

**DRAFT MINUTES OF ACBL DISTRICT 4 VIRTUAL BOARD MEETING
June 25, 2021**

Voting Member Attendees:

At-Large: Jeanne Gehret (President), Betsy Cutler (Vice-President), Meyer Kotkin (IPP)
Joann Glasson (DD) (4 of 6).
Unit 112: Betty Youmans (Unit President), Pat Stadelmaier, James Carroll (3 of 5).
Unit 120: Bill Orth (Unit Pres.) (1 of 2).
Unit 121: Sue Wessner, Gene O'Brien (2 of 2).
Unit 133: Mike Kohler (Unit Pres.) (1 of 2).
Unit 141: Howard Kahlenberg (Unit Pres.), Joan Warren, April Uhlenburg, Jay
Apfelbaum, April Apfelbaum, Elaine Weintraub, Bob Glasson, John
Dickenson, Pat Civale (9 of 12)
Unit 168: John Klinger, Ed Scanlon, Carl Fahnestock (3 of 5).
Unit 190: Mark Henderson (Unit Pres.), Caroline Hughes, Richard Popper (3 of 3).
Unit 217: Jim McKeown (Unit Pres.) (1 of 2)

Also Present:

Bill Bauer, D4 Board Secretary
Kim Holm, Rehoboth Beach Delaware Regional Tournament Chairperson

Excused:

Mary Miller (Presidential Appointee)
Tom Weik (Presidential Appointee)
Lois Fuini (Charity Chairperson)
Janet Johnson (4Spot)
Jim Patton (Syracuse & Rochester Regional Co-Chairperson)

CALL TO ORDER & INTRODUCTIONS

A meeting of the ACBL District 4 Board of Directors was held on-line via Zoom due to the COVID-19 pandemic forcing the cancellation of the 2021 Valley Forge Regional. Jeanne Gehret, President, called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM, a quorum being present (27 of 39 voting members representing 8 of 8 units).

DISTRICT DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Joann noted that the ACBL is hard at work transitioning the game back to Face-to-Face play. Any club owner or manager can send Joann ideas, questions and concerns about resuming F2F play.

SECRETARY'S REPORT & APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF OCTOBER 30, 2020

The Secretary requested approval of the minutes of the virtual Lancaster Board meeting of October 30, 2020 that were emailed to the attendees. The minutes were unanimously approved. Bill reminded the Board that the minutes appear on the District website.

Since the meeting is being recorded via Zoom, Bill read a notice that joining the meeting is considered permission for your images and voice to be recorded and archived.

TREASURER’S REPORT

Pat Civale noted that she had submitted her report to the Secretary in advance of the meeting. However, the Secretary failed to email her May 31, 2021 fiscal year end financial report to prospective attendees prior to the meeting. After the meeting the Secretary emailed the report.

The fiscal year loss was \$10,841. However, \$5,500 was STaC expense for which the corresponding revenue was recorded in the prior fiscal year. (The District has historically used “cash basis” accounting.) Grass Roots income was greatly reduced. And, there were no STaC’s held in the fiscal year and obviously, no Regionals. Pat concluded by noting that the ongoing District annual expenses are about \$5,500

The Board approved the Treasurer’s report unanimously.

PRESIDENT’S REPORT

At this time Jeanne introduced Kim Holm to present the Delaware Unit’s plan to relocate the Delaware Regional to Rehoboth Beach. His presentation may be found under tournament reports.

Having concluded Kim Holms and Caroline Hughes presentation, Jeanne gave her report.

Jeanne informed the Board that District Presidents have been meeting on-line to share thoughts. She has nothing to report as yet.

Jeanne reminded us of the ACBL tournament guidelines: players must be vaccinated, hand sanitizer dispensers provided and masks worn. However, the mask mandate might be dropped based upon updated guidance from the CDC and local authorities.

Jeanne then noted the new (since Lancaster) Franni Stutman award, funding for which came from Franni’s friends and fellow players. The donated funds will go toward an annual youth (under 25) award based on masterpoints won during the year.

Jeanne then called attention to declining membership -- 10% over the past two years. Jeanne receives the ACBL-provided In & Out report just a Unit Presidents do. Some members believe lack of internet is a factor. Without the ability to participate in either virtual bridge or face-to-face bridge, why should one retain one’s membership?

To combat this problem – Delaware Unit gives free plays to ACBL members who transfer into the Unit or those who join the ACBL. Ed Scanlon noted that the ACBL provides free 120-day memberships to those who were never ACBL members.

RATIFICATION OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ACTION

The Board unanimously ratified President Gehret’s appointments of Mary Miller and Tom Weik to be Presidential Appointees to the Board. Also, Jeanne appointed John Dickenson to represent the Board of Governors on the Executive Committee (which does not require a vote).

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

PUBLICITY

Joann Glasson noted that the Lancaster Regional event schedule and other information were recently added to the District website. Joanne requested that other tournament flyers be sent to her to add to the website.

Joann informed us that the software she uses to maintain the site is no longer supported as the company is no longer in business. Jeanne found someone who is willing to create a new website. Joann has secured the services of Brandon Fong to maintain the new site.

DISTRICT 4SPOT

In Janet Johnson's absence, Jeanne gave her report. The open rate remains over 50%, well above the industry average.

TOURNAMENT COORDINATOR/D4 STaC COORDINATOR

Regarding STaC's, the first three 2021 scheduled STaC's have been cancelled. However, the 4th STaC will take place in November. F2F clubs are eligible to join the game.

Elaine noted two reasons, besides potentially reduced attendance, for lower profit. First, the ACBL has increased the table sanction fee by \$0.26/table for 2022. Secondly, Unit 135 in D6 has not signed on to participate in our 2022 STaC's as yet.

Elaine sent out her updated Tournament calendar several weeks before this meeting.

If any Tournament Chairs wish to send a write-up of their experiences running post-pandemic tournaments, Elaine will share them with the other Tournament Chairpersons.

CHARITY

Lois Fuini did not attend and had no report. Joann Glasson will remain vigilant should the ACBL Charity Foundation announce an allocation to our District.

FINANCE

Bob Marsh was not in attendance.

NAP

John Dickenson reminded the Board that club qualification events are being held at clubs (virtual and F2F) in June, July & August. Players who qualified are supposed to get an email to that effect from the ACBL.

The District finals have been sanctioned and are scheduled as follows:

Flight "A" will be held September 25-26 at North Penn BC in North Wales, PA.

Flight "B" will be held October 2 in Webster, NY and North Wales, PA.

Flight "C" will be held at Clubs or Unit games on September 25 (may be virtual or F2F).

Bill Orth stated that he would like to see the NAP District finals be conducted on-line.

GNT

John Dickenson reported that the 2021 four-flight events have concluded using the BBO website, software provided by Jay Whipple and direction by Rob Maier. Reduced cost to players (\$6.25/session) was made possible by not having to pay out travel subsidies (as the NABC event will also be virtual). Since attendance was up 50% over past years with greater geographical diversity, John would like to have next year's GNT virtual as well. Joann thought this would be possible since two Western districts have done this for years. John will study the ACBL conditions of contest when they become available to make sure there is no prohibition.

John shared the following participation chart with the Board:

Year	Venue	Open	A	B	C	Total
2016	Wilkes Barre	5	4	10	4	23
2017	King of Prussia	6	6	11	11	34
2018	King of Prussia	7	6	8	7	28
2019	North Wales	8	11	10	4	33
2020	Pandemic	0	0	0	0	0
2021	BBO	8	8	17	14	47

Mark Henderson commented on how enjoyable the event was; free of director calls and any animosity.

EDUCATION

Mary Miller was not in attendance and had no report.

INTERMEDIATE/NEWCOMER

Betsy Cutler is still planning an I/N Regional in Allentown in late September/early October 2023. King of Prussia's I/N Regional is planned for 2022.

TOURNAMENT

Meyer Kotkin is the Acting Chairperson.

Meyer reported that Marc Labovitz has retired from his position as an ACBL Tournament Director. Marc remains our contact with Inner Space where District equipment is stored. Marc will be assessing the condition of our equipment which has not been used since Lancaster in October 2019. Meyer will have son, Josh, check out the dealing machines. Rui Marques removed the Bridgmate batteries having been given a recommendation to do so. Bill mentioned that he has new plastic containers for the District bidding boxes since he noted the poor condition of the existing cartons at the 2019 Spooky Nook Regional. Meyer said the cartons are held together with shrink wrap. Ed Scanlon noted that the model BMII Bridgemates needed to have software updates installed before use.

Meyer advised tournament Chairs to plan to have equipment and tables delivered on weekdays during the day to avoid evening and weekend increased delivery/pickup costs.

AD HOC COMMITTEE ON DISTRICT – CLUB COOPERATION

Mary Miller was not in attendance. Jeanne called on Unit representatives to inform the Board about F2F games underway and planned.

U112 – Sent a comprehensive report. So far, four clubs have resumed F2F. More will follow in July. Proof of vaccination required.

U120 – Three small clubs resumed F2F and might get 4 tables. Players either prefer virtual or have concerns about F2F.

U121 – Down to one club which will open to F2F play on Tuesday, July 6. FTF will soon be offered on Thursdays as well. Good attendance is expected.

U133 – Three country club games are getting 6-1/2 tables about the same as before the pandemic. The Bethlehem game and Allentown Sr. Center game will resume F2F in a week or two.

U141 – Center City, Valley Forge BC and North Penn have resumed F2F. Raffles is not likely to reopen.

U168 – The York, Harrisburg (Camp Hill) and Lancaster clubs are resuming F2F starting July 5.

U190 – Country club F2F games are doing well. The Bridge Studio is up and down.

U217 - One of two clubs has closed. The other club will reopen Sept. 12 when its host facility reopens.

TOURNAMENT REPORTS:

Valley Forge
(6/21 – 6/27/21)
(6/27 – 7/3/22)

- Meyer reported that like 2019, the 2020 tournament was canceled due to the pandemic. Meyer again informed the Unit 141 BOD that he wishes to retire. Meyer will be available to consult with the new Chairperson. There is one remaining 1-year contract with the VF Convention Center.

Lancaster
(10/25 – 10/29/21)
(10/31 – 11/6/22)

- Jeanne reported that the Spooky Nook Regional will be held Monday – Friday. She has flyers for anyone to request who wants some to distribute.

Rochester
(8/2 – 8/8/21)

- Betty Youmans reported that the 2021 Regional was cancelled.

Wilkes-Barre

- Walt Mitchell did not attend.

Syracuse
(8/8 – 8/14/22)

- Betty Youmans reported that the 2020 Regional was canceled due to the pandemic. The 2022 Regional will be held, once again, at the Liverpool Holiday Inn.

Delaware
(5/2- 5/6/22)

- Kim Holm was introduced as the new Delaware Regional Chairperson. He shared his proposal and pro forma budget for a Regional at Rehoboth Beach with the Board. The 5-day Regional will be held at the 5-year old Convention Center having “the Breakers” hotel right next door. The format is morning–afternoon with no evening sessions. There will be a catered lunch included with the \$18/session card fee. Importantly, there is no “room night guarantee” which lessens financial risk. All parking is free. Rooms cost \$98.10 per night with complimentary breakfast.

Bob Glasson commented that he approved the well thought out proposal. Elaine Weintraub commented that the Regional needs a publicity plan. Rich Popper noted that he had run Sectionals in the former Convention Center with ”The Breakers” serving as the host hotel about 20 years ago.

Since the location has changed, a Board vote was conducted to give approval to proceed with planning including Bob Glasson’s review & approval of the contract with the Convention Center when the contract becomes available. Then Kim may sign the contract on behalf of the District and pay the required deposit. The motion passed unanimously.

King of Prussia I/N - Joan & Bill Goldstein were not present. Of course, the event 8/10/21 – 8/12/21 was canceled.

Allentown (U133) I/N - Betsy Cutler is hoping to hold the event in late Sept/early Oct (2023) (2023) at the Active Life facility which has been remodeled to merge three smaller rooms into one large room.

Meyer feels that the schedule for Regional I/N tournaments should be accelerated to get I/N players back.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business.

NEW BUSINESS

Betsy Cutler mentioned that she & Jeanne did a tour of D4 virtual club games, nineteen in all. They were welcomed everywhere.

Some clubs are planning a time of remembrance after reopening for players who passed away during the period of club closure.

John Klinger called attention to a Texas Club being sued over requiring vaccination. While likely within the clubs rights, Jay Apfelbaum noted that the club still has to hire an attorney to defend the club or owner in Court. For Regionals following ACBL guidelines, the ACBL would have to defend any resultant lawsuits.

NEXT MEETING

The Board will meet (virtually) Friday evening, November 5, 2021 at 7:00PM which is the Friday following the conclusion of the Lancaster (Manheim) Regional. The rationale

is that the Regional ends Friday afternoon and distant board members would have to pay to stay over an extra night.

Since the Bylaws state that the Board & Election Meeting is to take place at the last Regional of the year, a vote was called to approve the rescheduling. The Board unanimously approved.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:13 PM.

Respectively submitted by: William L. Bauer III
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