

DISTRICT 5 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE BOARD MEETING
May 25, 2019

MINUTES

ATTENDANCE

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

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

Representatives Absent: Ron Franck

Guests: None

WELCOME/PRESIDENT'S REMARKS

President Marc Sylvester called the meeting to order at 10:25 PM. He welcomed the members. He announced that he will not be running for re-election as Second Alternate.

He said that Detroit mistakenly booked their Regional and want to change it, such that it will conflict with a Cleveland sectional. This is relevant since some Cleveland people go to Detroit Regionals, so sectional attendance could be hurt. The consensus was to give Detroit permission to make the change since the situation was unintentional.

MINUTES FROM THE LAST MEETING

The minutes from the January 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.

- Treasury balance has been stable.
- There have been some difficulties with PNC, but it isn't obvious that any other bank would be better.
- All District-sponsored events, except for the GNT, were profitable. The GNT has a built-in loss because teams get subsidies. Teams who "move up" to replace non-attending teams will also receive subsidies.
- Credit card use reduces the bank service charge for cash deposits.

Report of the District Director – Brian distributed a written report and reviewed the highlights. The report will be on the District 5 website.

- The ACBL lost ~\$2 million in 2018. The main reasons are:
 - Hawaii NABC had poor attendance and low hotel usage, resulting in ~\$800,000 loss

- A software program was unusable; loss of \$300,000
- The employment contract for the previous DEO was enforced in mediation; loss of \$600,000
- A former board member who was expelled will be reinstated; costs were \$200,000
- Brian's opinion is that hotel rates shouldn't exceed \$200 at NABC. The next 2 NABC's are in popular places (Las Vegas--expected attendance 13,500 tables; San Francisco—expected attendance 12,000 tables)
- The theme going forward is to cut expenses. There has been little talk about increasing revenue sources. Brian is on the finance committee and has some ideas.
- Convicted collusive cheaters will be “permanently” expelled from the ACBL but can be readmitted under certain conditions.
- There is discussion about corporate restructuring, having 9 District Directors and transforming the current Board of Governors to the senate, dealing with bridge matters. The senate would have 1 face-to-face meeting per year. In Brian's opinion, based on current online meetings, face-to-face meetings are better.

All American Regional (ongoing) – Sharon Fairchild reported.

- The hotel is working well with us. Temperature control in the ballroom is difficult. They are charging for parking, but bridge players are exempt. If there are issues with this, players should see Sharon or Barb.
- Times in Fast Pairs were changed to lessen the break time (second session starting at 1:30).
- The hotel can accommodate early times, if that option is chosen. They will adjust restaurant opening times. Additionally we can probably go to go to a full day on Tuesday. Survey comments from January suggested strong preference for early times. Following discussion, it was decided to recommend to the full board that early times (10:00 & 2:30) be adopted for the All American Regional starting in May 2020. Board meeting times will have to be determined but possibilities are 8 am Saturday for the executive board and Sunday at 6:30 pm for the Full Board.

Pittsburgh Labor Day Regional– Mary reported that plans are underway. With a new site (Pittsburgh Green Tree Doubletree), new week (starting the day after Labor Day) and new schedule (6 days), it is difficult to know what attendance will be. However, there is only one other ACBL tournament that week, in California, so attendance might improve. Flyers will be distributed at the meeting of the Full Board tomorrow.

Buffalo Regional – Chris Urbanek reported. The hotel is under new management. Negotiations are underway for tournaments starting is 2021.

Rock and Roll Regional (2019) – Sharon reported that attendance was way up.

Rock and Roll Regional (2020) – Nothing to report.

NAOP and GNT – Ron Frank was absent. Barb Bacon spoke with him. We have contracts with Erie Bridge through 2020. Barb will get sanctions for 2020. The May event went well.

STaC – Mary reported that registration is underway. The event is June 10-16.

Website – Mary reported that Bill Hogsett is doing a good job. He developed a “rank advance” system whereby members of D5 who advance in rank get a letter from the District President and a mention on the webpage.

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

Social Media – No report.

Education – Chris Urbanek reported. Buffalo has 31 students who meet on Sunday AM. The Bridge Center donates space. District 5 educational funds subsidize snacks and supplies. Morgan Douglas, a student of Barb Grzegorzewski will receive the Howard Lebow award.

OLD BUSINESS

McGilvrey Award – The process went well with electronic voting. The winner will be announced this afternoon.

District 5 Exemplary Service Award – The process went well and the winner will be announced this afternoon. It was suggested that winners of both this award and the McGilvrey Award receive pins, in addition to trophies. Mary will look into how to accomplish this.

Supplies and Equipment for District 5 Regionals – Mike Roberts has Ken Van Cleve’s equipment and boards. Mary will purchase perishable products for the Pittsburgh Regional (convention cards, entries, swiss team reporting slips, etc.)

Starting Times at May Regional – see discussion under “All American Regional”.

NEW BUSINESS

Club Reimbursement Regarding Regionals – A district member wants District 5 to reimburse his club for losses which occur as a result of closure during Regionals. He provided estimates of ongoing costs of a particular club. After discussion it was determined that this request could not be approved. The main factors were:

- We would have to extend reimbursement to all clubs. In some areas, clubs close for all D5 regionals. The expense would thus be greater than it might seem.
- We would have to assess each club’s expenses to estimate a proper reimbursement. This would be very complex.

D5 Meetings in Pittsburgh – Mary suggested that the meetings be held as follows: Executive Board—Friday morning 10:30; Full Board—Saturday between sessions (approximately 5 PM). These times were agreed.

Time of Meetings if Schedule is 10 & 3 – See discussion under “All American Regional”.

Election for First & Second Alternates – The election is this year, and declarations must be submitted to the ACBL by May 31. This date is strictly enforced.

Timing of January Regional – In 2019, the Rock ‘n’ Roll Regional was held one week earlier than the usual week (new week: ending the day before the second Monday of January). It is scheduled the same in 2020. The tournament was the most successful in years, plus we don’t compete with a hockey tournament. The consensus was to keep the new week. This will be on the agenda of the Full Board in September.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 11:30.