

**MINUTES OF ACBL DISTRICT 4 BOARD MEETING  
Lancaster, Pennsylvania  
November 3, 2007**

Voting Member Attendees:

At-Large: Lois Sanders (Board President), Carl Cronrath (1<sup>st</sup> VP), Joann Glasson (2<sup>nd</sup> VP), Harold Jordan (Immediate Past President), Craig Robinson (National Board), Barbara White (Pres Appt.), Barry Rudner (Pres. Appt.) (7 of 7)  
Unit 112: Warren Marsland, Robert Simard, Arlene Bristol, Peg Clark, Jean Mowry, Dolores Toohey (6 of 6)  
Unit 120: Walt Mitchell, Ray Depew (2 of 2)  
Unit 121: Deepak Khanna, Sue Wessner (for Susan Khanna) (2 of 2)  
Unit 133: Barbara Miller (for Julie Brooks), Walter Bell (2 of 2)  
Unit 141: Jay Apfelbaum, John Marks, Everett Young, Jane Segal, Donna Morgen, Terry Coughlin, Marie Trethaway, Ray Raskin, Bill Bauer (for Tom Sakaguchi), Elaine Landow (10 of 12)  
Unit 168: Linda Ivanoff, John Klinger (for Bob Priest), Andie Sheaffer (for Ron Orr), Betsy Davenny (for Debi Klinger) (4 of 4)  
Unit 190: Rick Rowland, Richard Popper, Ward Schaumberg, Barbara Rhoades (for Anne Taylor) (4 of 4)  
Unit 217: Sue Pierce (1 of 2)

Non-Voting Invitees:

Doug Grove, Tournament Director	Bob Grover, District Recorder
Alan Hodesblatt, Tournament Director	Bob Cole, guest of Nominating Committee
Don Swan, NAP Coordinator	

**CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS**

A meeting of the ACBL District 4 Board of Directors was held at the Lancaster Host, November 3, 2007. Lois Sanders, President, called the meeting to order at 10:10 AM, a quorum being present (38 of 41 voting members representing 8 of 8 units).

Lois requested the Secretary to recognize new and substitute Board members in attendance: Peg Clark, Jean Mowry, and Dolores Toohey of Unit 112, Sue Wessner of Unit 121, Barbara Miller of Unit 133, John Klinger, Betsy Davenny, and Andie Sheaffer of Unit 168 and Barbara Rhoades of Unit 190. Bill also recognized Rick Rowland as the new President of Unit 190.

**SECRETARY'S REPORT & APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF JUNE 23, 2007**

Bill advised that Unit Presidents soon would be requested to submit their 2008 unit representatives' names and that the number of representatives per unit has not changed, except for Unit 168 gaining a 5<sup>th</sup> representative. The calculation is based upon the October 1 membership data by unit obtained by Craig Robinson from the ACBL and the Bylaws formula. The report showed that the District had a net gain of 42 members since last October 1. The Unit breakdown as of October 1 is as follows:

<u>UNIT</u>	<u>10/2007</u>	<u>10/2006</u>	<u>CHANGE</u>	<u>2008 REPRESENTATIVES</u>
112	1,253	1,283	-30	6
120	347	339	+8	2
121	283	295	-12	2
133	308	320	-12	2
141	2,669	2,681	-12	12
168	912	863	+49	5 (an increase of 1)
190	734	680	+54	4
217	<u>149</u>	<u>152</u>	<u>-3</u>	<u>2</u>
TOTALS	6,655	6,613	+42	35

The minutes of the Cherry Hill Board meeting of June 23, 2007 were unanimously approved as submitted. Bill reminded the Board that the minutes appear on the District website.

### **TREASURER'S REPORT**

Rick Rowland distributed the fiscal year-to-date (June through October) balance sheet and profit & loss statements. The P&L report showed a net income loss of \$6,225 vs. a gain of \$15,847 for the corresponding 2006 period. However, the \$1,200 profit from Cherry Hill, and GNT and NAP profits had not been received in time to be included in the report. The balance sheet reflected \$210,293 in the bank plus nearly \$5,000 outstanding in tournament advances. Rick expressed concern that although expenses are in line with the past, revenue is down. This trend will need to be addressed if it continues. Upon motion, the Treasurer's Report was approved.

### **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

Lois Sanders characterized her presidential year as lucky, there having been no major problems. The year went by quickly. She acknowledged receiving a lot of help and felt that everyone has been doing a good job. Lois cited one minor problem, that of obtaining an NAP Flight "C" director for Rochester. Don Swan and ACBL HQ resolved the problem.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:** NOTE: Listed in agenda order, not presentation order.

### **DISTRICT 4SPOT**

Elaine Landow advised that the next 4SPOT would be the December issue according to the new publication schedule.

### **TOURNAMENT COORDINATOR**

Elaine Landow placed copies of the 2008 tournament schedule on each table. Elaine suggested that the District STaC have a set date of the 2<sup>nd</sup> week in December. Board members felt that we should only schedule one year out. That would give clubs enough notice to plan their calendars. Without taking a formal vote on the issue of a set date, the Board only established next year's District STaC for the week of December 8-14, 2008.

Doug Grove informed the Board that he has been assigned as the Director-in-Charge for the 2007 District 4 STaC. He also explained that beginning next year, a Director-in-Charge would be assigned to a number of STaC's taking place the same week. Thus, the DIC would not necessarily be a "local" ACBL TD. The reason: by having a DIC do more than one STaC at a time, the cost to the sponsoring Unit or District will be reduced. However, it will be up to the sponsor to collect the sanction fee, not the DIC.

## **CHARITY**

Andie Sheaffer reported that the ACBL has not sent out the October 15 District 4 Billy Gough Memorial Charity game reports.

Note: The ACBL subsequently provided the following list of winners:

Daytime – 7 sites, 76.5 tables, raised \$485.78

1. Frank Ewing & Robert Sincavage
2. Alessandra Graves & Bernard Rehberg
3. Gerald Melman & Gloria Van Sciver

Evening – 6 sites, 43 tables, raised \$273.06

1. Melvin Lubart & Philip Monyer
2. Bill Schwarzman & Harriet Stuart
3. Elaine Ecker & Marilyn Weintraub

## **FINANCE**

Dave Kresge was not in attendance.

## **DISTRICT RECORDER**

Bob Grover reported that he had received three minor incident reports since the Cherry Hill Board meeting. Additionally, there was a verbal complaint about an inebriated player drinking at the table (and spilling his drink all over the table and cards). Bob advised that the Director be called in such instances to resolve the "Zero Tolerance" aspect (inconsideration of opponents). Bob cautioned, "Behavior is our business, not alcohol consumption itself". Bob suggested a Daily Bulletin notice reminding players to comport oneself in a manner respectful of one's opponents and the game itself.

## **NAP**

Don Swan reported that NAP Qualifying games remain popular with clubs. As a result of District 4 having the 2<sup>nd</sup> highest percentage of Flight "C" player participation in the club qualifying games, the District received an extra first place award (\$700/player). Don presented District Finals table counts for the past several years:

	Rochester					Cherry Hill (Wilmington)					Total				
	<u>03</u>	<u>04</u>	<u>05</u>	<u>06</u>	<u>07</u>	<u>03</u>	<u>04</u>	<u>05</u>	<u>06</u>	<u>07</u>	<u>03</u>	<u>04</u>	<u>05</u>	<u>06</u>	<u>07</u>
Flight "C"	8	11	7	0	0	10	10	5	8.5	0	18	21	12	8.5	50.5
Flight "B"	8.5	8	6	11.5	12	14.5	14	18.5	15.5	17	23	22	24.5	27	29
	Allentown														
	<u>03</u>	<u>04</u>	<u>05</u>	<u>06</u>	<u>07</u>						<u>03</u>	<u>04</u>	<u>05</u>	<u>06</u>	<u>07</u>
Flight "A"	14	9	11.5	13	11						<u>14</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>11.5</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>11</u>
	Grand Total										55	52	48	48.5	90.5

Flight "A" (Allentown) winners were: 1<sup>st</sup> Richard Olanoff & Donald Dalpe, 2<sup>nd</sup> Ken Chatzinoff & Barry Gorski, and 3<sup>rd</sup> Elliot Shalita & Andy Kaufman. Don noted that Elliot Shalita informed him that he would not be going to the Detroit NABC, so the 4<sup>th</sup> place pair of Dan Boye & Jay Apfelbaum will have the opportunity.

Flight "B" winners were: 1<sup>st</sup> Christopher Marlow & Andy Muenz (Wilmington), 2<sup>nd</sup> Gary DeWitt & John D'Errico (Lakeville), and 3<sup>rd</sup> Paul & Margaret Irvine (Wilmington).

Flight "C" winners were: 1<sup>st</sup> Jane Myers & Nancy Steele (Rehoboth Beach), 2<sup>nd</sup> Nancy Green & Ged Manzi (Wilkes Barre), and 3<sup>rd</sup> George Jones & Chris Sullivan (Rehoboth Beach). Playing site is shown in parentheses.

At this point the issue of scheduling future NAP dates (and locations) arose. Bill Bauer informed the Board that the Tournament Committee had taken up the matter at its meeting Friday between sessions (in addition to finalizing the Tournament Business Manager job description). The Tournament Committee recommended "permanent" dates as follows: Flights "A" & "B" on the 3<sup>rd</sup> weekend of October (Flight "B" only on Saturday) and Flight "C" the Saturday before the Lancaster Regional (using the STaC format should the ACBL Board approve during the San Francisco Board meeting). This recommendation was moved and seconded. Board members noted some potential problems such as the possibility of conflict with Jewish holy days in some years and the inability, perhaps, of Allentown to host both "A" & "B" flights. It was noted that "B" would probably be reduced in size unless held in Cherry Hill or Wilmington. (Of course, New York would also host "B".) An amendment to limit the advance scheduling to a rolling five years was approved by a vote of 25 in favor and 6 opposed. Harold Jordan suggested that Flights "A" & "C" be held the same day and Flight "B" stand alone to allow "B" players the chance to play up or down as well as in Flight "B". "C" players could also play in "B" (assuming they possess the necessary qualification). A second amendment was introduced to reserve the dates, to leave the location recommendation up to the NAP Coordinator (to be reviewed & approved by the Executive Committee, but with the sense of the Board being that Flights "A" & "C" be the 3<sup>rd</sup> weekend and "B" the Saturday before the Lancaster Regional. This amendment passed with one or two

opposed. The amended main motion (5 year rolling schedule with “A” & “C” on the 3<sup>rd</sup> weekend of October and “B” on the Saturday before the Lancaster Regional with consideration to avoid conflict with Jewish holy days) passed with 23 in favor and 7 opposed. The locations of the NAP events are to be recommended by the NAP Coordinator and reviewed and approved by the Executive Committee.

Craig Robinson then reported on the NAP Flight “C” STaC. By special ACBL approval, District 4 clubs (and units) were permitted to host the Flight “C” District finals with the winners determined as in a STaC. Craig sent a letter to 100 “open” clubs to invite their participation. Twelve clubs responded with interest by Labor Day and were sent additional instructions. Shortly thereafter, one club dropped out. About one to two weeks before the game day, three clubs in Unit 141 withdrew having failed to “pre-register” the requisite 5 tables of qualified players. Further, two games in New York failed to attract 5-tables of players on game day, leaving six clubs participating. Craig asked for comments from the participating clubs, resulting in overwhelmingly positive responses. Craig will report the results at the ACBL Board meeting in San Francisco.

#### **GNT**

Ray Depew informed the Board that the 2008 GNT would be the first weekend in May 2008 at the same location, the Scranton Clarion. Ray acknowledged receiving suggestions for operational improvements from Alan Hodesblatt. (Ray received a round of applause for brevity.)

#### **EDUCATION**

Betsy Davenny reported that Donna Morgen conducted an update program at the Cherry Hill Regional. Bridge in Schools has received an excellent response from a school principal in the Valley Forge area. Betsy urged clubs to run both day and evening bridge lesson classes to accommodate all intermediates and newcomers.

#### **JUDICIARY**

Joann Sprung was not in attendance.

#### **APPEALS**

Manny Grossman was not in attendance.

#### **INTERMEDIATE/NEWCOMER**

Donna Morgen had no report.

#### **TOURNAMENT**

John Marks advised that the Committee met Friday between sessions to develop a consensus job description and compensation recommendation. Bill Bauer took notes and will lead the presentation under Old Business. John reminded the Board of the upcoming District STaC on December 10 to 16 that will utilize hand records. John reported that no significant difference in STaC participation depending upon whether or not pre-duplicated hands (hand records) were used vs. shuffle & deal. Pre-duplicated hands won by one vote at a prior District Board meeting. The Board may want to review this issue.

## **TOURNAMENT REPORTS:**

- Cherry Hill** - John Marks distributed the final report on the 2007 Cherry Hill Regional. The tournament produced a profit of only \$1,274 as hospitality costs and hotel bills were up significantly. Attendance was down 31-1/2 tables (or just over 2%). John thanked Lois and her husband, Bob, for being hostess & host for hospitality. Problems with the hotel frustrated players and the Tournament Committee. As a result, the 2008 Regional will be held at the Valley Forge Convention Center from June 16 to June 22. However, this site is not available in 2009, so it is back to the Clarion.
- Lancaster** - John Klinger reported that attendance was down a few tables through Friday. He noted that a District 6 regional starts Monday and thus may have reduced attendance from the Washington, D.C. area. John thanked everyone for coming and invited the board to the Top Flight room for hospitality. John brought printing "in-house" by renting two copiers to reduce printing costs from \$5,000 to \$2,000. In 2008, the tournament will be held from October 27 to November 2.
- Harrisburg** - Bob Priest reported that this would hopefully be the last winter regional in Harrisburg (see Regional Realignment under Old Business). The dates for the regional are January 21 to 27, 2008. The Rye, New York Regional does not end until the 21<sup>st</sup> due to the Martin Luther King Birthday Holiday. Bob explained the event schedule and noted that the stratification breakpoints (1,500+ is "A") had been recommended by Doug Grove as appropriate for small Regional tournaments. Advance publicity has emphasized the gold point availability. All 200 flyers that Bob brought to Lancaster have been picked up by players. He expects attendance to be 800 to 1,000 tables.
- Rochester/  
Syracuse** - Lois Sanders reported that the Syracuse summer regional tournament was a financial success (approximate \$4,000 profit).
- Delaware** - Rich Popper had no report. The Regional is scheduled for April 27 to May 2, 2010.
- Scranton** - Ray Depew reported that planning for the 2009 tournament is on Schedule and that a new hotel, the Hilton Convention Center, will likely host the regional.

## **DISTRICT DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Craig Robinson reported that he traveled to Memphis this past October to work on a business plan. He expects the ACBL to realize a \$750,000 profit this year. As a result, there will be no fee increases in 2008. If Tournament Director compensation increases in 2008, then sanction fees will decrease correspondingly.

Craig reported that the Memphis HQ Building was sold for \$1,000,000 less a 6% commission. The money is in the bank for now. The ACBL may remain in the building for up to 20 months. The rent is lower than our past operating cost for the building. In the meantime a relocation committee is looking at 20 sites.

Craig concluded his report by making the following appointments:

National Charity Foundation Committee – Harold Jordan of the Delaware Bridge Studio for raising more money for charities than any other club in the District by far and Frank Carden of Hagerstown, MD for raising money for Food Resources.

National Goodwill Committee – Judy Butcher (long-time Syracuse Regional Chairperson), Walt Mitchell (voice of Pennsylvania, Bear Creek mayor and Unit President), Walt Bell (past president of Lehigh Valley Unit), and Mary Ann Churba (past unit & district officer).

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### 1. District Tournament Business Manager

Lois began by stating her appreciation for April Apfelbaum's work on the draft job description that she presented in Cherry Hill. Lois then called on Bill Bauer to report on the Tournament Committee meeting yesterday, the Committee having been requested at the Cherry Hill Board meeting to further refine the job description and recommend compensation.

Bill reported that the Committee used April's work as the starting point. The Committee decided to modify the job title slightly, to District Tournament Manager. The Committee affirmed the general duties as presented in April's draft but added the following duties: (a) to establish & maintain a publicity plan and network to distribute flyers to bridge venues, (b) to support tournament chairpersons on an as requested basis, (c) mentor & coach first-time tournament chairpersons, (d) serve as a liaison between the Tournament Chairpersons and the Board, and (e) maintain a two year schedule of tournaments.

In the matter of compensation, the Committee recommended free hotel and play plus per diem at the four Regional tournaments. There is no other proposed compensation. The compensation "package" is designed to encourage the

incumbent to attend tournaments. Some Board members expressed the opinion that the compensation was excessive for a volunteer organization.

Further comments from the floor followed.

John Klinger spoke against the position because people are in place to do everything contained in the proposed job description. The Tournament Committee should take responsibility for mentoring new tournament chairs. Further, Tournament Chairs who do not get the job done should be replaced.

John Marks concurred with John Klinger's assessment. He noted that the compensation would cost tournaments about \$1,000, or \$4,000/year.

Jay Apfelbaum and Everett Young felt the District Tournament Manager would be a valuable resource for new regional chairpersons. Opinion was divided on whether new chairpersons would seek out a mentor. Based on her experience, Barbara White felt some new chairpersons would not consult with the District Tournament Manager. Ray Depew was satisfied with the help he received from experienced tournament chairs and felt that there was enough experience and support available in the room already. Rich Popper felt differently as he needed to get information from outside the district as a new tournament chairperson.

Deepak Khanna felt that enough discussion had occurred and moved to not create and hire the District Tournament Manager. The Secretary said that motions should be stated in the positive, i.e., to hire establish and hire, and then if the majority voted in opposition, then the position would not be established.

Discussion resumed. Craig felt the position warranted for three reasons: 1) to establish a publicity network (e.g., there were no flyers for the Cherry Hill and Syracuse Regionals at the 2006 Scranton Regional), 2) to have a person with the authority to settle conflicts over tournament dates and plan far enough in advance, and 3) to have a person to document and share the best practices of our various tournaments.

Harold Jordan advocated establishing the position for a couple of years and seeing whether table count increased.

Finally, the motion to establish a District Tournament Manager with job description and compensation as stated was voted upon. The motion failed with 13 in favor and 21 opposed.

## 2. District Regional Realignment

Craig Robinson reported on the various agreements having been reached to bring about the following regional tournament realignment. Beginning in 2009, the Syracuse/Rochester Summer Regional will be split with Harrisburg each year.



The Delaware (190) and Anthracite (120) units will hold their regionals in alternate years (Scranton beginning in 2009 and Delaware in 2010).

Craig noted the following Unit Board approvals. Central Pennsylvania (Unit 168) approved about two years ago in Hagerstown. Delaware (Unit 190) approved last August. Northeast Pennsylvania (Unit 120) approved the first week of October. The New York Unit approved this arrangement during a meeting held the 2<sup>nd</sup> week of September. New York will determine the dates for the tournament and retain “ownership”. At all four Unit Board meetings there was only one dissenting vote.

A vote of the District Board to approve this arrangement was overwhelmingly approved with only 3 opposed.

Warren Marsland requested that the record reflect that “as a result of a court action in the early 1970’s when the ACBL had taken over upstate NY, Unit 112 was awarded the right to have a regional”. Warren will continue to search the Unit records for the actual record of the proceeding.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### 1. Publicizing the Game

Lois presented an idea that her husband, Bob, conceived on how to get more people involved in bridge, specifically the retiring baby boomers. We should put together a package consisting of bridge teacher contact information and class schedules to give to corporate Human Resource departments to give out at meetings held for prospective retirees. A Board member suggested that AARP should be requested to publish an article promoting bridge.

### 2. Purchase of Timing Clocks for NY Regionals (Bernie Gorkin)

Craig reported that a \$400 clock had been ordered for Bernie Gorkin to use at NY Unit tournaments. Further, the Lancaster Tournament purchased some new card tables for use at the Lancaster and Harrisburg Regionals. The cost of the tables will be recovered in about two years by saving on table rental. These being tournament committee expenses, approval from the District Board is not necessary and only presented for information.

## **NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT AND ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

Craig Robinson reported that the 8 current Unit Presidents and 8 immediate past District Presidents are eligible to serve on the Nominating Committee. The committee met last evening at length to discuss and select nominees for District officers.

Craig Robinson reported the committee's recommendations as follows:

Treasurer	- Rick Rowland
President	- Carl Cronrath of Unit 121
1 <sup>st</sup> Vice-President	- Joann Glasson of Unit 141
2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice-President	- Bob Cole of Unit 133

There being no further nominations from the floor, nominations were closed and the Secretary was instructed to cast a unanimous ballot for each candidate.

### **REMARKS & APPOINTMENTS BY INCOMING PRESIDENT**

Carl Cronrath stated that he was honored to be District President. He thanked Lois for serving as President for the past year. Carl presented Lois with the customary honorarium check and plaque as remembrances of her year of service.

Carl announced the following appointments:

1. Committee Chairs will continue subject to their willingness to serve, except for the following changes: Henry Bethe will serve as Disciplinary Chair. Joanne Sprung will serve as District Appellate Chair. Joann Glasson volunteered to be Publicity Chairperson (new position).
2. Bill Bauer will continue as Board Secretary (unanimous Board confirmation).
3. No Presidential Appointees to the Board as members-at-large will be made at this time.
4. Deepak Khanna & Harold Jordan will serve as at-large Executive Committee appointees (unanimous Board confirmation).
5. Jane Segal will serve as the Board of Governors representative on the Executive Committee.

### **NEXT MEETING**

A full board meeting will take place during the Valley Forge Regional on Saturday, June 21, 2008.

### **IMPORTANT ADDENDUM TO MINUTES:**

Two-session events at the Valley Forge Regional will be held at 10:00am and 3:00pm. Therefore, President Cronrath in consultation with Valley Forge Regional Chairperson, John Marks, has changed the time and date of the Board meeting to Friday evening, June 20, 2008 at 6:45 PM with a reception/dinner following at 8:00 PM.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 12:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Bill Bauer  
District 4 Secretary  
william.baueriii@verizon.net