

**MINUTES OF ACBL DISTRICT 4 BOARD MEETING
Lancaster, Pennsylvania
November 2, 2013**

Voting Member Attendees:

- At-Large: Tom Weik (President), Bob Priest (1st VP), Dan Boye (2nd VP),
Craig Robinson (District Director), Walt Mitchell (IPP), Barry Gorski (Pres.
Appointee), John Schwartz (Pres. Appointee) (7 of 7)
- Unit 112: Mike Mihevc (Unit Pres.), Warren Marsland, Virginia Loftus (3 of 6)
- Unit 120: None (0 of 2)
- Unit 121: Sue Wessner (Unit Pres.), Diana Mulligan (Unit Sec'y) (2 of 2)
- Unit 133: Stan Yellin (for Frank Kuebler, Unit Pres.), Chuck Campbell, (2 of 2)
- Unit 141: Mike Giesler (Unit Pres.), Joann Glasson, Meyer Kotkin, John Marks, Bob
Glasson (for April Uhlenburg), David LeGrow, Corey Krantz, Ala Hamilton-
Day (for Tom Sakaguchi), Everett Young, Terry Coughlin, Tom Purl, Jay
Apfelbaum (for Bruce Lang), (12 of 12)
- Unit 168: Andie Sheaffer (Unit Pres.), Kelly Zellers (for Ron Orr), Linda Ivanoff, John
Klinger, Kathleen Del Corso (5 of 5)
- Unit 190: Barbara Rhoades (Unit Pres.), Cindy Rowland, Rick Rowland, Richard
Popper (4 of 4)
- Unit 217: Ed Bissell, Carol Reitz (for Mary Ann Churba) (2 of 2)

Also Present

Elaine Landow, Board of Governors & 4Spot Chairperson
Dave Kresge, Finance committee Chairperson
Alan Hodesblatt, ACBL Tournament Director
Bill Bauer, D4 Board Secretary

CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS

A meeting of the ACBL District 4 Board of Directors was held at the Lancaster Host Resort, November 2, 2013. Tom Weik, President, called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM, a quorum being present (37 of 42 voting members representing 7 of 8 units).

Tom asked the members to thank each other for a job well done in the past year. He added that the attendees also looked marvelous.

SECRETARY'S REPORT & APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF JUNE 22, 2013

The minutes of the Valley Forge Board meeting of June 22, 2013 were unanimously approved. Bill reminded the Board that the minutes appear on the District website.

Bill reported on the Unit Membership as of October 2013 which is the basis for the determination of the number of Unit representatives on the 2014 District Board. The membership by Unit as of October 2012 and 2013 as reported by the ACBL was:

<u>UNIT</u>	<u>10/2012</u>	<u>10/2013</u>	<u>CHANGE</u>	<u>2014 REPRESENTATIVES PER BYLAWS</u>
112	1,140	1,143	+3	6
120	334	334	0	2
121	214	235	+21	2
133	304	296	- 8	2
141	2,785	2,774	-11	12
168	1,038	1,030	-8	5
190	692	702	+10	4
217	<u>138</u>	<u>139</u>	<u>+1</u>	<u>2</u>
TOTALS	6,645	6,653	+8	35

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

TREASURER’S REPORT

Rick Rowland reported that the balance sheet reflects an almost \$190K cash balance and \$13K of outstanding advances to Tournament Committees for total assets of \$203K.

The 5-month P&L statement shows net income of \$18K reflecting profitable Harrisburg, Syracuse, and Valley Forge Regionals. The District spent money on table refurbishment (100 or so tables) and additional new bidding box inserts which have not been received.

The Board approved the Treasurer’s report unanimously.

PRESIDENT’S REPORT

Tom Weik stated that he is pleased that the Regional Tournaments are doing better.

Tom reminded the Board that the Executive committee met during the Valley Forge Regional for a brainstorming session. Here, Tom proposed that the President be elected for a two-year term and that the position of 2nd VP be eliminated. So at this time, Tom introduced a motion to amend the Bylaws to eliminate the position of 2nd VP in 2015. The President would be elected for a two-year term effective with the 2016 election.

Tom’s rationale is that it takes time to understand the issues facing the District, then more time to innovate and implement changes. In effect, a two-year term would give the President a “longer runway”. The President would be more productive in the second year

Rick Rowland countered that the learning should take place during the two years as 2nd VP and 1st VP and that the President should therefore be ready to propose and implement changes having “gained traction” over the two years. Besides, a small Unit would now only see one of its own become President every 20 years as smaller Units wait longer in the rotation.

Jay Apfelbaum felt that a 2-year presidency, like that of the Philadelphia Unit, has merit in that the President can be more of an activist and less a caretaker. But he would prefer that the President be elected one year at a time while retaining the existing bylaw

provision that a President can only serve a maximum of two one-year terms. He would eliminate the position of 2nd VP starting with the election in 2016. Jay then proposed an amendment striking the two-year Presidential election with the understanding that the President could run again (with or without a nomination from the Nominating Committee).

Due to the confusion between the original motion and the amendment, the Board chose to table the amendment and reject the original motion to allow for a clearer motion to be offered. These actions also eliminated the contention that the amendment was really a “substitute motion”.

The new motion offered by Jay Apfelbaum retains the current bylaw provision that a President may be elected to a second one-year term, eliminates the office of the 2nd VP, and changes the title of 1st VP to Vice-President effective with the 2014 Election meeting.

It is further understood that as the end of the President’s first term approaches, that the President will inform the Nominating Committee Chairperson of his/her intention to seek or not to seek a second term. Even if the President informs the Nominating Committee that he/she seeks a second term, the Nominating Committee may nominate another candidate. However, the incumbent President will be permitted to place his/her own name into nomination for a second one-year term (which has always been possible under the bylaws). And, of course, each Board member retains the right to nominate a candidate of their own choosing. The same provisions apply to the office of Vice-President. The effect is to change the “mind set” of the Board so that now an able and willing President will be elected to a second one-year term rather than almost automatically rotating out of office after the first term.

RATIFICATION OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ACTION

The Executive committee took action on the following item at the request of Joann Glasson. Joann proposed that the District sponsor a TAP workshop at the 2014 Valley Forge Regional with an attendee subsidy. Joann needed approval in order to reserve an ACBL TAP teacher. The Committee approved a subsidy such that TAP attendees pay \$50 (whether or not the attendee is from District 4). The District will pay the ACBL \$1,700 for the TAP teacher.

The Executive Committee approval was ratified after discussion about charging more, only subsidizing D4 members who attend, and charging less. A proposed amendment by Meyer Kotkin to charge \$25 failed. Warren Marsland noted that Units can subsidize their own attendees to bring the cost down further. Ala Hamilton-Day added that teachers bring in new players.

PUBLICITY

Joann Glasson reported that the Regional websites are longer linked to the partner request form application developed by Bill Schmidt. Bill has not been able to resolve the issue. Joann requested help and Meyer Kotkin said he would ask his son, Josh, to help.

DISTRICT 4SPOT

Elaine Landow reported that the next issue of the 4Spot will be published on Dec. 1.

TOURNAMENT COORDINATOR

John Marks thanked Unit Tournament Coordinators for their submissions. As a result, the 2014 Tournament Calendar is complete except for the NAP District finals and a few of the Delaware Unit tournaments. The 2014 calendar has been sent out. John noted that it is now time for tournament coordinators to begin work on the 2015 calendar.

CHARITY

April Uhlenburg was not present and had no report.

Craig Robinson reported on the ACBL-wide June 21, 2013 Longest Day fundraiser for the benefit of the Alzheimer's Association. Only a few local clubs participated because the date fell during the Valley Forge Regional. However, Lew Klein organized successful fundraising activities at the Regional. As a result of Lew's contribution, Craig has nominated Lew for membership on the National Charity Committee.

FINANCE

Dave Kresge introduced two motions that appear on the agenda. The first would increase the Secretary's stipend from \$60 per Board meeting (currently two per year) to \$100 per Board meeting. Bill noted that he also serves as Secretary for the Executive Committee, Tournament Committee and the NABC Planning Committee without compensation. The motion was approved. Tom then had Bill & Rick stand to be recognized for their work.

Dave then moved that the Treasurer's salary be increased from \$75/calendar quarter to \$100. Dave noted that Rick continues to donate his services. The motion was approved.

Dave Kresge reported that all tournament financial reports are current.

Dave noted that it is time for him to audit the District's financial statements. Dave said he would meet with Rick to conduct the audit during the Wilmington Regional or at another mutually convenient time.

NAP

Mike Giesler reported on the attendance at the various 2013 District Final NAP events. Flight "A", held in Harrisburg, a two-day event, had 12 tables (up from 9 in 2012). Flight "B" was conducted as a split-site 1-day event. Wilmington hosted 12 tables (vs. 11 in 2012). Vestal, NY had 9-1/2 tables (vs. 9 in 2012). Flight "C" was again conducted in a "STaC format" at 7 clubs (up from 4 clubs in 2012) attracting 53-1/2 tables (vs. 23 in 2012).

The issues of residency and eligibility based on masterpoint holding relating to two of the players have been resolved. The actual pairs going on to the NABC events remain to be determined as pairs advise whether or not they desire to go on in the event. However, the

2nd place Flight “C” pair announced that they would not go to the NABC. The ACBL’s Patsy Taylor and Mike will come up with a final list of pairs going on to the NABC.

Mike announced that he had served as NAP Coordinator for 3 years and that he would be retiring as of this meeting (but would wrap up the 2013 contest matters). Tom Weik led the Board in a round of applause for Mike’s service to the District.

Mike having told Bob Priest of his intention to retire, allowed Bob time to seek out a new coordinator. The new coordinator will be Jay Apfelbaum.

Alan Hodesblatt reminded the Board that masterpoints are awarded per ACBL regulations, but that NABC participation eligibility and subsidy entitlement is determined by the District conditions of contest. The conditions of contest need to reflect this distinction. Mike says that he already has the change to the condition of contest prepared and will pass the information along to the new coordinator.

The Board agreed to leave the matter of site selection and date up to the Executive Committee. Jay Apfelbaum will prepare a proposal for 2014 and the outline of a plan for future years.

GNT

Walt Mitchell has taken over for Ray Depew who retired after 14 years of service. Ray received a standing ovation from the Board for all his work over the years (in absentia since he is attending the settlement on a home in Florida).

Walt informed the Board that the 2014 event would again be held the first weekend in May at the Kingston Fire Hall. There is new bracketing in the 4-strat event with “A” under 6,000 and “B” under 2500.

EDUCATION

Corey Krantz advised the Units to contact him for help in setting up a “Learn-Bridge-in-a Day” workshop.

INTERMEDIATE/NEWCOMER

Ala Hamilton-Day had nothing to report.

TOURNAMENT

The agenda called for a motion to repeal the 26-board minimum requirement in effect for a Regional A/X pair event. Tom Weik and Bill Bauer gave the background on how this motion came to be placed on the agenda. Background information was also provided with the agenda. Just like the Executive Committee members, the full Board members also had a lot to say on the matter.

After lengthy discussion, the motion to repeal passed.

It is understood that the Tournament Chairperson still may adhere to the 26 board guideline. Board members who generally opposed repeal felt a “disclosure” statement should be included on tournament fliers when a maximum of 24 boards would be played in a pairs contest. It was pointed out that some MABC Regionals advertise accordingly.

Another proposed action was the purchase of 125 Bridgemates to get a special \$95/unit price. The District wants 100 for its own use (plus 3 servers and 4 carrying cases) for a total cost of \$10,673. Units will be invited to piggyback on the District purchase to purchase the other 25 (or more) units needed to obtain the special pricing. We now rent Bridgemates for pair events at a cost of \$0.75 per table. At current table counts (273 tables of pairs at our 5 Regionals), the District Regionals spend \$1,800/year on rentals. Thus the payback period is 6 years. John said he would coordinate transportation of the units to the tournaments and would store the units when they are not being used.

Kelly Zeller asked about the useful life and Meyer Kotkin said there is no data to reference at this point. The battery life is about 6 or 7 years. The units will get additional use when the new ACBLScore comes out as the Bridgemates will then work with team events as well, shortening the payback period. The motion passed.

Reference was made to the purchase of replacement bidding card inserts approved at the last Board meeting. They are in transit now. It was moved to buy 16 bidding boxes for left-handed players. The motion carried with only a few members opposed.

John Marks then introduced a motion to refurbish the remaining 130 District bridge tables at a cost of \$50/table. The motion passed. Mike Giesler, President of Unit 141, continues to offer to purchase 50 tables should they become available.

The costs of storage and transportation of tables was presented in the agenda background information. Walt Mitchell volunteered to identify alternative storage and transportation vendors and report his findings to the Executive Committee.

TOURNAMENT REPORTS:

- Valley Forge**
(6/17 – 6/23/13) - John Marks reported that the 2013 Valley Forge Regional made an approx. \$12,500 profit on 1,340 tables.
- Lancaster**
(10/28 – 11/3/2013) - Barry Gorski reported for John Klinger (who had left the meeting to attend to tournament matters) that through Friday the tournament was +80 tables compared to the 2012 tournament.
- Harrisburg** (split)
(7/22 – 7/28/13) - Bob Priest reported that the split-site regional tournament hosted 650 tables (+100 over the last Regional). On Wednesday there were 67 tables in play (including the Gold Rush Pairs) but by Saturday attendance had fallen off to 29 tables (9 in the gold Rush Pairs). Bob’s problem with the Gold

Rush Pair event is that the 750-2000 point players have to play in the A/X pairs when they would prefer to play in a B/C/D event. Bob would like to have a B/C/D pair event opposite an A/X event on Fridays and Saturdays. Bob pointed out that the Syracuse (Rochester in 2015) schedule governs the Harrisburg event schedule.

- Syracuse (split)**
(7/22-7/28/13) - The Tournament produced a \$9.6K profit. Mike promised better cooperation with Harrisburg on the 2015 split-site Regional event schedule. Mike thanked both Tom Weik and Walter Mitchell for attending the Regional.
- Delaware**
(3/31 – 4/6/14) - There was no report.
- Wilkes-Barre**
(3/2 – 3/8/15) - Walt Mitchell reported that the Regional will again be held at the Woodlands Resort in Wilkes Barre.

DISTRICT DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Craig announced that Bernie Gorkin will be retiring at year end. Bernie was the last D4 resident full-time Director. A new ACBL committee has formed (4 District Directors + 4 ACBL staff members including Solly Weinstein) to address the problem of Gold Rush pairs and the associated A/X pair events. It is agreed that the 750 to 2000 (or 3000) point players have been disenfranchised. A lot of ideas have been forthcoming including Craig's recommendation that the A/X pair event masterpoint awards be based on strength of field and not depend upon the table count in a lower-rated event.

OLD BUSINESS

Tom Weik noted that there were no items as table refurbishment had been addressed under the Tournament committee report.

NEW BUSINESS

It was noted that we will need a 9th Executive Committee member in 2015 when the 2nd VP position is eliminated for 2015. This item will be placed on the agenda for the next board meeting.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT AND ELECTION OF OFFICERS

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

- | | |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------|
| President | - Bob Priest of Unit 168 |
| 1 st Vice-President | - Dan Boye of Unit 112 |
| 2 nd Vice-President | - Ed Bissell of Unit 217 |
| 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

Bob Priest thanked outgoing President, Tom Weik, for his year as President. Bob particularly called attention to Tom's having instituted a face-to-face Executive Committee meeting primarily for brainstorming. Bob plans to continue that practice. Bob then presented Tom with a commemorative plaque and honorarium check.

Bob announced the following appointments:

1. Bill Bauer will continue as Board Secretary (unanimous Board confirmation).
2. Bruce Lang (Unit 141) and Ala Hamilton-Day (Unit 141) were nominated as the two Presidential Appointees to the Board as members-at-large (unanimous Board confirmation). Both appointees are knowledgeable about I/N player needs.
3. Walter Mitchell (Unit 120) and Mike Giesler (Unit 141) were appointed to the Executive Committee.
4. Joann Glasson will serve as the Board of Governors representative on the Executive Committee.
5. All committee chairs and coordinators have agreed to serve another year except for Mike Giesler (NAP Coordinator) and Dan Boye (Recorder). Jay Apfelbaum will be the new NAP Coordinator and a replacement will be named in the near future for the Recorder position.

Bob concluded by saying his emphasis will not be on providing good bridge, but rather to insure a good bridge environment.

Secretary's note: Jess Stuart of Unit 190 subsequently accepted the appointment as District Recorder.

NEXT MEETING

The Tournament Committee will meet during the Wilmington Regional. The Executive Committee will meet during the Valley Forge Regional. A full board meeting will take place during the Syracuse Regional.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 12:05 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Bill Bauer
District 4 Secretary

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