

**DRAFT MINUTES OF ACBL DISTRICT 4 VALLEY FORGE BOARD
MEETING
July, 1, 2022**

Voting Member Attendees:

At-Large: Jeanne Gehret (President), Betsy Cutler (Vice-President), Meyer Kotkin (IPP)
Joann Glasson (DD), Mary Miller (Presidential Appointee) (5 of 6).
Unit 112: Betty Youmans (Unit President), Richard Hartz, Phil Geibel, Lynn Ackerman,
Jim Patton (5 of 5).
Unit 120: David Meyer, Walter Mitchell (2 of 2).
Unit 121: Carl Ziegler (Unit President) (1 of 2).
Unit 133: Betty Abrams, Grace Sutherland (2 of 2).
Unit 141: Jay Apfelbaum (Unit Pres.), Ellen Berkowitz, April Uhlenburg, April
Apfelbaum, Elaine Weintraub, Bob Glasson, Mark Cohen, Pat Civale, Joan
Goldstein, Bharat Rao, Lucia Nemer (11 of 11)
Unit 168: Linda Ivanoff (Unit Pres.) Tom Coxey, Bob Priest, Ron Orr (4 of 4).
Unit 190: Tom Tully, Ala Hamilton-Day, Richard Popper (3 of 3).
Unit 217: (0 of 2)

Also Present:

Bill Bauer, D4 Board Secretary
ACBL Directors Rob Maier, Bob Cole and Lynn Chapin
Retired ACBL Director Marc Labovitz

Excused:

Tom Weik (Presidential Appointee)
Lois Fuini (Charity Chairperson)
Jim McKeown, U217 President

CALL TO ORDER & INTRODUCTIONS

A meeting of the ACBL District 4 Board of Directors was held F2F being called to order by President Jeanne Gehret at 7:00 PM, a quorum being present (33 of 37 voting members representing 7 of 8 units). Jeanne requested the Secretary to introduce Board members attending their first meeting. They are: Richard Hartz and Phil Geibel of U112; Carl Ziegler, President of U121; Betty Abrams and Grace Sutherland of U133; Lucia Nemer, Mark Cohen and Bharat Rao of U141; and Tom Tully of U190.

DISTRICT DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Joann stated that it has been a fun six months being ACBL President. She and the Board and ACBL Staff are working on two primary initiatives: 1.) Detecting on-line cheating using EDGAR. 2.) To enhance attendance at F2F games, we must teach new players. The Education Foundation will pay teachers affiliated with clubs.

Joann then made a motion for the District to pay the \$125 fee for the teacher certification class to be held at the Providence NABC. The motion passed unanimously.

SECRETARY’S REPORT & APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 5, 2021

The Secretary requested approval of the minutes of the virtual Lancaster Board meeting of November 5, 2021 that were emailed to the attendees. The minutes were unanimously approved. Bill reminded the Board that the minutes appear on the District website.

TREASURER’S REPORT

Pat Civale noted the Secretary had emailed her FY ending May 31, 2022 financial report in advance of the meeting.

The fiscal year loss was \$4,040. The loss is actually greater by \$1,156 for STaC expenses not paid by the end of the fiscal year. (The district uses “cash basis” accounting.) Total assets are \$193,079 with \$117,115 being in the Nationals Fund.

The only Regional held in the FY was Rehoboth Beach in May. The net income was \$451.83. But nearly \$3,800 was written off for expenses associated with Regionals that were not held, primarily Wilmington.

The Board unanimously approved the Treasurer’s report.

PRESIDENT’S REPORT

Jeanne noted the following personnel changes:

1. NAP/GNT Coordinators – John Dickenson is retiring and Bharat Rao has assumed these positions.
2. District 4Spot Editor – Janet Johnson has retired and Susan Morse has taken over. However, Janet’s other duties have been reassigned. Jim Patton will manage Constant Contact. Bill Herdle will compile and send out the Silver & Gold upcoming events schedule.

Regarding membership, the District currently has 5,392 members, down from 5,479 as of 9/30/21. Out of the 965 new members who have come up for renewal in the past 12 months, 55% renewed. While that sounds bad, it is the highest percentage among all Districts.

RATIFICATION OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ACTIONS

1. The Board unanimously ratified the Executive committee’s approval of a Banking Resolution for Wells Fargo Bank. Since that account has since been closed, the Board granted the officers the authority to submit a banking resolution to Bank of America should one be requested.
2. The Board unanimously ratified the Executive Committee’s approval of a 2nd Rehoboth Beach Regional for May 1-5, 2023. All the background information that the committee considered had been sent out to the Board prior to the meeting.

Bob Priest would like the dates of a potential 2024 Rehoboth Regional as soon as possible in order to schedule the U168 I/N Regional in 2024.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

PUBLICITY

Joann Glasson noted that the new District website is up & running. Brandon Fong will maintain the new site.

DISTRICT 4SPOT

In Susan Morse's absence, the Secretary read her report. Susan says Hi everyone! I'm pleased to report that the 4Spot is now reaching 4,269 readers, up about 600 from the beginning of the year. Susan is now receiving reports from all 8 units since Carl Ziegler, U121 President, is now on-board.

TOURNAMENT COORDINATOR/D4 STaC COORDINATOR

Five STaC's have now been held but attendance is only 35-45% of pre-COVID STaC's. Elaine sent out her updated Tournament calendar several weeks before this meeting. There are lots of Sectionals plus the usual District events.

CHARITY

Lois Fuini did not attend and had no report

FINANCE

Bob Marsh was not in attendance and had no report.

NAP

Bharat Rao is the new Coordinator for the District NAP's and GNT's.

Bharat said that in a poll of Flight "A" and Flight "B" players, F2F prevailed. Next, he will poll flight "C" players.

GNT

John Dickenson's report was summarized by the Secretary in John's absence. John reports that the 2022 four-flight events have concluded using the BBO website. Zoom was used for security and a bit of social interaction on the 2nd day.

Entries were slightly up for Flight A and down for the other three flights. Flight C was down especially sharply, perhaps the outstanding attendance last year was due to the National finals being held online. In general, participation in Flight C is a challenge in both GNT and NAP because few C players are motivated to travel to the NABC.

The attendance history follows:

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, PA	8	11	10	4	33
2020	Pandemic	0	0	0	0	0
2021	BBO	8	8	17	14	47
2022	BBO	5	9	11	4	29

The District will incur a sizable loss on GNT this year, as our table fees totaled \$4179 and we will be on the hook for \$2000 subsidies to 4 first place teams and \$1200 to the runner up Flight B team. Additional expenses to the DIC and per table sanction fees to ACBL were \$939 and \$912 for the two weekends. Our loss will be at least \$6872, and more if any of our teams make it past the second day in Providence. It is not an option to raise card fees substantially beyond the current \$15 per player per session, so we either need to run this event at a substantial loss, increase attendance, or motivate the clubs to run more Grass Roots events which award extra points and help fund GNT and NAP.

EDUCATION

Mary Miller noted that new players need to touch the cards and bidding boxes. New students want to learn F2F. Mary expressed her appreciation for Joann’s motion to pay for teacher training at the Summer NABC in Providence.

Active teachers are listed on the District 4 website.

The ACBL and the ABTA have been holding meetings on Zoom to coordinate their efforts.

INTERMEDIATE/NEWCOMER

Betsy Cutler noted that U133, of which she is President, has club games for limited point players. She has been receiving emails from some of the new players.

TOURNAMENT

Jeanne Gehret is the Acting Chairperson. Jeanne noted the increase in fees charged by Inner-Space, the storage and delivery company in Philadelphia that houses most of the District equipment. Jeanne and others have been replacing worn playing cards and bidding box inserts.

Meyer reported that his son, Josh, has cleaned the dealing machine. Josh also replaced the rechargeable batteries in our computers.

TOURNAMENT REPORTS:

Valley Forge
(6/27 – 7/3/22)
(6/26 – 7/2/23) - Meyer informed the Board that this is his last year as Tournament Chair for which he received a standing ovation. The Secretary is unsure whether the ovation was in appreciation for all of Meyer’s years of excellent service or just because he was leaving. Meyer will be available to consult with the new Co-Chairpersons, Mark Cohen and Bob Glasson. Also, last but not least, self-proclaimed “Chick Magnet”, Meyer, secured a \$4,000 subsidy form the Valley Forge Convention Bureau. Meyer did not reveal what he had to do to get the subsidy.

Lancaster
(10/31 – 11/6/22)
(10/30 – 11/5/23) - Jeanne reported that the Spooky Nook Regional will be 7-days. The cost is \$3,600 with no room night guarantee.

Rochester
(8/7 – 8/13/23) - Betty Youmans reported that the Unit is considering a move to a central location between Rochester and Syracuse.

Wilkes-Barre - Walt Mitchell would like to hold a split-site Regional in 2023.

Syracuse
(8/8 – 8/12/22) - Betty Youmans reported that the 2022 Regional was canceled due to the lingering pandemic’s impact on F2F play throughout the New York Unit.

Delaware
(5/2- 5/6/22)
(5/1 – 5/5/23) - Ala Hamilton-Day reported for co-chairs Kim & Caroline. Here are some observations: awesome friendliness, no pros attended, 55% D4/45% non-D4, scrumptious box lunches, free parking, complimentary breakfast and a \$541 profit. besides. This will continue to be an M-F tournament as weekend prices are way up.

King of Prussia I/N
(8/2 – 8/4/22) - Joan Goldstein reported, the event has been canceled. The price was unaffordable.

Allentown (U133) I/N - Betsy Cutler arranged to hold the event at the Active Life
(12/14 – 12/16/23) Active Life facility.

OLD BUSINESS

The D4 Bylaws were revised to reflect the ACBL’s elimination of the District Directors, the 1st & 2nd alternate District Directors and the name change of the National Board of Governors to become the Advisory Council. The responsibility of chairing the

Nominating Committee was reassigned from the District Director to the Immediate Past President. The revised bylaws were unanimously approved

NEW BUSINESS

Mark Cohen noted that many newer players do not realize that the NAP's & GNT's culminate in NABC events. Players also have no understanding of Red & Blue Ribbon qualifications.

NEXT MEETING

The Board will next meet Friday evening, November 4, 2022 at 7:00PM which is the Friday of the Lancaster (Manheim) Regional. The agenda will include the election of officers – President, Vice-President and Treasurer. The incumbents have a year remaining in their 3-year terms. A Secretary will also be appointed by the President subject to Board approval.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:10 PM.

Respectively submitted by: William L. Bauer III
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