

DISTRICT 5 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE BOARD MEETING
September 2, 2017

MINUTES

ATTENDANCE

Officers Present: Jan Assini, Marc Sylvester, Brian Ellis

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

Representatives Absent: Barbara Bergman, Jim Overcashier

Guests: None

WELCOME/PRESIDENT'S REMARKS

President Jan Assini called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM. She said that this is her last meeting as president and that she enjoyed her term.

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 stable to slightly up.
- Treasury balance is slightly down compared to a year ago.
- The May Cleveland tournament and the GNT lost money. Sharon said that in Cleveland, the room nights didn't make the guarantee due to late cancellations. We were low by 50 room nights, which we had to pay for. For the new contract, the block is smaller.

Report of the District Director – Sharon Fairchild previously emailed her newsletter.

- The new CEO is energetic. Currently there is a period of assessment. We are gathering ideas and information about finances from each district.
- Board procedures are more efficient.
- For the BOG, one must arrange and sign one's own proxy. The District Director may no longer do it.

Pittsburgh Labor Day Regional (ongoing) – Mary reported that the Doubletree/Convention Center is under new management and there have been personnel changes. Currently the venue is unwilling to negotiate any contracts past October 2018, so we are unable to discuss the next contract here. Mary plans to speak with the local

CEO and also investigate other venues if no contract will be forthcoming. Attendance to date is up by about 40 tables.

Buffalo Regional – Chris Urbanek reported.

- Times of 10:30 and 2:30 will continue.
- Hospitality will be between sessions in the form of a light meal.
- Dates for future tournaments were discussed.
 - 2020: possibilities are 10/13-18 (Columbus day is 10/12) and 10/20-25 (coincides with Lancaster)
 - 2021: possibilities are 10/12-17 (Columbus day is 10/11) and 10/19-24. Niagara Falls Regional is that fall also.
 - The board agreed that the earlier dates were better in each case unless there is a conflict with Lancaster or Ken Van Cleve is unavailable.
- Betty is going to investigate Grand Island as an alternate site.

Rock and Roll Regional (2018) – Jan Assini reported for Jim Overcashier. Plans are progressing; Jan is distributing flyers. Sharon Fairchild is taking reservations for rooms.

All American Regional– Sharon Fairchild reported

- The schedule isn't made yet, but the tournament will start Tuesday evening.
- Times will be 1 and 7, per board vote in May.
- The smoking area will be moved further from the door.

Rock and Roll Regional (2019) – Jan reported that Jill Smith and Bill Hogsett will chair. Times will be determined after evaluating the 2018 event.

NAOP and GNT – Barb Bacon reported.

- We have a contract with Erie Bridge Association through October 2018. The room was crowded in October; and some teams reportedly didn't attend in May because of crowding.
- Barb and Sharon looked at alternate sites.
 - Clarion Hotel, downtown Erie (previously the Avalon)
 - Plusses are space and guest room quality
 - Minuses are we can't bring food; need to rent tables; lighting not great
 - Parking is adequate
 - Cost for weekend \$2000-\$3000
 - Quality Inn, Peach Street, near Casino: Not available on desired dates
 - ZemZem Conference Center
 - Plusses are many event rooms of various prices, parking, lighting, access to restaurants, coffee & tea \$1 per person per day, could have a concession stand
 - Minus: would have to get tables. Possibilities were discussed including buying (\$26+/table, would require storage), renting from Cleveland (requires transportation)
 - Cost \$300 per day without food
 - Hotel at Lake Conneaut. Not a possibility
 - Canton (Ohio) Bridge Club

- They are interested, reasonably priced and have room for 30 tables, which are provided
 - Not centrally located
- Rocky River Memorial Hall
 - Good setting, currently play bridge there, \$300-\$500
 - Not central
- Erie Bridge Association (current location)
 - Too crowded, no place for overflow
 - Can't store supplies there (Marc Sylvester will keep supplies)
- CoC: Marc reported that he is working with Alex to refine Coc's. Barb Bacon will send proposal to Horn Lake.
- Discussion:
 - Could NAP be only one day? Answer believed to be "no" because Saturday is actually the combined Unit Final and Sunday is the District final.
 - How to get "live" results? Director uploads to ACBL Live. Marc will speak with Alex.

STaC – Mary reported that the Summer STaC went very well. Alex is the best STaC director she has worked with. Also the new policy of enforcing timely payment under penalty of future nonparticipation worked extremely well. All clubs paid on time!

Website – Bill Holt is retiring as of December 1. Mary has recruited Bob Zimmermann of Pittsburgh. Bill will help with the transition.

Membership – Marc Sylvester will present the report at the meeting of the Full Board tomorrow.

Social Media – Marc announced the current tournament on Facebook.

Education – Chris Urbanek reported.

- The District Education Fund
 - subsidized supplies for teaching for Tommie Ruehr.
 - subsidized Buffalo's summer teaching program. Space was donated by the Bridge Center of Buffalo.
- Bridge In Schools
 - Canton is starting a program run by Jill Otte
 - Pittsburgh has programs in 3 schools, headed by Jeanne Baseman, Paul Caplan, and Kathy Mulligan-Dan McKinley
 - Cleveland has 2 schools headed by Doug Henderson
- Buffalo had 6-7 kids go to the Youth NABC in Toronto. They received publicity in the local paper.

OLD BUSINESS

Remote Regionals – Sharon and Mary discussed that although the District voted (in part because of lack of sufficient information) not to allow participation in remote regionals, at

least one director (Dian Petrov) ran games and the district received some funds as a result of this. He is asking to receive some of the funds. The board decided that for now we would remit all of the received funds back to the clubs. Mary will ask Dian to propose a process to, at a minimum, know who is running these events, how many tables, how much money is generated/received by the district, and how to pay the clubs. [NOTE: After the meeting, Mary learned that Dian is the only director who successfully held games. Shortly thereafter, the ACBL suspended this program. Mary worked with Dian and Brian to get the funds to him].

Tuesday Schedule/All American Regional – Sharon reported that the Ballroom isn't available Tuesday afternoon.

District Director Candidates – Sharon spoke to 2 people who might be interested in running. Brian Ellis reported that he is one of the candidates and plans to run. If there is more than one candidate, there will be an election.

Handling Funds – Money will be deposited daily, into the bank if possible. If that is not possible, it will be in a safe deposit box.

NEW BUSINESS

Appeals Chairman – Kumar Bhatia is moving out of the country. Jan Assini is going to take care of appointing a new chair.

McGilvrey Meeting Site – Mary reported on discussions at the McGilvrey meetings. As members age, they are less likely to travel for meetings. Voting by proxy is not suitable because sensitive issues are often discussed. Since the meeting has been in Cleveland for many years, there is an increased chance that the committee will contain an excess of members from Cleveland. She suggested having the meetings rotate among the 3 cities yearly. A 3-year trial will begin in 2018. Locations will be:
2018—Buffalo
2019—Pittsburgh
2020—Cleveland (May)

District Service Award – Mary reported that there have been several nominations for the McGilvrey Award for which the letter discussed the nominee's service. The purpose of the award, however, is to honor conduct and ethics. Mary suggested a separate award for service. She will work up a proposal and present it in January.

Executive Board Meeting Time in January – Because of the early starting times scheduled for the January Regional, the meeting will be Saturday between sessions. Sharon Fairchild will arrange a catered lunch.

Financial Safety – Sharon previously sent email regarding financial scams that have taken place in other Districts. We have controls already in place so these particular scams wouldn't work here.

Election Tomorrow –Election of officers is tomorrow at the meeting of the Full Board.

Tournament Coordinator – Mary said that we need a backup for Tournament Coordinator as Barb Bergman is currently unable to perform these duties. Barbara Bacon will perform these duties in Barb Bergman’s absence.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 12:00.