate this effort.

ACBL CEO attending Pittsburgh Regional – Lou reported that Robert Hartman will be in Pittsburgh. Dates and events are to be determined.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no additional business, at 6:20 PM, the meeting was adjourned.