

**DRAFT MINUTES OF ACBL DISTRICT 4 BOARD MEETING
Lancaster, Pennsylvania
October 31, 2009**

Voting Member Attendees:

- At-Large: Joann Glasson (Board President), Bob Cole (1st VP), Rick Rowland (2nd VP),
Absent (Immediate Past President), Craig Robinson (National Board), Absent
(Pres Appt.), Deepak Khanna (Pres. Appt.) (5 of 7)
- Unit 112: Robert Simard, Warren Marsland (arrived during Tournament Reports), Mary
Poplawski (for Laura Krauss), Harry Nuckols (for Mark McDermott) (4 of 6)
- Unit 120: Walt Mitchell, Ray Depew (2 of 2)
- Unit 121: Susan Khanna (for Barry Gorski (1 of 2)
- Unit 133: Barbara Miller, Valerie Barber (for John Schwartz) (2 of 2)
- Unit 141: Tom Purl, Jay Apfelbaum, Everett Young, Michael Salton, Dennis O'Brien
(for Joan Brandeis), Ala Hamilton-Day, Ray Raskin (for Tom Urso), Terry
Coughlin, Marie Trethaway, Tom Sakaguchi, John Marks, Elaine Landow
(12 of 12)
- Unit 168: Ron Orr, Tim Smith (for Bob Priest), John Klinger, Bert Murray, Pamela
Murray, (5 of 5)
- Unit 190: Alan Horowitz, Tom Grabowski, Anne Taylor (for Ward Schaumberg),
Richard Popper (4 of 4)
- Unit 217: Ed Bissell, Mary Ann Churba (for Sue Pierce) (2 of 2)

Non-Voting Invitees:

Bob Glasson, Judiciary Committee Chair	Alan Hodesblatt, Tournament Director
Don Swan, NAP Coordinator	Deb Klinger, Lancaster Regional co-chair
Jane Segal, Board of Governors	

CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS

A meeting of the ACBL District 4 Board of Directors was held at the Lancaster Host, October 31, 2009. Joann Glasson, President, called the meeting to order at 10:05 AM, a quorum being present (37 of 42 voting members representing 8 of 8 units).

Joann recognized Alan Horowitz, the newly elected President of the Delaware Unit 190.

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

Bill advised that he would soon request Unit Presidents to submit their 2010 unit representatives' names and that the number of representatives per unit will not change. The calculation is based upon the October 1 unit membership as obtained by Craig Robinson from the ACBL. The report showed that the District had a net gain of 80 members since last October 1. The Unit breakdown as of October 1 is as follows:

<u>UNIT</u>	<u>10/2008</u>	<u>10/2009</u>	<u>CHANGE</u>	<u>2010 REPRESENTATIVES PER BYLAWS</u>
112	1,229	1,212	-17	6
120	357	368	+11	2
121	280	242	-38	2
133	304	311	+7	2
141	2,644	2,707	+63	12
168	916	988	+72	5
190	731	714	-17	4
217	<u>149</u>	<u>148</u>	<u>-1</u>	<u>2</u>
TOTALS	6,610	6,690	+80	35

The minutes of the Valley Forge Board meeting of July 10, 2009 were unanimously approved as submitted. Bill reminded the Board that the minutes appear on the District website.

TREASURER’S REPORT

Rick Rowland reported that District finances are not as “rosy” as in the past. He is waiting to receive profits from the Valley Forge and Syracuse Regionals. GNT expense is up as certain of our teams went further into the competition than in the recent past. He provided a profit & loss comparison and a balance sheet comparison to the previous fiscal year

PRESIDENT’S REPORT

Joann thanked the Klinger’s and the entire Lancaster Regional Committee for another excellent regional.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

DISTRICT 4SPOT

Elaine Landow advised that the deadline for the December 1 issue is next week.

CHARITY

Beth Rosenthal did not attend the meeting.

FINANCE

Dave Kresge reported that he had not received a financial report from neither the NAP nor the King of Prussia Regional.

DISTRICT RECORDER

Dan Boye was not present. He previously informed the Secretary that he had nothing to report.

NAP

Don Swan reported on the October 2009 attendance and winners in each flight:

Flight “A” (Allentown)

1. Tom Weik & Dan Boye
2. Barry Gorski & Albert Bingaman, Jr.
3. Rick Rowland & Craig Robinson

Flight “B” (Wilmington)

1. Anne & Bob Taylor
2. Michael Mayer & Lewis Klein
3. Christopher Marlow & Andy Muenz

Flight “C”

1. Mary Boyd & Peter Harris
2. Samuel Litzenberger & Clay Madison
3. Linda Regan & Laurie Shelton

Don presented the participation history as follows:

	Rochester					Cherry Hill (Wilmington)					Total						
	<u>05</u>	<u>06</u>	<u>07</u>	<u>08</u>	<u>09</u>	<u>05</u>	<u>06</u>	<u>07</u>	<u>08</u>	<u>09</u>	<u>05</u>	<u>06</u>	<u>07</u>	<u>08</u>	<u>09</u>		
Flight “C”	7	0	--STaC---			5	8.5	---	STaC---		12	8.5	50.5	46.5	46.5		
Flight “B”	6	11.5	12	8.5	0	18.5	15.5	17	13	13.5	24.5	27	29	21.5	13.5		
	Allentown																
	<u>05</u>	<u>06</u>	<u>07</u>	<u>08</u>	<u>09</u>												
Flight “A”	11.5	13	11	11	14						<u>11.5</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>14</u>		
												Grand Total	48	48.5	90.5	79	74

Don noted the still significant increase in Flight “C” due to the STaC format. Craig summarized the participation as follows: 1 new club, 1 lost club from last year, and the exact same table count compared to last year.

A discussion ensued over the site for Flight “B” and Flight “A”. Craig said that the New York Unit (112) can choose the weekend and the Bridge Studio of Wilmington will accommodate. The NAP District finals should not conflict with the Reading Sectional and must be held in September to avoid a conflict with the World Championships in Philadelphia in October. Bob Simard apologized for not having sufficient qualified players attend the Flight “B” District Finals in Lakeville (Rochester). He said the Syracuse Sectional was being moved to September 24-26 from October 10-12. There is a Sectional in Vestal on October 22-24. Craig concluded the discussion by saying that Don Swan and Bob Simard will need to agree to a date/location and then either Philadelphia or Wilmington will accommodate the New York Unit date selection.

Jay Apfelbaum passed on a request from Lois Sanders that the NAP District finals not coincide with the Buffalo Regional.

Bill noted that Craig was successful in obtaining a list of qualified players from District 4 from the ACBL (consisting of all players who won master points in a Club Qualifier).

Later in the meeting Mary Poplawski proposed that all NAP District Finals except "C" be played at the Lancaster Regional in 2010 only due to the WBF World Championships in Philadelphia. The motion, after much discussion failed.

GNT

Ray Depew informed the Board that the 2009 GNT went well. Mary Poplawski noted that a Unit might run a GNT Unit Qualifier even though it would not have any meaning regarding qualification (as any team could still go on to the District finals whether or not they participated in the Unit Qualifier).

EDUCATION

Mary Poplawski requested the Board approve a subsidy of \$500 per site for two Teacher Accreditation Programs (TAP's) in 2010 at two of our Regionals. The subsidy permits the attendees to pay \$50 rather than \$125 to attend. Because of sufficient attendance the subsidies were not expended in 2009. 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 will appear in the December 4Spot.

JUDICIARY

Bob Glasson said that there were no cases to report.

APPEALS

JoAnn Sprung was not present, but had informed Joann Glasson that she had no report.

INTERMEDIATE/NEWCOMER

Ala Hamilton-Day had no report.

TOURNAMENT COORDINATOR

John Marks, having taken over for Elaine Landow, is having many of the same problems that Elaine experienced. Unit coordinators need to complete the 2011 schedule and begin to plan for 2012.

John reminded the Board of the District STaC, December 7 – 13. This year, Club Managers must register on the ACBL website to participate.

TOURNAMENT

John Marks had no report.

TOURNAMENT REPORTS:

- 2012 Summer NABC** - John Marks along with co-chairs Joann Glasson and Craig Robinson have appointed three Committee Chairs (I/N – Susan & Bill Grover), Entertainment (Pat Civale) and Registration (Ray Depew assisted by Judy Argento). Units will be asked to volunteer to staff certain functions each day.
- WBF World Champ.** (10/1 – 10/16/10) - John reported that a regional tournament would run in parallel. Planning is going well. Volunteers are needed to operate the viewgraph.
- Valley Forge** (7/6 – 7/12/09) - John Marks reported that the 2009 Valley Forge Regional lost about \$4,000. The I/N program and hospitality expenses were higher and table count was down. Belt tightening is in order for next year (7/12-7/18/10).
- Lancaster** (10/26 – 11/1/09) - John Klinger reported that attendance was down by 130 tables primarily on Mon/Tue. Wed/Thurs/Fri attendance was comparable to 2008. Possible causes are: Ocean City Regional just concluded, fear of flu, and the economy. The Tournament Committee has added Rick Rowland to handle finances and Craig Robinson to replace Don Marlett. Next year's tournament will be held Nov. 1 to Nov. 7, three weeks after the Philadelphia WBF event concludes.
- Harrisburg** (8/3-8/10/10) - No report. The tournament will be a split Regional with Syracuse.
- Syracuse** (8/3-8/10/10) - Bob Simard reported that Gerry Radway would continue to chair the Tournament.
- Delaware** (4/26 – 5/2/10) - Tom Grabowski reported that the Regional would be held at the Holiday Inn Select at I-95 and Naamans Road. Parking is free and Tom is hoping to obtain favorable hotel room rates.
- Scranton** (2/28 – 3/6/2011) - Ray Depew reported that planning for the 2011 tournament is on schedule and that several hotels are being considered.

DISTRICT DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Craig Robinson reported that adding a fourth NAP flight (2000-5000) would be considered in San Diego. This addition would make the flight master point limits consistent with the GNT's. Craig is concerned, though, because subsidies cost \$56K per flight (Craig is the Board Finance Chair and the ACBL Treasurer).

Craig indicated that the WBF World Championship would not provide either a financial reward or risk. There is some financial protection for the Lancaster Regional.

OLD BUSINESS

1. District 4 Youth Program Fund Implementation.
Mary Poplawski reminded the Board that the Board approved participation at the Valley Forge board meeting (Bill read the minutes). No one has been assigned, though, to spearhead the project. Before forging ahead, Joann reminded Craig that he is to find out what fees or expenses the ACBL might charge participants.
2. Textbook Stocking Program
Mary Poplawski advised that an article promoting the District textbook stocking program would appear in the next 4SPOT. Mary obtained a list of TAP graduates but it did not have e-mail addresses.
3. GNT Open Flight Location
Ray Raskin proposed changing the site of the GNT open flight to the Southern part of the District since nearly all recent past participants come from the Philadelphia/Wilmington areas. Players would save on hotel and commuting costs. Ray Depew countered that the GNT helps his sectional by sharing costs and that some GNT participants also patronize the Sectional on Friday and Sunday. Craig noted that as standalone GNT event, 8 teams would produce revenue of \$1,100 but cost \$1,000 for a director for 4 sessions and the host site would expect to be compensated for space. Rick Rowland and Rich Popper felt a change would disenfranchise New York players even though the move would benefit them personally as they live very close to the Wilmington Bridge Studio. A “straw” vote was taken prior to any motion being introduced to ascertain possible support for a change. The vote was substantially against a change. Ray Raskin informed players that Priceline typically has hotel rooms for \$50/night in the Scranton area during the GNT.
4. Naming of Regional Events for Living People
Ray Raskin requested that Regional events be named for living as well as deceased persons. Since the bylaws only provide that a Tournament Committee obtain approval for naming an event for a person (without specifying living or dead) the Board concluded that Tournament Committees could already request approval for naming an event for a living person. Indeed, Lancaster already names an event for Eleanor Alboum. Thus, no vote was needed. Tournament Chairs should just contact the District President or Secretary to have the Executive Committee approve/reject the proposed naming.
5. Number of Boards Played in an Event
A few Board members chose to bring up the matter of event selection feeling that more pairs’ events should be scheduled. Tournament chairs and others were of the opinion that the majority of players preferred team events, particularly bracketed K/O’s. Any tournament that departed from the players’ expectation of K/O’s starting every day would likely face diminished attendance.

The discussion then morphed into a discussion of the number of boards played in a session. A motion to require 52 boards minimum at a regional A/X pairs or team event carried. Craig pointed out this board policy would impact regionally rated events at NABC's hosted by District 4. It was felt by many that the extra boards could be played in the same amount of time that 24 boards would be played in B/C/D events.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Two Board Meetings vs. One (Lancaster only)

Rick Rowland moved to eliminate the 2nd board meeting generally held at the Philadelphia Regional (King of Prussia) citing the cost of dinner and gratuity, free plays and mileage subsidy approaching \$5,000. Instead of meeting, the committee reports would be posted to the District website. The fiscal year would need to change to September 30 rather than May 31.

The proposal generated a lot of debate. Tom Purl felt that the role of the Executive committee would be greatly expanded. However, the Secretary pointed out that the Executive Committee generally considers about 3 matters/year of which two or all three are routine matters. However, any items voted upon at the 2nd meeting would add to the number of matters to be considered by the Executive Committee. Mike Salton felt the Board meetings were very worthwhile as he learned from the dialog and would be willing to extend the length of a meeting to accommodate even more discussion. Jay Apfelbaum said the issue of two meetings vs. one is a question of governance, not of money, as a 2nd meeting could be held without all the expensive prerequisites. Everett Young pointed out that the President could call a special meeting if necessary. The Secretary added that four units could request a meeting and that 15 days notice is required before a special meeting could be held. Mary Poplawski questioned whether or not the bylaws make mention of financial policy relating to Board meetings (answer: the bylaws do not prescribe prerequisites). Walt Mitchell liked the interaction of "live" Board meetings (as opposed to a teleconference or something similar). Walt received permission to conduct a "straw" vote on whether Board members would be willing to give up prerequisites. It appeared that an overwhelming number would be willing.

Rick received permission from the Board to modify his motion such that only prerequisites would be eliminated (and not the second meeting). However, Rick Rowland conducted a vote on his motion to have only one board meeting/year and the motion failed. The Board then proceeded to vote on eliminating various prerequisites. The Board voted to eliminate free plays for Board members at each Board meeting, keep the Lancaster breakfast, but to eliminate the King of Prussia meal and to retain mileage subsidies for both meetings.

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. Nine of the 15 eligible members attended last evening's meeting (not including Leon Lyday and Carl Cronrath, two Past Presidents who relocated to Florida).

Craig Robinson reported the committee's recommendations as follows:

President	- Bob Cole of Unit 133
1 st Vice-President	- Rick Rowland of Unit 190
2 nd Vice-President	- Walter Mitchell of Unit 120
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 thanked the Board for electing him District President. He then thanked outgoing President, Joann Glasson, for her nearly two years of service and for holding a transition team meeting in King of Prussia in anticipation of Bob becoming President. Bob presented Joann with a commemorative plaque and honorarium check.

Bob announced the following appointments:

1. Bill Bauer will continue as Board Secretary (unanimous Board confirmation).
2. Don Swan is one of the two Presidential Appointees to the Board as a member-at-large (unanimous Board confirmation).
3. The Executive Committee appointees will be made at a later date after their respective units select the 2010 Board members. Bob intends to appoint members from units not already represented on the Committee.
4. Ray Raskin will serve as the Board of Governors representative on the Executive Committee.

Bob still has three committee chairpersons to talk with, but those he has talked with are willing to continue.

NEXT MEETING

A full board meeting will take place during the Valley Forge Regional after the 3:00pm session on Friday, July 16, 2010.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 12:02 PM.

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