

**ACBL DISTRICT 5 BOARD MEETING
Sunday September 3, 2017**

MINUTES

ATTENDANCE

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

Executive Board
Members Present: Mary Paulone Carns, Sharon Fairchild, Chris Urbanek

Executive Board
Members Absent: Barbara Bacon , Barbara Bergman, Jim Overcashier

Unit Representatives Present: Robert Ryan (107); Elizabeth Goldthwait (111); Davis
Heussler, Joan Rose (116); Chuck Ladiha, Bernie
Greenspan, Barbara Greenspan, Greg Michaels (125);
Rick Klapthor (127); Lorraine Hanna, Chris Wang, Ruthie
Neafach, Jeanne Baseman (142); Nora Murphy (148);
Bud Kury (185); Jill Otte (213); Barb Grzegorzewski
(226); Lois Porter (229)

Units Not Represented: 129, 177

Guests: Ken Gibson (107); Richard Goldthwait (111); Barbara
Hiesle (148); Leo Mann (213); Steve Grzegorzewski
(226)

WELCOME

The meeting was called to order at 5:20 PM by President Jan Assini. All attendees introduced themselves.

PRESIDENT'S REMARKS/CORRESPONDENCE

Jan said that this is her last meeting as president and thanked the board. She reminded guests to abstain from voting.

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 regional attendance has been stable, as is the treasury balance. Regionals in Pittsburgh and Buffalo were profitable; All American Regional (Cleveland, May) had a substantial loss, and the GNT's lost money as expected.

National Board Items—Sharon Fairchild emailed her report after the Summer NABC. She reviewed these items: The STOP card will not be used in tournaments as of January 1; STOP cards will be removed from District-owned bid boxes. Note that players still must pause after a skip bid. There is a new set of laws listed in the report.

SPECIAL COMMITTEES

REGIONAL TOURNAMENT REPORTS

Roni Atkins Pittsburgh Regional (ongoing) – Mary reported that the tournament is going well. Attendance was up early in the week but has been declining toward the weekend.

Buffalo Regional –Chris Urbanek reported that the tournament is October 17-22 at the Adam's Mark. She brought flyers and asked members to distribute them. Early times (10 & 3) have had mixed reviews and will continue this time. The prize room is wonderful, as usual for Buffalo.

Rock and Roll Regional (2018) – Jan Assini reported for Jim Overcashier. Flyers are here. Deadline for room reservations at the bridge rate is Dec. 8.

All American Regional – Sharon Fairchild is working on the schedule. Times are 1 and 7. The Regional lost money in May. This is related to the fact that the room block didn't make. People reserved rooms, preventing others from reserving, then many cancelled at the last minute. At NABC's, the ACBL is now charging a one-night nonrefundable reservation fee, however that wouldn't have been enough to save us.

NAOP and GNT

Sharon Fairchild reported for Barb Bacon. Dates are set through 2020, and published on the District Website. 2017: Oct. 7-8; 2018: May 5-6 and Oct. 6-7.

STaC

Mary reported that things are going well. The penalty for paying late was effective. Alex is doing a wonderful job directing.

Website

Mary reported that the new webmaster as of December 1 will be Robert Zimmermann from Pittsburgh. Please continue to send electronic versions of sectional flyers, once approved, to the webmaster.

Membership

Marc Sylvester reported, giving a snapshot from June.

- Membership is 3,399, down 2.4% over 12 months. There were 195 new members, and 279 members lost.
- Our average age is 73.67, the 2nd oldest behind Florida (average 74.28). ACBL average age is 72.08.
- Average length of membership is 21.24 years, longest in the ACBL (average 18.73). This is considered to be a negative, as it suggests that there aren't enough new members.

Social Media

Marc said that there is not much action on the Facebook page. Jan encouraged people to post.

Education

Chris Urbanek reported

- Buffalo held a summer program for students (middle school and high school). The Bridge Center donates space.
- Six Buffalo students attended the Youth NABC. They did well and had their picture in the local paper
- District 5 has funds available to help with teaching amenities such as refreshments and supplies.
- The Howard Lebow award went to Grace Connelly. Barb Grzegorzewski gave information about her.
- Barb G. reported on the bridge programs for students in her area (Meadville, PA).
 - Middle and High School students attended BiS through their gifted programs
 - College students competed at the national level
 - Students prefer live bridge to online—once they attend a bridge club, they're hooked

- Pittsburgh area
 - Jeanne Baseman at Fox Chapel Middle School has 22-26 kids in grades 6-8
 - Ruthie Nefach is at Woodland Hills
 - Paul Caplan is in contact with East Allegheny

OLD BUSINESS

Remote Events at Regionals – Sharon reported that a live regional can run an online game (one per tournament) that is at local clubs. This is done via the Common Game. Some clubs have been running these games.

NEW BUSINESS

Election – The following were nominated and elected unanimously:
President—Marc Sylvester
Vice President—Mary Paulone Carns
Treasurer—Brian Ellis
Marc appointed Mary as secretary.

ADJOURNMENT

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