

DISTRICT 5 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE BOARD MEETING
January 12, 2019

MINUTES

ATTENDANCE

Officers Present: Marc Sylvester, Mary Paulone Carns, Brian Ellis

Representatives Present: Jan Assini, Barbara Bacon,
Sharon Fairchild, Ron Franck
Jim Overcashier, Chris Urbanek

Representatives Absent: None

Guests: None

WELCOME/PRESIDENT'S REMARKS

President Marc Sylvester called the meeting to order at 2:15 PM. He welcomed the members, and mentioned that attendance at the current tournament is way up.

MINUTES FROM THE LAST MEETING

The minutes from the September meeting 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. The current tournament is up 100 tables so far.
- The report doesn't include the December STaC.
- The funds currently in the Money Market account will be moved to an account with better interest.
- The Pittsburgh tournament had a gain of \$13,000.
- Report for Buffalo isn't yet complete.

Report of the District Director – Sharon Fairchild previously emailed her report. She reviewed some highlights.

- Sectionals with masterpoint limits under 500 may be run by a club director.
- If there are at least 8 teams in the District Final for the GNT (for flights B & C only), the district may send 2 teams per flight to the NABC portion.
- NABC card fees have increased.
- Joe Jones is the new Executive Director of the ACBL.

Following discussion, the following motion passed, 7-1: If there is a second team sent to the NABC portion of the NABC, the District will subsidize the second team at ½ the rate of the subsidy of the first team.

Sharon thanked the members for the party which was held in her honor.

Rock and Roll Regional (2019) (ongoing) – Sharon reported that all is going well. Food has been a problem because of under-ordering. Attendance is way up. There have been no problems getting sleeping rooms.

All American Regional – Sharon Fairchild reported that plans are underway. Flyers are out. Members were asked to take flyers and distribute them in their units.

Pittsburgh Labor Day Regional– Mary reported that plans are underway. The new site is the DoubleTree in Greentree. The tournament is a week later than previously and thus will be one day shorter.

Buffalo Regional – Chris Urbanek reported.

- They hope to try the Soloway method for KO's (at least 8 teams must be in the top flight for this to apply). The board agreed.
- They want to try combining all side games into a single continuous pairs event. We're not sure that this is legal, but it's ok if legal.
- The Adam's Mark has been sold and negotiations for the future aren't going well. We have a contract through fall of 2019. Betty will have more information by the next meeting. Betty plans to retire if the negotiations with the Adam's Mark aren't successful.

Rock and Roll Regional (2020) – Jim Overcashier reported.

- Committee Chairs are set.
- The tournament is set for one week earlier than in the past, as is the current tournament. Maybe the good attendance this year means that the new week is better. It also seems that there are more Canadian players than usual. Jim suggested that the question about preferred weeks can be asked in the post-tournament questionnaire.

NAOP and GNT – Barb Bacon reported that Ron Franck has taken over. Ron reported.

- Ron obtained a contact list for club managers.
- He plans to donate his stipend to pay a person to help with hospitality.

STaC – No report.

Website – Mary reported that Bill Hogsett has taken over the position and has redesigned the website. Members should look at the new site.

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

Social Media – Marc posted a picture from Sharon's party.

Education – Chris Urbanek reported. She distributed a written report from Carol Bedell, Coordinator of Youth Bridge.

- There are 27 students in the program
- Teachers are Sharon Benz, Jim Gullo, and Fred Yellen
- There was an article in the Buffalo News. Chris passed a copy around.
- Students are encouraged to play at BCB games and receive a free membership there.
- Carol expects that students will participate at the next Youth Bridge tournament in Las Vegas next summer.

OLD BUSINESS

McGilvrey Electronic Voting – The process went well in October. The next election will be in May, when it is expected to be in the future.

District 5 Exemplary Service Award – The first award will be given in May. Mary will solicit nominations in the same email that is sent re the McGilvrey. The committee of Marc, Barb, and Mary will choose on behalf of the Executive board.

District Director Election – Sharon reported that Brian Ellis won the election. The Board congratulated him.

NEW BUSINESS

Board Composition – Marc said that the appointments which are usually done in September were delayed pending the results of the election for District Director. As Brian is continuing his role as Treasurer, there is an extra position on the board, which Marc filled by appointing Sharon Fairchild. Barb Bacon and Ron Franck were re-appointed to new terms.

Also, there is an open position on the Board of Governors because Barb Bacon stepped down. In last year's election, the 4th candidate was Gary Singer from Youngstown. He is interested in the position and Marc suggested appointing him. A motion to appoint Gary Singer to the BOG passed unanimously.

The Executive Board Roster and Committee List were distributed by email. Mary asked members to review the information and notify her of corrections.

Rules for Sectional Date Conflicts – Barb Bacon reported that she, as Tournament Coordinator, encountered a situation in which a requested sectional was on a weekend when there was already a tournament in another unit, and both units border the same population center. (This is not the only guideline). Granting the sanction would have violated District policy for sectionals. However, the second unit has very limited times and sites available to them. Additionally, some units have sites that won't allow scheduling far in advance. That puts those units at a disadvantage in scheduling. After consultation with the District President, an exception was granted. Barb requested guidelines for the future.

A meeting was held consisting of a committee of Barb, Sharon, Marc, and Mary. The goal remains to have as few conflicts as possible. However, a review of the District map reveals that there is only 1 Unit (Buffalo) which doesn't border a population area in common with another unit. And 2 small units border several areas that make it very difficult to follow the "population center" guideline. The committee recommended relaxing the guidelines such that every attempt will be made to avoid holding 2 simultaneous sectionals in areas that both border the same population area. However, in consultation with the District President, the Coordinator may allow such sectionals if there is no other reasonable alternative. Violation of the other guidelines would still require a formal exception. The Board agreed with this plan.

Minimum Wage/Pay for Caddies – We periodically review minimum wage laws as they apply to caddies in the 3 states with D5 tournaments. Current minimum wages are: Ohio \$8.55; New York \$11.10; Pennsylvania \$7.25. Our caddy pay is within the most stringent of these guidelines.

Timer Remotes – Brian reported that the remotes for the District-owned timers were lost in Buffalo. He purchased 2 new remotes. There will be a sign in each box with a list of the contents in an attempt to minimize this problem in the future.

Whistleblower policy – Brian investigated the situation in view of a recent issue at the national level. We are incorporated in Ohio, so he reviewed their statute. In Ohio, the statute only applies to employees. Since we have no employees, the statute doesn't apply to us.

Tournament Supplies & Equipment – Mary reported that Ken won't be attending the tournament in Pittsburgh this year due to a conflict. Also, he is planning to retire soon. He provides all of the tournament supplies and equipment for a fee. There is no obvious other person who can step in to fill this role. Buffalo has been able to obtain equipment locally in the past. Pittsburgh 2019 is the most immediate need. For Cleveland and Pittsburgh, Mary suggested the following plans. The information was obtained from Ken. Paper/perishable supplies (pairs & team entries, convention cards, pencils, pickups to use as backups to Bridgemates, Swiss Team reporting forms): chair obtains using guidelines on ACBL website regarding quantities.

Boards, including cards and table cards: 12 sets flip top, 12 sets non-flip; extra cards to replace bad boards; extra cards (sets) to fill boards with new cards; 1 set of table cards per set of pair boards; table cards for Swiss

Dealing Machine

BridgeMates—75 for a D5 tournament

Boards and Dealing machines may be able to be rented from clubs or units. BridgeMates would need to be purchased. Mary will investigate details.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 2:55.