

DRAFT MINUTES OF ACBL DISTRICT 4 BOARD MEETING
King of Prussia, Pennsylvania
July 16, 2010

Voting Member Attendees:

- At-Large: Bob Cole (Board President), Rick Rowland (1st VP), Walt Mitchell (2nd VP), Joann Glasson (Immediate Past President), Craig Robinson (National Board), Don Swan (Pres. Appt.), Vacant (Pres. Appt.) (6 of 6)
- Unit 112: Mary Gorkin (for Walt Gable), Harry Nuckols (for Robert Simard), Mary Poplawski (3 of 6)
- Unit 120: Bill Orth, Ray Depew (2 of 2)
- Unit 121: (0 of 2)
- Unit 133: John Schwartz, Ed Spitzer (for Frank Kuebler) (2 of 2)
- Unit 141: Tom Purl, Jay Apfelbaum, April Uhlenburg (for Everett Young), Jerry Craige (for Michael Salton), Ala Hamilton-Day, Terry Coughlin, Marie Trethaway, Tom Sakaguchi, John Marks, Ray Raskin (for Elaine Landow) (10 of 12)
- Unit 168: Ron Orr, Stefan Basinski (for Bob Priest), Tim Smith (for John Klinger), Bert Murray, Pamela Murray (5 of 5)
- Unit 190: Alan Horowitz, Harold Jordan (late) (2 of 4)
- Unit 217: (0 of 2)

Non-Voting Invitees:

Jane Segal, Board of Governors

CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS

A meeting of the ACBL District 4 Board of Directors was held at the Valley Forge Convention Center, July 16, 2010. Bob Cole, President, called the meeting to order at 6:25 PM, a quorum being present (30 of 41 voting members representing 6 of 8 units).

Bob thanked the Tournament Director's for their hard work.

Bob introduced the District's new Charity Chairperson, April Uhlenburg. All the other chairpersons and coordinators agreed to continue in their positions.

Bob announced the winners of the District 2009 Player-of-the-Year contests:

- Ken Cohen won the Dave Treadwell award (unlimited category)
- Ethan Kotkin won the Jeanne Fisher award (0 – 2,000 category)
- Ronald Hutchinson won the Jane Segal award (0 – 500 NLM category)

Bob reviewed his Executive Committee appointments. He selected Mary Poplawski and Bob Priest. He extended an offer to Sue Wessner for the seat reserved for the Treasurer (the incumbent Treasurer is also 1st VP). The appointee must be a member of a unit not already represented on the committee. She subsequently accepted after her return from a bridge cruise.

SECRETARY'S REPORT & APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF JULY 10, 2009

Bill Bauer introduced newer Board members and substitutes:

Bill Orth	Unit 120
Ed Spitzer	Unit 133
April Uhlenburg	Unit 141
Stefan Basinski	Unit 168

The minutes of the Lancaster Board meeting of October 31, 2009 were unanimously approved as submitted. Bill reminded the Board that the minutes appear on the District website.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Rick Rowland distributed the Balance Sheet and Profit & Loss Statements for the District as of the end of the fiscal year, May 31, 2010. Tournament attendance is down across the board, so Regionals are less profitable (\$10,000 profit this past fiscal year vs. \$31,000 the prior fiscal year). GNT expense was also up as our teams went further in the competition. The balance sheet shows that we have \$200,000 (including the Nationals' Fund) and have advanced \$38,500 to Tournament Committees.

Bill Orth commented on the apparent large amount of assets for a non-profit. Rick noted in response that we would expend \$50,000 or more on the 2012 Summer NABC.

The Board approved the Treasurer's report.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Bob's report was covered in his opening remarks.

RATIFICATION OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ACTION

The Board unanimously ratified the Executive Committee approval for the District to host the Spring 2018 NABC in Philadelphia.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

DISTRICT 4SPOT

Elaine Landow was not in attendance due to her work on the Tournament Daily Bulletin. The District 4Spot deadline is August 1 for the September 1 edition.

CHARITY

April Uhlenburg informed the Board that we have the text of the actual plan describing the ACBL Youth Program Fund including the document that must be signed to participate. Bill Bauer distributed the plan document to Executive Committee members and other interested Board members. The Executive Committee will make a recommendation whether to participate or not at the Lancaster Board meeting.

Mary Poplawski asked if the District could establish its own plan. Rick reminded the Board, that District 4 is a non-profit corporation but not a charitable corporation or 501(c)(3), so the District could not receive charitable contributions from clubs conducting charity club championship games.

Jay Apfelbaum mentioned that his wife, April, plans to teach teachers in the Philadelphia School District to teach bridge. They are pursuing school administration go ahead.

FINANCE

Dave Kresge reported that tournament reports are current. He called attention to new tax regulations requiring the District to send 1099's to vendors and individuals paid by the District beginning in 2012 unless the IRS postpones implementation.

DISTRICT RECORDER

Dan Boye was not present.

NAP

Don Swan announced the dates and locations of the District NAP Finals as follows:

Flight "A" will be played in Allentown in conjunction with the Lehigh Valley Sectional on the weekend of October 23-24.

Flight "B" will be played Saturday, September 25 in Cicero, NY in conjunction with a Sectional Tournament and as a standalone event at the Wilmington Bridge Studio as agreed to by Harold Jordan (thanks, Harold). The event will be scored across the field.

Flight "C" will again be conducted like a STaC with any club or Unit in the District eligible to conduct the game by registering with Craig Robinson. Craig will send out information to club managers around September 1 and will obtain a list of Flight "C" qualified players from the ACBL for clubs to use to recruit players. Clubs and units must have 5 tables of club-qualified NLM's with less than 500 points as of June 1, 2010.

Don distributed the conditions-of-contest (virtually identical as last year) and reminded the Board of the amounts of ACBL incentive awards (District pays for 3rd place):

1st place in any flight receives a \$700/player subsidy should they elect to attend the Louisville Spring NABC NAP finals, 2nd place \$300/player and 3rd place \$100/player. Entries are free while a pair remains in the event. Despite the subsidies, Don reported that many pairs opted not to go such that an 8th place pair received an invitation.

GNT

Ray Depew informed the Board that the 2010 GNT was well attended with 40 teams (including 12 "C" teams) competing, the highest total since 2005 or before. The 2011 GNT District finals will be the first weekend in May.

EDUCATION

Mary Poplawski noted that in 2009, 110 prospective teachers participated in the two TAP's. Some are already teaching. This year, the Syracuse August 2-3 TAP has 20 registrants. A few more registrants are expected. Philadelphia has 10 registrants at this juncture for the October 2-3 TAP. Mary, who is registrar for both TAP's, will keep the Executive Committee informed on registration numbers and a decision may need to be made to cancel the Philadelphia TAP if the number of registrants does not increase significantly. The Board previously agreed to subsidize each TAP such that attendees pay \$50 rather than the customary \$125 to attend. The Board approved an increase to the maximum Syracuse TAP subsidy from \$500 to \$700. Mary will advise the Executive Committee of the last date that we could cancel the Philadelphia TAP without penalty.

Mary reminded the Board that Bill Bauer and she were stocking ACBL series and Audrey Grant Better Bridge Series texts for teachers. An article on the stocking program appeared in the December 4Spot. Although sales are not brisk, the Board approved at least another year of the program.

JUDICIARY

Bob Glasson said that there were no cases to report.

APPEALS

JoAnn Sprung was not present.

INTERMEDIATE/NEWCOMER

Ala Hamilton-Day reported that the Valley Forge Regional continued to be popular with the 0-300 players. In 2009, 43.9% of the players were in this category and so far in 2010, 42.7% of the players.

The Golden Opportunity Pairs is proving popular with players. Five sections of 11 tables each participated on Wednesday. Someone needs to promote/advertise this event as it is geared to players up to 750 points beyond the I/N cutoff of 300.

TOURNAMENT COORDINATOR

John Marks has an up-to-date District-wide tournament schedule through 2011. Sanctions still need to be obtained for the 2011 GNT & NAP District finals. Unit Tournament coordinators/chairpersons need to get their 2012 tournament dates to John.

TOURNAMENT

John Marks noted that tournaments are taking a beating. He will convene a meeting of this committee in Lancaster.

TOURNAMENT REPORTS:

2012 Summer NABC – John Marks along with co-chairs Joann Glasson and Craig (7/12 – 7/22/12) Robinson have appointed the following Committee Chairs:

- I/N - Rebecca Weiss (replacing Susan & Bob Grover)
- Entertainment - Pat Civale
- Publicity – April Uhlenburg
- Registration - Ray Depew (assisted by Judy Argento) Units
- Finance – Rick Rowland
- Units have been assigned a day or days to staff certain functions – prize room, registration, I/N, partnership desks

WBF World Champ. - John reported that the regional tournament will be played in (10/1 – 10/16/10) the Convention Center adjoining the Marriott. Craig added that the Regional will occupy two 11,000 sq. ft. rooms. The WBF events will be held on the 4th & 5th floors of the Marriott.

Valley Forge - John Marks reported that the 2010 Valley Forge Regional (7/6 – 7/12/09) attendance is down 14% so far. Due to the success of the Golden Opportunity pairs on Wednesday (five 11-table sections), the event will be scheduled every day next year. John is going to try to book a week in June for next year.

Lancaster - Rick Rowland reported for John Klinger who is on vacation. (11/1 – 11/7/10) Last year’s profit was \$11,000 with 2,250 tables. Of course, attendance will be down this year due to the 16-day regional in Philadelphia in October. We do have the promise of a \$5K subsidy from the WBF (\$20/table for the first 250 table loss).

Harrisburg - No report, just come. The tournament will be a split Regional (8/3-8/10/10 split) with Syracuse.

Syracuse - No report. The event schedule pretty much coincides with the r (8/3-8/10/10 split) Harrisburg site of the split Regional.

Delaware - The Regional made a profit of \$3,000. The Regional will be (4/27 – 5/2/10) held at the Holiday Inn Select at I-95 and Naamans Road in June 2012.

Scranton - Ray Depew reported that the Regional will be held at the (2/28-3/6/11) Woodlands in Wilkes Barre. He distributed flyers.

DISTRICT DIRECTOR’S REPORT

Craig Robinson reported that a Super 70’s pairs will be held at the Orlando Fall NABC. A little less than 50% of the membership is 70+.

OLD BUSINESS

The following resolution was presented for Board consideration:

There is no conflict (such as with the bylaws) for an individual to be both President and Treasurer.

The following comments were made regarding the resolution prior to a vote.

Bill Bauer noted that there is no prohibition in the bylaws and further that the President has no power over the Treasurer. The Treasurer takes direction from the Board at the Board meetings and from the Executive Committee between Board meetings. Further, the Board contemplated the possibility of a Board member holding two offices and prescribed the method by which one of the seats would be filled (by Presidential appointment of a Board member from a Unit not represented on the Executive Committee).

Craig Robinson added that Rick Rowland was willing to continue as Treasurer if elected Board President. It is great for the Board to know that there is a professional accountant preparing the financial statements and tax returns.

Bill Orth said that the matter is moot given that the bylaws do not prohibit holding the two offices.

In response to Mary Poplawski's question about who else is authorized to sign checks, it was noted that the District Director is authorized to sign checks, and not the President.

The Board voted unanimously to approve the resolution.

NEW BUSINESS

Ray Raskin alerted the Board and Tournament Chairs that the Radisson was offering mini-suites in the Scanticon for \$55.00/night on Priceline. This makes it more difficult to get hotel credit for room nights. Craig said that even if the hotel says we fell a bit short, the hotel does not want to spend the time reviewing our list of players against there registered guest list to determine the actual number of room nights.

NEXT MEETING

A full board meeting will take place during the Lancaster Regional on Saturday morning November 6, 2010 preceded by breakfast.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Bill Bauer
District 4 Secretary
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