

**ACBL DISTRICT 5 BOARD MEETING  
Sunday September 2, 2018**

**MINUTES**

**ATTENDANCE**

Officers Present: Marc Sylvester (President), Mary Paulone Carns, (Vice President), Brian Ellis (Treasurer)

Executive Board Members Present: Jan Assini, Barbara Bacon, Sharon Fairchild, Jim Overcashier, Chris Urbanek

Executive Board Members Absent: Ron Franck

Unit Representatives Present: Jim Fasnacht (107); Gary Singer (111); Sharon Benz, Dian Petrov (116); Barbara Greenspan, Chuck Ladiha, Pat Chisholm, Bernie Greenspan (125); Lorraine Hanna, Chris Wang (142); Nora Murphy (148); Maria Toner (177); Pat Levy (213); Barb Grzegorzewski (226); Chuck Weber (229)

Units Not Represented: 127, 129, 185

Guests: Paula Rabinowitz (107); Ruthe Mayberry (111); Maryanne Blair (148); Sarah Crall (177); Steve Grzegorzewski (226); Bill Stewart (229)

**WELCOME**

The meeting was called to order at 5:15 PM by President Marc Sylvester.

**PRESIDENT'S REMARKS/CORRESPONDENCE**

Marc thanked all for attending. All attendees introduced themselves.

**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, and the cash balance has increased.

Pittsburgh (2017) and Cleveland (January and May) were highly successful. The GNT's lost money as expected because of subsidies.

**National Board Items**—Marc reported that this is Sharon Fairchild's last Board Meeting as District Director. She has served for 21 years. He thanked her for her time, energy, and representation. There was a round of applause.

Sharon reported on the Atlanta meetings. All tournaments must use Zero Tolerance. District Directors will be term-limited to 4 consecutive terms (12 years). The upcoming STaC rules requiring all clubs to have duplicated boards have been postponed to 2021 to allow clubs to determine how to accomplish this. In answer to a question, Sharon said that there is no national policy about scents.

## **SPECIAL COMMITTEES**

### **REGIONAL TOURNAMENT REPORTS**

**All American Regional**— Sharon reported that we have renegotiated our contract with the Embassy Suites so there should be more money to spend on players.

**Roni Atkins Pittsburgh Regional (ongoing)** – Mary reported that attendance is somewhat down but no more so than the populations of the District and the Units. We have a new 3-year contract with the Doubletree in Green Tree starting in 2019. The first year will be one week later than usual, and will be a 6-day tournament, Tuesday through Sunday.

**Buffalo Regional** –Chris Urbanek brought flyers. The upcoming tournament will have playing times of 10 and 3. Hospitality will consist of a light lunch between sessions. This year the tournament will be dedicated to the memory of John Toy, the long-time chair. The Adams Mark has been sold. Our contract runs through 2019.

**Rock and Roll Regional (2018 & 2020)** –Jim Overcashier reported that 2018 was successful despite a snowstorm. Times of 10 and 3 were successful and are planned for 2020.

**Rock and Roll Regional (2019)** – Jan Assini reported for Jill Smith and Bill Hogsett. Flyers are here. There is an early deadline for room reservations.

## **NAOP and GNT**

Marc announced that Barb Bacon is retiring after having served for 8 years; Ron Franck is taking over. There was a round of applause in honor of Barb. Barb announced that the NAP is October 6-7 in Erie. Ron is doing hospitality, including cookies. We have a contact through 2020. We looked at other sites but none are

suitable. We like the Erie Bridge Association building but the size is limited so we can't grow.

### **STaC**

Mary reported that the Summer STaC went well. The previously announced new requirement making preduplicated hands necessary in order for clubs to participate in the open event, has been postponed to 2021.

### **Website**

Mary reported that we have a new webmaster: Bill Hogsett.

### **Membership**

Marc Sylvester reported. Information as of June 30:

- We're 24<sup>th</sup> of 25 in size. We have 3302 members, down 2.8% over 1 year.
- There are 192 new members. Largest gains, in order, are Units 142, 213, and 125.
- In retention of new members we're 4<sup>th</sup> of 25.
- In average age of members, we're 23<sup>rd</sup> of 25. Average age is 73.77 compared with 72.26 in the ACBL.
- Average length of membership is 21.08 years, compared with 18.71 in the ACBL. This is considered to be a negative, as it indicates fewer new members.

### **Social Media**

Marc said that there is limited use of Facebook. Marc posted pictures of new Life Masters from this tournament. Anyone who "likes" the page can post on the site.

### **Education**

Chris Urbanek reported

- District 5 has money for Bridge in Schools, which can pay for supplies and extras (not teachers or rent).
- The Howard Lebow scholarship was awarded to the student discussed at the May meeting.

Barb Grzegorzewski discussed her teaching programs.

- College Program--It is the fifth year of the program, so the initial students have graduated. New students are gained through word of mouth. Unit 226 pays for ACBL memberships. Barb and Steve play with the students every Wed. night. The students competed to go to the NABC but didn't qualify.

- High School Program—There are 55 registrants over 3 classes from 6 high schools. She uses peers to help with teaching.
- Barb met 2 students from CMU at this tournament and discussed the possibility of developing a college team at CMU. Jan Assini volunteered to work with them. Steve can help Jan figure out what to do.
- Barb submitted an application to teach bridge at Chautauqua but she was turned down.

Sharon Benz discussed the program in Buffalo. For the last few years, there have been 3 8-week sessions per year, with 10-23 students, aged 8-17. There are 2 teachers plus 4-5 adult volunteers. Carol Bedell is the recruiter. The next session starts Sept. 16. Eight students went to Atlanta. Sharon distributed a newspaper article.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

**District Director Election** – Sharon reported that the election for District Director is currently underway. She introduced the candidates: Brian Ellis, Jim Overcashier, and Dian Petrov. She requested members to remind Unit Board members to vote. The deadline is Sept. 15, with the results available on Sept. 17. A majority is needed to win. If there is not a majority, the top 2 candidates compete in a second election.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

**Election of Officers** – Jan Assini, past president, took over the meeting. Marc Sylvester was the only nominee for President and was elected unanimously. Marc then took over the meeting. For both remaining positions, there was one nominee who was elected unanimously. Vice-President: Mary Paulone Carns; Treasurer: Brian Ellis. Marc appointed Mary as secretary.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no additional business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:05.