

DISTRICT 5 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE BOARD MEETING
May 27, 2017

MINUTES

ATTENDANCE

Officers Present: Jan Assini, Marc Sylvester, Brian Ellis

Representatives Present: Barbara Bacon,
Mary Paulone Carns, Sharon Fairchild,
Jim Overcashier, Chris Urbanek

Representatives Absent: Barbara Bergman

Guests: None

WELCOME/PRESIDENT'S REMARKS

President Jan Assini called the meeting to order at 10:30 AM. She thanked Sharon and Barb Bacon for doing a great job running the current regional.

MINUTES FROM THE LAST MEETING

The minutes had previously been emailed to the members. The minutes were approved.

COMMITTEES

Treasurer's Report –Brian presented a written and oral treasurer's report.

- Attendance has been roughly stable.
- Treasury balance is slightly up.
- Marc pointed out that since there was no team entered for flight C of the GNT, we will save the \$1000 subsidy that would have been given to the winner. In response to a question, Sharon said that if there was exactly 1 team entered in a flight, that team would win, and would get the subsidy; but would not get MPs for the district level, per ACBL rules.

Report of the District Director [was presented later in the meeting] – Sharon Fairchild previously emailed her newsletter.

- The search for a new CEO for the ACBL is underway. There are some good candidates.
- The deadline for BOG nominations is at the end of May. 3 positions are available. Brian has submitted his notification. Barb Bacon doesn't plan to run. Possibilities for the other positions were discussed.

Fifth Column – Mary reported that based on a webpage counter, there are approximately 100 views per issue. Expenses include a stipend for the editor (\$900/year), rooms and

entries at regionals for the editor, and 2 entries per column for unit contributors. Not all perks are used but the potential exposure is substantial. There were 33 free plays used between Pittsburgh and the Rock 'n' Roll Regional (value \$12 each).

Discussion included whether having a print version of the column is worth the effort and expense. The ACBL and District 5 web pages contain the schedules and results; the D5 Facebook page is underutilized but could be used to post the social information that is currently in the Fifth column. Anyone who "likes" the page can post.

After discussion, it was voted unanimously to discontinue the Fifth Column following the June issue which is currently in production. Sharon Robertson will receive her stipend for this year; and contributors holding unexpired free entries may still use them. Mary will notify unit Presidents, and Jan will speak with Sharon R.

All American Regional (ongoing) – Sharon Fairchild reported

- Attendance was down early in the week but is increasing now.
- There were a few glitches with the hotel.
- New contracts were negotiated through 2020. Snack bar prices have decreased immediately and sales are up.
- There was a discussion regarding the possibility of starting on Tuesday afternoon. The ballroom is in use. Potential alternatives are agreed not to be suitable.
- Gus Costanzo is retiring at the end of business today. Ken Van Cleve will make an announcement and there will be an acknowledgement at the workers' party.
- Following a discussion, it is recommended that tournament chairs should post information re hours and days that the book seller will be available.

Pittsburgh Labor Day Regional – Mary reported that Barb Bergman is ill and will be unable to serve as co-chair this year.

Buffalo Regional – Chris Urbanek reported.

- Times of 10:30 and 2:30 will continue.
- The hotel contract runs through 2019. Chris & Betty will get a quote from Grand Island before negotiating the next contract.
- Chris brought flyers for distribution.

Rock and Roll Regional (2018) – Jim Overcashier is working on a schedule and flyer. Times will be 10 and 3. He is considering having zip KOs or horizontal swiss in the evenings.

Rock and Roll Regional (2019) – Jan reported that Jill Smith and Bill Hogsett will chair.

NAOP and GNT – Barb Bacon reported.

- GNT: There were no teams in flight C.
- NAOP is scheduled for October 7-8. Barb considered 2 consecutive weekends but she is unable to get 2 consecutive Sundays off work.
- In the NAOP District event, flight B winners got more points than the championship and A events (because of # of teams). Sharon said that ACBL HQ is considering remedies to prevent this sort of thing in the future.

- Regarding CoC, there have been no recent complaints. Barb thanked Marc; Mike Roberts and Alex Bealles contributed. The board agreed that this group may make tweaks to the CoC without board approval, only for clarity.
- Barb announced that she is retiring after the 2018 events.

STaC – Mary reported that the extra \$1 fee imposed by the ACBL a few years ago was rescinded. Total fee to clubs will be \$6 per table. She hopes that those clubs who withdrew due to this fee will once again participate. CoC were revised to add ***Clubs who haven't paid within the time limit may get an email from Mary. If the club then doesn't pay within a week of the email, that club will not be allowed to participate in the next D5 STaC.***

Website – No issues reported.

Membership – Marc Sylvester reported that membership is 3331 as of March. That is a 1.39% decrease over 12 months. We are 20th of 25 Districts. There were 611 new members over 1 year, with a 68.25% retention rate (first in the ACBL). Average age is 73.51 (23rd of 25). Average age of all ACBL members is 72.01. Average length of membership is 21.53 years. That is not considered to be good, because there are too few new members.

Social Media – Marc reported that there is still very little activity.

Education – Chris Urbanek reported that the Buffalo unit is subsidizing a student program. Four to six students are going to the Youth NABC. One nomination was received for the Lebow award. The winner is Grace Connolly, nominated by Barb Grzegorzewski.

OLD BUSINESS

Starting Times at Regionals – Brian reported that this will be voted on at the Full Board Meeting tomorrow.

Victory Point Scale – Will be discussed and voted on at the Full Board meeting. A straw poll was 4-3 in favor of keeping the 30 point scale.

GNT/NAOP site – Barb Bacon said that no appropriate new sites have been identified.

Cell Policy – Sharon reported that signs have been posted.

District Director Candidates – Sharon will announce her impending retirement tomorrow at the meeting of the Full Board. If no one professes interest in the position, we need to actively recruit appropriate candidates.

Handling Funds – Sharon got information from the ACBL. Procedures need to include at a minimum depositing funds daily if not into a bank then into a safe deposit box. Brian said that PNC charges a fee for "excessive deposits". Brian and Jan will meet with the bank.

Remote Regionals – Sharon got more information from Jay Whipple. The Remote Regional is a one-day event in which 2 sets of 18 boards are played back-to-back in conjunction with a regional. Players use their own computers at a club. 4:45 pm is the optimal starting time. In response to a question: we don't know whether this is a separate event or a portion of a "live" event at a regional. Originally the board declined permission for District 5 members to participate, pending more information, but at least one district club has hosted such an event. More information needed.

NEW BUSINESS

Bookseller – Issue was resolved before the meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 12:10.