

**DRAFT MINUTES OF ACBL DISTRICT 4 BOARD MEETING
Lancaster, Pennsylvania
November 6, 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: Unrepresented (0 of 6)
- Unit 120: Ray Depew (1 of 2)
- Unit 121: Sue Wessner (Unit Pres.), Anne Alderman (2 of 2)
- Unit 133: Ed Spitzer (for John Schwartz) (1 of 2)
- Unit 141: Tom Purl (Unit Pres.), Jay Apfelbaum, April Uhlenburg (for Tom Sakaguchi),
Jane Segal (for Joan Brandeis), Everett Young, Meyer Kotkin (for Tom
Urso), Ala Hamilton-Day, Terry Coughlin, Marie Trethaway, Elaine Landow,
John Marks, Ray Raskin (for Michael Salton) (12 of 12)
- Unit 168: Ron Orr (Unit Pres.), Bob Priest, John Klinger, Bert
Murray, Pamela Murray (5 of 5)
- Unit 190: Jeff Ruben (Unit Pres. For Harold Jordan), Alan Horowitz, Richard Popper
(3 of 4)
- Unit 217: Ed Bissell arrived during the meeting (1 of 2)

Non-Voting Invitees:

Richard DeMartino, 2010 ACBL President and New England District 25 Director
Bob Glasson, Appellate Chairperson
Alan Hodesblatt, ACBL Tournament Director Staff

CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS

A meeting of the ACBL District 4 Board of Directors was held at the Lancaster Host Resort, November 6, 2010. Bob Cole, President, called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM, a quorum being present (31 of 41 voting members representing 7 of 8 units).

Bob turned the meeting over to District Director, Craig Robinson, to introduce 2010 ACBL President, Richard DeMartino. Craig noted that Rich won the Senior Pairs World Championship in Philadelphia in October.

Rich reported that the ACBL was in good financial condition. The ACBL has had only one dues increase in the past five years. Rich reported that the ACBL's new HQ is fantastic and urged everyone to visit, particularly the museum, should they be in the Horn Lake, MS (Memphis) area. Rich complemented the Lancaster Tournament Committee for a great tournament and noted his past attendance. Further, he welcomed questions either via e-mail or in person.

Bob then requested Bill to introduce substitute Board members and first time attendees.

They included:

Anne Alderman, Unit 121 Secretary, first meeting attended

Ed Spitzer, substitute, Unit 133

Ray Raskin, Jane Segal, Meyer Kotkin, April Uhlenburg, substitutes, Unit 141

Jeff Ruben, newly elected President of Unit 190

Bob Glasson, Appellate Chairperson

Alan Hodesblatt, ACBL Director Staff

SECRETARY'S REPORT & APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF JULY 16, 2010

Bill Bauer reported that 30 of 41 voting Board members were present representing six of the eight units. Note: A representative from Unit 217 arrived later during the meeting resulting in 31 of 41 voting representatives present and seven of eight units represented.

The minutes of the Valley Forge Board meeting of July 16, 2010 were unanimously approved as submitted. Bill reminded the Board that the minutes appear on the District website.

Bill reported on the Unit Membership as of October 2010 which is the basis for the determination of the number of Unit representatives on the 2011 District Board. The membership by Unit as of October 2010 as reported by the ACBL was:

<u>UNIT</u>	<u>10/2009</u>	<u>10/2010</u>	<u>CHANGE</u>	<u>2011 REPRESENTATIVES PER BYLAWS</u>
112	1,212	1,177	-35	6
120	368	348	-20	2
121	242	228	-14	2
133	311	323	+12	2
141	2,707	2,670	-37	12
168	988	997	+9	5
190	714	753	+39	4
217	<u>148</u>	<u>147</u>	<u>-1</u>	<u>2</u>
TOTALS	6,690	6,643	-47	35

The changes in membership did not result in any unit gaining or losing representatives.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Rick Rowland distributed the Balance Sheet and Profit & Loss Statements for the District as of the end of October 2010. A fiscal year to date \$17,000 net loss has occurred.

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).

The Board approved the Treasurer's report.

Rick then requested the Board to authorize the Secretary to prepare a banking resolution for the purpose of opening a bank account with PNC Bank for the Valley Forge Regional Tournament. The three signatories on the account will be:

1. John Marks, Valley Forge Tournament Chairperson
2. Rick Rowland, District 4 Board Treasurer
3. Craig Robinson, ACBL District Director, District 4

The Board unanimously approved the banking resolution

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Bob Cole congratulated the District 4 players who won events at the recently concluded WBF World Series Championships held in Philadelphia. The winners were Eric Greco, Bobby Levin, Connie Goldberg and Joann Sprung.

Bob announced that masterpoints won during the Philadelphia Regional, held in conjunction with the WBF World Series and at the request of the WBF, will not count toward the District Player-of-the-Year award. Prior to making this decision, Bob consulted a number of Executive Committee members and other Board members who were in agreement.

RATIFICATION OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ACTION

The Board unanimously ratified the Executive Committee approval of a subsidy of up to \$850.00 for the October 2010 TAP in Philadelphia. The TAP having concluded, Bob placed the actual subsidy or loss at about \$300.00 (unofficial amount).

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

DISTRICT 4SPOT

Elaine Landow announced that the next issue is going to press this coming week. Elaine asked "where we should go" with the 4Spot.

CHARITY

April Uhlenburg updated the Board on her progress gathering information on the Youth Program Fund. It should be noted that this fund is entirely different than the ACBL Junior Fund. The District currently has approximately 39 junior members (ACBL members who have not turned 26). The Fund could be used to subsidize District 4 youth members' attendance at tournaments. April is trying to determine the potential level of support among club managers (i.e., would they agree to designate the District Youth Fund as a local charity for one or more of their monthly Charity Club Championship games each year?). Another possible revenue source could be a surcharge on Sectional and Regional tournament entry fees. There is some effort required to establish and administer the fund including bylaws preparation, establishing a fiduciary committee, and writing a procedure for the application process. So we need to make sure there is a revenue source to make the effort worthwhile.

Sue Wessner noted that the ACBL already supplies all materials at no cost to youth educators. Everett Young believes the Units should take the lead on youth programs. Bob Priest felt the program may not be durable. It was noted that not only clubs running Charity Club Championship games but also individuals may contribute to the fund.

Meyer Kotkin, the parent of a youth ACBL member noted the need to subsidize youth members' participation in Tournaments (such as a subsidy for lodging expenses.)

Bob Cole indicated that the Executive Committee was not ready to act. To move forward, a motion to form a five member committee including the Charity Chair was approved. The committee will obtain the information necessary for the Executive Committee to decide whether to approve participation in the fund. These individuals would likely become the Fiduciary Committee required by the Fund.

FINANCE

Craig Robinson reported for Dave Kresge, who was not in attendance, that for the first time all Regional Tournament reports have been received on time. The less favorable news is that the last four Regionals all lost money.

DISTRICT RECORDER

Rick Rowland reported that Dan Boye had no report.

NAP

Don Swan announced the winners and attendance at the various NAP events. Flight "A", held in Allentown as a two-day event had 12 tables. Flight "B" was intended to be split between Cicero (Rochester) and Wilmington. However, since only 3-1/2 tables of players came to the Rochester event, the event had to be canceled for not having the minimum 5 tables of club-qualified players. Wilmington attracted 9-1/2 tables. Flight "C" was again well-attended with 50-1/2 tables.

This disparity led Jay Apfelbaum to move that the District Director request ACBL Board approval of the STaC format for Flight "B". After considerable discussion, the motion was tabled in favor of having the NAP coordinator devise a format (such as one location for Flight "B" and a one-day Flight "A" event) for Executive Committee approval. ACBL President, Rich DeMartino, commented that the ACBL Board would never approve such a "non-bridge" event for flight "B", unlike they did for Flight "C".

Patty Taylor of the ACBL has sent invitations to the pairs eligible to attend the national event at the Spring NABC in Louisville. The rankings were:

Flight "A"

1. Daisy Goecker – Richard Popper
2. Rick Rowland – Craig Robinson (ineligible to compete at the NABC)
3. Ken Chatzinoff – Ray Raskin
4. Richard Olanoff – Donald Dalpe

Flight “B”

1. Brad Barry – David Amsterdam
2. Elizabeth Varhus – Kristofor Varhus
3. Anne Taylor – Robert Taylor
4. Thomas Foerster – Christopher Marlow

Flight “C”

1. Bee Einstein – Selma Sofsky
2. Dennis Gross – Steve Valencic
3. David Silberman – Ralph Collins
4. George Haeseler – Arlene Haeseler

Don also provided the attendance history for the NAP as follows:

	<u>Rochester</u>					<u>Wilmington</u>					<u>Total</u>					
	<u>06</u>	<u>07</u>	<u>08</u>	<u>09</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>06</u>	<u>07</u>	<u>08</u>	<u>09</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>06</u>	<u>07</u>	<u>08</u>	<u>09</u>	<u>10</u>	
Flight “C”	0	-----STaC-----				8.5	-----STaC-----				8.5	50.5	46.5	46.5	50.5	
Flight “B”	11.5	12	8.5	0	0	15.5	17	13	13.5	9.5	27	29	21.5	13.5	9.5	
	<u>Allentown</u>															
	<u>06</u>	<u>07</u>	<u>08</u>	<u>09</u>	<u>10</u>											
Flight “A”	13	11	11	14	12						<u>13</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>12</u>	
											Grand Total	48.5	90.5	79	74	72

Note: Rochester Flight “B” attendance was 3-1/2 tables in both 2009 and 2010, not enough to meet the 5-table requirement, so the attendance is shown as zero.

GNT

Ray Depew informed the Board that the 2011 GNT will again be held the first weekend in May in the same location. Bob Priest noted that units can run unit qualifiers if they choose, once/year, and pay gold points. Clubs can hold a GNT qualifier paying ½ red points for a \$1.25/table sanction. The District could add a surcharge to the sanction to help defray the cost of subsidizing District GNT teams participating in the NABC event.

EDUCATION

Bob Cole reported for Mary Poplawski who was on a bridge cruise. The two TAP’s in 2010 were held in New York and Philadelphia. The attendance was 23 in NY (\$550 subsidy) and approximately 28 in Philadelphia (\$300 subsidy). Bob expressed his opinion that the District does not need two TAP’s/year now as the vast majority of

interested persons have had the opportunity to attend one of the past 4 TAP's. The next ACBL TAP will be conducted at the Philadelphia Summer 2012 NABC.

Mary Poplawski has received an expression of interest from Audrey Grant to conduct a Better Bridge teacher training program at the 2011 Lancaster Regional. Audrey Grant would not charge for the teacher training, but would charge \$25/person to I/N's attending a seminar she conducts and which the teachers-in-training observe. More information will be forthcoming.

DISCIPLINARY

Rick Rowland (for JoAnn Sprung) indicated that there was no report.

Note that Bob Glasson and Joann Sprung have "flip-flopped" positions to correct a prior error in making appointments.

APPELLATE

Bob Glasson said there are no cases pending.

INTERMEDIATE/NEWCOMER

Ala Hamilton-Day reported that there is a gap in addressing the needs of players with 300-750 points (those eligible for the Golden Opportunity Pairs eligible along with the 0-300 I/N's). The point is, under the current masterpoint award structure, 300-750 point players are really I/N's. She would like to see a Golden Opportunity Team event.

TOURNAMENT COORDINATOR

John Marks provided copies of the 2011 Tournament calendar for District 4 and the 8 units. He announced the change in date of the January Philadelphia Sectional to January 28-30. Bob Priest said that Unit 168 has no problem with moving the date to coincide with their sectional in New Cumberland. Sue Wessner corrected the dates of the Unit 121 Reading Sectional to Saturday, Sunday and Monday, Feb. 19-21 which does not include Friday the 18th. Unit and District Tournament Chairs are urged to submit dates for 2012.

TOURNAMENT

John Marks noted that the upcoming District STaC, Dec. 6 – 12. Club Managers must register on-line on the ACBL website. He will convene a meeting of this committee Friday after the 2nd session in Scranton.

TOURNAMENT REPORTS:

2012 Summer NABC – John Marks distributed volunteer forms. Dates have been given to each unit. Units provide personnel to staff registration, partnership, prize and I/N desks. There will be an NABC planning committee meeting between sessions this afternoon.
(7/12 – 7/22/12)

WBF World Champ. - John reported that the regional tournament held in the Convention Center adjoining the Marriott attracted approx.
(10/1 – 10/16/10)

2,600 tables. Attendance was less than expected, but the loss was picked up by the WBF.

Valley Forge
(7/6 – 7/12/10)

- John Marks reported that the 2010 Valley Forge Regional lost \$2,586. The 2011 regional will be held Aug. 22 – 28.

Lancaster
(11/1 – 11/7/10)

- John Klinger reported that revenue is down \$33,600 at this point (based on 700 fewer tables in play). Both the regional in Virginia Beach next week and the Orlando NABC later in November is detracting from the Lancaster attendance. Only one-half of the room guarantee (550 room night vs. 1,100 guarantee) has been fulfilled to give the tournament playing space for \$2,000/week, so John is buying extra food for hospitality to help with negotiations over playing space cost. The \$5,000 from the WBF will not cover the shortfall.

Everett Young commented that rooms in the area cost half of the Host rate and some internet rates are even less. This observation led others to question whether there is a better site option in the area such as the new Downtown Convention Center. John said that while the Convention Center has the space (unlike other facilities in the Lancaster area), it does not offer free parking and nearby restaurants. In other words, the cite is not “player friendly”.

Harrisburg
(8/2 – 8/10/10 split)

- Bob Priest reported that the split-site regional tournament attendance of 550 tables represented a 30% decline in tables compared to the split regional in 2006. There was a \$1,300 loss as a result of the space charge incurred since 300 room nights were promised and only 119 were realized. The \$6,000 penalty was negotiated down to \$3,000. Bob has canceled the 2011 and 2012 regionals because the Valley Forge Regional will be held in August both years. When Philadelphia goes back to June, Bob will resume running the split regional.

Syracuse
(8/2-8/10/10 split)

- Rick Rowland reported for Gerry Radway. There were 845 tables resulting in a \$172 profit.

Delaware
(June 2012)

- Jeff Ruben reported for tournament co-chairs Tom Grabowski and Susan Corbett. The 2012 regional will be at the same site, the Holiday Inn Select, located at I95 and Naamans Road.

Scranton
(2/28-3/6/11)

- Ray Depew reported that the Regional will be held at the Woodlands Resort (\$99.00 bridge rate) in Wilkes Barre.

DISTRICT DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Craig Robinson began by thanking Debi & John Klinger along with Pat Landis for having served 22 years on the Lancaster Regional Tournament Committee and co-chairing the Committee for the past 16 years.

The WBF tournament in Philadelphia was reported by Joan Gerard to have incurred a \$300,000 room night shortfall penalty.

Although the Convention Center provided a magnificent playing space for the companion Regional, the space was expensive and the unions intractable. For example, the tournament had to pay two teamsters to unload tables, two laborers to carry tables to the playing area, and two carpenters to set-up the tables (each for 4 hours minimum).

Craig thanked the viewgraph operators, Elaine Landow, Ala Hamilton-Day (one of two operators chosen by Harve to work the Rosenblum finals), April Uhlenburg and Tom Purl for their services.

Regarding the new HQ building in Mississippi (outside Memphis), Craig noted that the employees are now working in cubicles in contrast to the former site where everyone had an office. The Spring 2012 NABC will be in Memphis in May. Those attending should make plans to visit the museum.

OLD BUSINESS

John Marks thanked Tom Purl for making numerous trips to the airport to pick up dignitaries. Also, Joan Brandeis (hospitality), Ray Depew (registration) and Dan Boye and Tom Purl (partnership desk).

NEW BUSINESS

1. It was unanimously agreed that the ACBL nomenclature, Disciplinary and Appellate should replace the District terminology, Judiciary and Appeals to eliminate confusion. (Secretary's Note: These minutes reflect the ACBL terminology. It will be necessary to change the terminology in the District Bylaws upon the next revision.)
2. Craig moved that when there are exactly two brackets in a knockout event, the 2nd bracket will not be handicapped, effective with the Wilkes-Barre Regional. The motion being adopted, Ray Depew requested appropriate language to include in the tournament flyer. Craig agreed to provide the information.
3. April Uhlenberg noted that she has difficulty communicating with members due to the lack of e-mail addresses. Craig explained that the ACBL does not require members to provide their e-mail address and, if a member does provide it, the member may request that the address be held confidential. (Secretary's note: Bill provided April with a list of clubs, club managers, phone numbers and e-mail addresses, when available, based upon the list of clubs that had registered to participate in the D4 StaC in December 2010.)

4. Meyer Kotkin asked whether the page in the Bulletin with each individual member's own point confirmation records could also be used to communicate Unit news. Craig said he would find out.
5. Joan Brandeis, not present, requested the Secretary to communicate the substance of an e-mail that she had circulated prior to the meeting. Her concern, really the concern of a club owner, was that the World Bridge Series and associated Regional negatively impacted club player attendance during the approximate 16-day duration. Re-imbusement was requested. No motion was forthcoming so no formal vote was taken. Sentiment ran against re-imbusement in the ensuing discussion. Many commented on the precedent re-imbusement would set. And, the District really has no control over the matter of locating the WBF World Series in Philadelphia. Clubs could seek re-imbusement from the WBF, but no one felt expressed the opinion that the effort would succeed.
6. Jay Apfelbaum moved and the Board approved removing the Disciplinary and Appellate committee reports from the Board Agenda. The committees could always request to be added to an agenda, in the rare instance that there is an item to share with the Board.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT AND ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Craig Robinson reported that the Committee met last evening and recommended the following slate of officers:

President	- Rick Rowland of Unit 190
1 st Vice-President	- Walter Mitchell of Unit 120
2 nd Vice-President	- Tom Weik of Unit 121
Treasurer	- Rick Rowland

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

Rick Rowland thanked outgoing President, Bob Cole, for his year of service. Rick presented Bob with a commemorative plaque and honorarium check.

Rick announced the following appointments:

1. Bill Bauer will continue as Board Secretary (unanimous Board confirmation).
2. Mike Giesler and Harold Jordan were nominated as the two Presidential Appointees to the Board as a members-at-large (unanimous Board confirmation).
3. Bob Priest and Ed Bissell were appointed to the Executive Committee.
4. Sue Wessner was appointed to the Executive Committee to take Rick Rowland's 2nd seat on the Committee. Secretary's note: Since the other eight Executive committee members each come from one of the other eight units, this appointment may be made from a member from any unit per the bylaws.
5. Mary Poplawski will serve as the Board of Governors representative on the Executive Committee.

6. Mike Giesler is appointed as NAP coordinator.
7. It was noted that there is a vacancy for the third Board of Governors representative since Jane Segal did not run for re-election (Mary Poplawski and Jay Apfelbaum are the other two representatives). The vacancy will be filled according to ACBL and District policies. Bob Priest moved to allow the Executive committee to fill the vacancy if Board approval is required. The motion was approved. (Secretary's note: The District Bylaws expressly grant the President the authority to appoint a member to a vacant BOG position. On January 14, Rick Rowland appointed Elaine Landow to fill the vacancy on the BOG.)

Rick concluded his remarks and appointments by noting that the District has about \$25,000 in annual expenses. Profits from our regionals are used to fund these expenses. He will appoint a committee to see that Regional Tournament best practices are communicated to the various D4 tournament Committees. The Committee will survey members, professionals, Tournament Directors and those players who attend other than D4 regionals.

NEXT MEETING

A full board meeting will take place during the Valley Forge Regional, date and time to be announced.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 12:07 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Bill Bauer
District 4 Secretary
william.baueriii@verizon.net