

MINUTES OF F2F DISTRICT 4 LANCASTER BOARD MEETING
FRIDAY, OCT 31, 2025 @ 6:45 PM

CALL TO ORDER & INTRODUCTIONS

President Betsy Cutler

Betsy called the meeting to order early at 6:30 PM as all were present or accounted for. Betsy called on the Secretary to introduce 1st time attendees as follows:

Unit 112 - Noah Bell and Pam Wiley

Unit 121 - Raquel Yiengst and Beth Jasinski

Unit 141 - John Nothdurft

ATTENDANCE

Voting Member Attendees:

At-Large: Betsy Cutler (President), Ala Hamilton-Day (Vice-President), Jeanne Gehret (Immediate Past President), Bob Glasson (Presidential Appointee), Mary Miller (Presidential Appointee) (5 of 5).

Unit 112 Betty Youmans (Unit President), Noah Bell, Pam Wiley, Lynn Ackerman
(4 of 4).

Unit 120: Joe Distini (Unit VP), Walter Mitchell (2 of 2).

Unit 121: Raquel Yiengst (Unit President), Beth Jasinski (2 of 2).

Unit 133: Lee Stanley (Unit VP), Betty Abrams (2 of 2).

Unit 141: Jay Apfelbaum (Unit VP), April Apfelbaum, John Dickenson, Pat Civale, Rex Saffer, John Nothdurft, Joann Glasson, Lou Glasthal, Susan Morse, Linda O'Malley (10 of 10)

Unit 168: Linda Ivanoff (Unit President), Bob Priest, Ron Orr, Bridget Whitley (4 of 4).

Unit 190: Harold Jordan (Unit President), Bill Herdle, Richard Popper (3 of 3).

Unit 217: Jim McKeown (Unit President) (1 of 2)

Also Present: Bill Bauer, D4 Board Secretary

REGIONAL DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Joann Glasson

Joann reminded the Board of her monthly columns in the 4Spot to learn what the ACBL Board and management are doing.

Bronia Jenkins, ACBL Executive Director, is an incredible promoter of the game.

The ACBL needs more teachers to reach more people who would like to learn bridge.

There is a new reward for newer players called "Sapphires". Jay Whipple keeps track of the accomplishments of newer players to award Sapphires.

REPORT FROM ACBL ADVISORY COUNCIL

Richard Popper

Richard explained that the ACBL Advisory Council reviews all decisions made by the ACBL BoD. Richard is the current Chair of the Council.

The Council discussed the Board's action amending the Disciplinary code to permit those players guilty of cheating in on-line games to still play F2F, No motions were forthcoming yet.

Our Advisory Council members for 2026 are Betsy Cutler, John Dickenson and Jay Apfelbaum. Rich Popper is also a member by virtue of being a former Board of Governors President. The Advisory Council is the new name for the Board of Governors.

MINUTES OF F2F DISTRICT 4 LANCASTER BOARD MEETING
FRIDAY, OCT 31, 2025 @ 6:45 PM

SECRETARY'S REPORT/

Bill Bauer

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 1, 2024.

ACCEPTANCE of COMMITTEE & COORDINATOR, TOURNAMENT, and OFFICER REPORTS in lieu of a 2025 Valley Forge Board Meeting

Bill reported that a quorum was present: 8 of 8 units represented and 33 of 34 voting Board members present.

A motion to approve the minutes of our November 1, 2024, Board Meeting was unanimously adopted.

A motion to accept the 2025 Valley Forge reports to the Board was unanimously adopted.

The Secretary was asked why the distinction of approving the minutes (from a F2F meeting) vs. accepting into the record a compilation of officer, Committee Chairs and Coordinators and Tournament Chairs. When no meeting (F2F or Zoom) is held, it is appropriate to accept the report to the Board into the official records of the District such as the 2025 Valley Forge Report to the Board in lieu of an actual meeting.

The membership by Unit as of October 1, 2023, 2024 and 2025 per the ACBL was:

<u>UNIT</u>	<u>10/2023</u>	<u>10/2024</u>	<u>10/2025</u>	<u>2024-2025</u>		<u>2026 REPS</u>
				<u>CHANGE</u>	<u>%</u>	
112	959	928	803	-125	-13.5	4
120	186	181	146	- 35	-19.3	2
121	122	111	87	- 24	-21.6	2
133	231	221	216	- 5	- 2.3	2
141	2,343	2,316	2,134	-182	- 7.9	10
168	775	744	715	- 29	- 3.9	4
190	503	480	448	- 32	- 6.7	3
217	<u>81</u>	82	<u>97</u>	<u>15</u>	18.3	<u>2</u>
TOTALS	5,200	5,063	4,646	-417	- 8.2	29

Note: The increase in Unit 217 membership is due to a unit in D5 being disbanded. Several ACBL members in the Altoona area decided to affiliate with Unit 217.

The number of voting representatives in each unit remains the same as 2025.

Bill announced his retirement after 22 years as D4 Secretary upon his term ending Saturday at midnight.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Patricia Civale

Pat reports that cash position is strong even considering a year to date loss primarily due to GNT subsidies. The reserve for future NABC's has been reduced from \$100,000 to \$80,000 since ACBL has taken on most of the upfront costs.

See attachment for complete report.

Pat announced her retirement as D4 Treasurer upon her term ending this Saturday at midnight.

MINUTES OF F2F DISTRICT 4 LANCASTER BOARD MEETING
FRIDAY, OCT 31, 2025 @ 6:45 PM

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Betsy Cutler

Betsy thanked Pat Civale, Treasurer and Secretary, Bill Bauer, for their years of service. Betsy went on to present a bridge-themed mug filled with Hershey kisses, mechanical pencils, and bridge-themed keychain.

RATIFICATION OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ACTIONS **Betsy Cutler**

There have been seven Executive Committee actions since the 2024 Lancaster Board meeting.

The Executive Committee approved the following:

1. D4 is incorporated in Delaware. At Richard Popper's suggestion the registered representative is the District itself and our physical mailing address will become Harold Jordan's home address.
2. The monthly D4 game has been decreasing in attendance and is no longer profitable. The Executive Committee voted to suspend the games.
3. The ACBL changed the NAP from 3 to 4 flights. The extra subsidy paid by D4 for this flight will be \$400. The Executive Committee approved.
4. There will be a teacher Best Practices program at the Philadelphia Summer NABC costing attendees \$150. The Executive Committee approved a \$75 subsidy for D4 members completing the course.
5. Honor Elaine Weintraub with a Philadelphia NABC named event. The Committee approved a \$500 expenditure.
6. Appoint two new Rochester (Finger Lakes) tournament chairs: Gerry Steenberge (2026) and Ken Kallio (2027).
7. Approved the location change for the Rochester (Finger Lakes) Regional to Keuka Lake, Penn Yan, NY.

All Executive Committee actions were affirmed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

PUBLICITY

Jeanne Gehret

Emails provided by the District in support of making members aware of Sectionally and Regionally-rated events include the following:

- Monthly "Silver & Gold" email (sent ~15th of month), highlights STaCs, Sectionals, Regionals, and special District events offering gold points (NAP/GNT)
- District 4Spot – includes a listing of upcoming Regionals & Sectionals
- Regional Tournament emails: typically, 2 or 3 emails sent in the ~90 days leading up to a Regional. This is supplemented by the Fast Results Team that sends one email 30-days prior to a tournament to all of the prior year's attendees.

District 4 Website offers regular features (Big Games, Member Achievements, Our Players' Stories), along with some special interest articles, supporting information, documents for NAP and GNT events, and feature posts for Regional Tournaments with all their pertinent documents.

Trying a new feature for Regionals for the 2025 Lancaster Regional – that is, uploading pictures from each day of the Regional to the website (players, hospitality, etc)

DISTRICT 4SPOT

Susan Morse

MINUTES OF F2F DISTRICT 4 LANCASTER BOARD MEETING
FRIDAY, OCT 31, 2025 @ 6:45 PM

The 4Spot continues to be happy and healthy. Thanks to all the contributors who submit well before the deadline - this really helps!

TOURNAMENT COORDINATOR

Kurt Engleman

Kurt did not feel well so did not attend.

Attached is a spreadsheet detailing D4 tournaments for 2026. This is in the classical format, but a bit simplified – there are fewer tournaments from other Districts listed on the spreadsheet.

Our schedule appears to be in very good shape. The GNTs and NAPs still need to be scheduled, but there are two weekends reserved for each event. Virtually all of the usual Sectional tournaments are on the calendar – please reach out if anything seems to be in error.

We do have space in the schedule to accommodate some additional tournaments, so please reach out when there is interest in adding a tournament. In particular, there are opportunities for:

I/N Sectionals: Currently there are none of these on the 2026 calendar (D4 scheduled to hold 10 of these tournaments in 2025). These are 1-2 day events and there is plenty of availability to hold these in 2026, especially if they are held on a weekday.

I/N Regionals: D4 is allocated 5 limited Regionals per year, and we are currently not holding them all. These are 2-7 day events and there is room in the calendar for these tournaments if there is interest.

D4 STaC COORDINATOR

Kurt Engleman

Turnout for our winter (Jan 27-Feb 2) STaC was slightly higher (694 tables, +3%) compared to 2024.

Our spring STaC (May 5-11) was cancelled so that D4 could participate in Stardust Week.

Turnout for our summer (July 7-13) STaC was significantly higher (871 tables, +30%) compared to 2024.

Our winter STaC is scheduled for November 10-16.

The tentative 2026 schedule is as follows:

February 2-8: D4 only, silver point STaC

May 4-10: D4 only, Royal STaC

July 27-August 2: D4 only, silver point STaC

November 16-22: D4 only, Royal STaC

CHARITY

Lois Fuini

Betsy reported on the selected charities, Lois not being present. The awardees are:

- Good Shepherd United Church of Christ of Reading, PA
- First Congregational Church of Canandaigua, NY
- Connectedly in Philadelphia
- Lehigh Valley Active Life Center, Allentown, PA

MINUTES OF F2F DISTRICT 4 LANCASTER BOARD MEETING
FRIDAY, OCT 31, 2025 @ 6:45 PM

Lois' report follows:

I have been busy with the ACBL Grant process, distribution of \$30,000 to a maximum of five D4 units. The process is significantly different this year. ACBL wants concrete evidence of the projects each charity will use the grant funding for and also the benefit to the community of each dollar donated to the charities.

In addition, there are Publicity requirements. Check presentations to the charities (using promotional checks printed locally and prepaid for by ACBL) must be photographed and submitted to ACBL. Units are encouraged to pursue other local publicity. Failure to follow these rules could result in exclusion of the unit from the grant process. I have been assured that at this time all our unit's grant proposals are complete. We have not heard when the promotional checks will be ready for pickup, so we cannot start the publicity process until we have the promotional checks for the presentations.

Some of the various unit charities funded in this grant cycle may be included in the ACBL Bridge Bulletin.

FINANCE

Ala Hamilton-Day

PHILADELPHIA NABC

The major financial activity in District 4 was the staging of the Philadelphia NABC, beginning with the Grand National Teams on July 23rd and concluding with the Wolfson team winning the Spingold on Sunday August 3rd. Although we did not have the table count of last summer's Toronto NABC (9,459 vs. Toronto's 9,560 tables), we exceeded the ACBL's expectations. For instance, we had been instructed to prepare 3,500 welcome gift bags, and there were 3,853 people who earned points. Compare this to the 2,476 people who had won points at the Spring NABC in Memphis.

As per the Treasurer's report from the District 4 meeting on 11/1/24, there was an NABC reserve fund balance of \$117,115.53. The aim of the NABC Committee was to ensure that there was approximately \$80,000, at a minimum, remaining in that NABC reserve fund, in order to be able to properly hold the 2030 Philadelphia NABC. To make that happen, we raised \$25,656 by selling sponsorships to certain days and individual events. Both Unit 141 and Unit 190 sponsored a day, while Rusty Krauss, of Krauss Dansby Wealth Partners, sponsored the entire NABC for a payment of \$15,000. Then there was online fundraising by the ACBL, which added \$26,000 to our coffers. For the many, many excellent volunteers who made the NABC a remarkable success, the ACBL gave \$7,500 for Volunteer Appreciation. This was used for volunteer lunches. Extra food (the half sandwiches from Wawa or Panera were individually wrapped) was given to St. John's Hospice at 1211 Race St.

While the ACBL pays for the morning hospitality, the local committee provides for any afternoon hospitality which must go through the Marriott. We purchased 108 dozen assorted cookies for \$9,700; 112 dozen Soft Pretzels for \$12,000; 1,353 Tastykakes for \$11,100; and 1,263 Mini Cheesesteaks (Beef and Chicken) for \$19,000, for a total of \$51,800. We also supplied candy for the Welcome and GRIN Desks, along with the YNABC. The Marriott also needed to be reimbursed for the coffee coupons which were redeemed and were distributed in the Welcome gift bags.

Afternoon entertainment was two days of the Mummers, two days with Rocky, and one day with Ben Franklin. There were additional monies spent for prizes for the NABC Tee-Shirt Contest, as well as other minor incidentals. The ACBL gives \$4.50 per prize, however the ice cream tokens from Bassetts were \$5.95 each.

MINUTES OF F2F DISTRICT 4 LANCASTER BOARD MEETING
FRIDAY, OCT 31, 2025 @ 6:45 PM

With the three major sources of funds, the \$26,000 of ACBL online fundraising, the \$25,656.00 raised by committee in the sponsoring of events, and the \$7,500 from the ACBL for Volunteer Appreciation, the 2025 Philadelphia NABC made a profit of \$1,547.41. As the ACBL does most of the heavy lifting of holding an NABC (i.e., morning hospitality, speakers, evening events such as *Beyond Bridge* and *Bridge Mania*), I agree completely with the Treasurer's assessment that the amount allocated to the NABC Reserve Fund balance should be reduced to \$80,000.

FINGERLAKES (ROCHESTER) REGIONAL

There have been discussions among the Executive Committee, the officers, and the Tournament Chairs concerning the loss of \$3,773.81 at the Finger Lakes Regional, which ran from June 9th through June 14th. When the tournament was scheduled on August 7th through 12th in 2023, or from August 5th through 10th in 2024, a small profit was made of \$358.00 and then \$783.00. There is agreement that the bridge players in this area need to have a local regional tournament, but that steps need to be taken to reverse this trend. The general consensus was to follow the blueprint of the Rehoboth Beach Regional, which is a boutique Regional in a nice location. A search committee was instrumental in a change of location to Keuka Lake, Penn Yan, New York. Two new Tournament Chairs were appointed with it being Gerry Steenberge in 2026 and Ken Kallio in 2027.

GNT FUNDING

The expense of funding last year's GNT's was \$11,200, which was the bulk of the decrease in income of District 4. Different avenues for obtaining additional funds have been discussed. Charging the clubs to run qualifying games, however, would be antithetical to our goals of increasing participation. Supplementing or offsetting some of the costs of the GNT's will need to be explored further.

NAP

Louis Glasthal

NAP District Finals concluded on October 5. Attendance was up approximately 10% over last year, and across all flights (if you consider the combination of Open and A similar to the former A). However, Flight C did not appear to benefit as much as expected by the increased masterpoint limit (from 500 to 750, but continuing to exclude LMs).

TABLE COUNT BY FLIGHT

	Open	A	B	C	Total
2023:	N/A	9.5	32.5	27.5	69.5
2024:	N/A	11	27	35	73
2025:	7	7	30	36	80

Despite the overall increase, the Open attendance was disappointing; of the 7 tables in play there were about 3 tables of local (Harrisburg-area) players that don't normally compete but many of the players that would have been expected to compete were not in attendance. This may have been the result of an inconvenient location, and I am inclined to move next year's Open game back to a more centralized site such as Cherry Hill or North Penn. The Bala Golf Club has also been suggested but the location is probably not worth the extra expense involved in renting that site. Discussion of other alternatives is welcome.

2026 NAP Finals are scheduled for the weekends of October 3-4 and 24-25. Further details will be available sometime next year.

Please feel free to reach out to me at glasthal@comcast.net with any questions.

MINUTES OF F2F DISTRICT 4 LANCASTER BOARD MEETING
FRIDAY, OCT 31, 2025 @ 6:45 PM

Jay Apfelbaum requested that consideration be given to a two-day event for the open flight regardless of the number of tables. Jay feels that the strongest pairs are more likely to qualify for the NABC event with four sessions

GNT

Louis Glasthal

GNT Finals were held during the first two weekends in March, with a slight increase in attendance over the past two years (34 tables vs. 32 tables in 2024 and 25 tables in 2023). The 2026 GNTs are currently scheduled for the weekends of March 14-15 and 21-22. I am awaiting responses from District clubs about possible venues. Some clubs host GNT “qualifying games”, which award additional masterpoints and serve to promote awareness of the GNTs, but are not required for qualification purposes. I would like to find ways to encourage more clubs to host such games. Districts have the ability to impose fees for these games that would help to offset the expenses associated with subsidizing the stipends that we provide to those that qualify for the National finals each year. D4 does not currently impose any such fees, and it has been pointed out to me that there is no mechanism in place to ensure that such fees would be collected from participating clubs. Discussion of this point would be welcomed as well.

I will be working with Kurt Engleman to ensure that dates are set aside for NAP/GNT games in future years. Lou added that the 2026 schedule will be forthcoming shortly.

Please feel free to reach out to me at glasthal@comcast.net with any questions.

EDUCATION

Mike Kohler

Nothing new to report.

INTERMEDIATE/NEWCOMER

Linda O'Malley

Sectionals:

- Past events:
 - 0-500 NLM Sectional at King of Prussia in August was sold out with 21 tables
 - 0-750 NLM Sectional in Ocean View on Sept. 26-27: average 9 tables/day
- Upcoming events:
 - I/N Sectional at Camp Hill on Oct. 10
 - I/N Sectional at Fairport on Oct. 24-25
 - I/N Sectional (Nov. 21) and Regional (Nov. 22-23) at Camp Hill
 - 0-500 NLM Sectional at King of Prussia on Dec. 8th

Teaching & Limited Games:

- Free Lessons:
 - Unit 133 offers free lessons at community centers, clubs, members' homes, tournaments, universities and churches
 - King of Prussia Bridge Club is coordinating with 2 local libraries to offer free beginner classes in addition to a free class at night at the bridge club. The total number of students in all three classes is 82.
- Delaware (Bridge Studio) has 40 students in their intermediate class. They offer a limited game and supervised play.

MINUTES OF F2F DISTRICT 4 LANCASTER BOARD MEETING
FRIDAY, OCT 31, 2025 @ 6:45 PM

- Unit 133 moves students into the limited game and/supervised play. They offer a 0-20 and a 0-50 pt game to complement their already existing 0-200pt, 0-300pt, and 0-750pt limited games.
- King of Prussia Bridge Club continues to offer a limited game, a “points & pointers” learning duplicate game as well as supervised play.

The clubs that are offering both a variety of lesson opportunities (including at public venues, like public libraries) that can promote the lessons to their constituents) and then offering opportunities for these newer players to play bridge with others of similar abilities are having great success in building their clubs and growing the game.

Philadelphia NABC - July 2025:

- Big success with the I/N turnout
 - **Total attendance in IN games 232% of Memphis Spring NABC**
 - District 4 has a lot of newer players, and the region was great in spreading the word and encouraging attendance
- We pushed for a 0-99 game and was told by the ACBL that we wouldn’t have enough to run the game:
 - We had 17 tables in the 0-99 game - two sections!
 - Additional 18 tables in 299er game the same time frame

TOURNAMENT

Jeanne Gehret

From the Tournament Committee:

1. **Created a “D4 Regional Tournament Guide”** document to support Tournament Chairs with the tasks and approvals required when hosting an Open Regional. A copy is included in the attachments. It has been reviewed and approved by D4 Regional Tournament Chairs, and will be posted to the District 4 website. Updates will be made “as needed” The following information is covered:
 - a. D4 Board involvement in approval of Regional locations, Tournament Chair recommendations made by hosting Units, setting the uppermost entry fee allowed
 - b. District contacts and the support they provide for Regionals
 - c. Vendors utilized
 - d. Current Hotel Room and Free Play allotments for Regionals and District leaders
 - e. Sample Budget document
 - f. Sample Financial Report (coming soon)
 - g. Includes a page dedicated to a brief list of requirements for hosting an I/N Regional
2. **Request approval for District 4’s Open Regional Locations** to be held annually as follows.
 - a. Rehoboth Beach (late April/early May)
 - b. Philadelphia Regional (week leading up to July 4th)
 - c. Finger Lakes Regional (2nd week in September; this is a change from traditional date of the 2nd week of August)
 - d. Lancaster Regional (beginning last Monday in October)

MINUTES OF F2F DISTRICT 4 LANCASTER BOARD MEETING
FRIDAY, OCT 31, 2025 @ 6:45 PM

(NOTE: approval of the above Regional schedule would document the elimination of alternating Regionals between Syracuse & Rochester (U112) as a Split Regional with Wilkes-Barre, the relocation of the Wilmington Regional to Rehoboth Beach; and the elimination of a bi-annual Regional in Harrisburg PA).

Bob Priest requested the opportunity to organize a Harrisburg Regional in 2030 when the Valley Forge Regional will not be held due to the Philadelphia NABC that year.

The motion to have 4 permanent sites was approved unanimously.

3. **Regional Entry Fee:** I am requesting Board approval of an increase in the Regional entry fee we are permitted at Regionals from “up to \$25” to the new rate of “up to \$30” per session. The local Tournament Chair will continue to decide their tournament entry fee in consideration of their local expense and market conditions. Bob Priest suggested that there be no cap, a suggestion that seemed to have a lot of support. The motion on entry fees with no caps was approved in a unanimous vote.

More Information: To avoid large price hikes a few of the Regionals have begun seeking out Sponsors and taking advantage of local Tourism Grants.

4. **Equipment:** Purchased 9 card tables in order to remove badly damaged and broken card tables from District 4 stock. Total cost was less than \$400. Plan to continue an annual “review & replace” program to ensure our tables are both presentable and safe.
5. **Free Play & Room Allotment at Regionals for D4 Volunteer:** Plan to review current allotments to determine whether any adjustments are needed in light of intensity of various roles as well as cost impact of these awards to District 4. Tentatively planning to complete this review over the next year and make a recommendation at the October 2026 Board Meeting. (current allotment is in the “Regional Tournament Guide” document, which is included with this Board Meeting packet)
6. **Finger Lakes Regional 2026 Flyers:** Please take flyers back to your clubs and distributed/promote. As District representatives, we are all responsible to help this beautiful new venue make a splash in the bridge world. If you plan to attend Regionals or Sectionals outside of District 4, please take flyers to distribute there as well.

TOURNAMENT REPORTS:

Valley Forge (8/3 – 8/9/26)
(6/21 - 6/27/27)

John Dickenson & Rex Saffer

Rex Saffer showed two tournament flyers with the same format. Hoping this will help D4 establish a “brand”.

Lancaster (10/27 – 11/1/25)
(10/26 – 11/1/26) (10/25 – 10/31/27)

Jeanne Gehret

A sponsor was secured for the 2025 Lancaster Regional that enabled us to offer a 2nd night of hospitality. Attendance through Friday of the Regional is up about 3%. Update: Saturday’s attendance equaled last year; so the tournament had a slight gain over last year. Caddies were volunteers representing Hospice, with all caddy fees and monetary tips from players being donated to Hospice. A portion will be donated by check from D4 in the amount of \$4,025.88, with another promised \$500 player donation to be made directly to Hospice.

MINUTES OF F2F DISTRICT 4 LANCASTER BOARD MEETING
FRIDAY, OCT 31, 2025 @ 6:45 PM

Penn Yan, NY (FLX)

(6/8 – 6/12/26)
(9/13 – 9/17/27)

Gerry Steenberge
Ken Kalio

Betty Youmans and Mary Miller reported for Gerry at the meeting. Mary Miller gave the board a slide show of the area and the facilities. Betty reported that the Committee is hopeful of a tourism grant to provide additional hospitality.

The Finger Lakes Regional in 2026 will become a D-4 destination site tournament.

- Following the new location search committee recommendation, Jeanne Gehret (on behalf of District 4) and Seasons on Keuka Lake banquet center/Hampton Inn in Penn Yan, NY signed a Letter of Agreement on August 15, 2025 for the June 8-12, 2026 event.
- FL Regional Tournament Leadership Team kickoff zoom meeting occurred in early September. Face-to-face Leadership update meeting will occur Wed. eve of the Lancaster Regional in Lancaster, PA
- Tournament Flyer was submitted and is now published on the ACBL Tournament Listings site.

500 'Make a Date at the Lake' marketing photo cards were printed and are being hand distributed to multiple Bridge Clubs and contacts in Sept and Oct.

- Gerry Steenberge: to area groups including Geneseo, Canandaigua, TBK in Brighton, Chatterbox, Oak Hill CC, Perinton, Hornell, Oswego and Buffalo NY; Hartford CT; and at St. Catherine's Ontario Regional in Nov
- Mary Miller: at B-NAPS and to Elmira, Binghamton, Syracuse, Ithaca Clubs
- Roger Woodin: to contacts around Saratoga Springs, Clifton Park, Latham NY and Erie, PA
- Betty Youman's: Utica, NY plus to Williamsburg, VA and Roanoke VA clubs
- While in Manheim, PA will seek greater reach into PA and DE during and following the Lancaster Regional

Near Term Future Steps:

- Further review and determine Hospitality Events that will occur as part of the Tournament in Penn Yan, NY (on the northern shore of Keuka Lake)

Rehoboth Beach

(4/27 – 5/1/26)
(4/26 – 4/30/27)

Kim Holm & Harold Jordan

Harrisburg/Camp Hill I/N (11/21 - 11/23/25)

Bob Priest

Bob reported that registration is small so far. But the event will not lose money since the Harrisburg Bridge club charges by table to host the tournament.

Philadelphia Summer NABC (7/23 – 8/3/25)

John Dickenson & Ala Hamilton-Day

1. Attendance: Attendance was very good and 8% better than budgeted by the ACBL. Final table counts for the past four summer NABC's:

Philly - 9459

Toronto - 9560

Chicago - 8343

Providence – 7463

The Youth NABC (YNABC) had record post-pandemic attendance.

MINUTES OF F2F DISTRICT 4 LANCASTER BOARD MEETING
FRIDAY, OCT 31, 2025 @ 6:45 PM

2. Entertainment: People appeared to be having fun, strutting to lunch while the Mummers played on two different days. There were two appearances by the Mummers and Rocky, and one appearance by Ben Franklin. Activities that were sponsored by the ACBL were Beyond Bridge on July 27th with bowling, games, and Karaoke, and Bridge Mania with James Holzauer doing Jeopardy and the Grossack brothers hosting Family Feud. District 4 added an NABC Tee-shirt contest, along with a contest for a Newcomer to win a Ben Franklin – a \$100 bill.
3. Hospitality: The ACBL provided all of the morning refreshments, while District 4 provided hard candy at the Welcome Desk and the GRIN Desk, and the four days of afternoon treats of mini-Cheesesteaks, cookies, soft pretzels, and Tastykakes.
4. 0-99er Game: This Wednesday morning game had two sections with a total of 17 ½ tables, a huge success! The ACBL was very reluctant to run this event, as at every past NABC it had to be folded into the 299er game.
5. Volunteers and Greeters: Having good people, knowledgeable in their functions, sporting a ready smile, are critical to a successful NABC. Cathy Strauss did an excellent job in getting the right volunteers into position. The greeters were essential. **Everyone** likes it when you greet them by name and offer congratulations or just thank them for coming. Think of the chorus to the *Cheers* theme song. “Sometimes you want to go where everybody knows your name. And they’re always glad you came.”
6. Gifts and Prizes: The Welcome gift bag contained a plastic tote bag, a restaurant guide, a map, some advertisements, a fuzzy Liberty Bell sticker, and a coffee coupon. The GRIN gift bag included bridge socks, a plastic convention card, a large sticker, a deck of cards, and a fuzzy Liberty Bell sticker. The prizes were blue tokens which were good for an ice cream cone at Bassetts at the Reading Terminal Market. The leftover tote bags, socks, convention cards, and decks of cards, are being transported to Spooky Nook for use by Jeanne Gehret at the tourney.
7. Fundraising: There were 2 major sources of revenue. The first was sponsorship of events. Rusty Krauss of Krauss Dansby Wealth Partners paid \$15,000 for sponsoring the entire tourney. Other sponsors for various days and/or games were Unit 190, Unit 141, and other individuals, raising roughly \$6,000. The second major source was online fundraising by the ACBL, which secured \$26,000.
8. Financing: This will be covered in a separate report.
9. Areas for Improvement:
 - The hospitality suite, where lunch was provided to the volunteers, was difficult to access by those who were not staying at the Marriott. Also, people working at the Partnership Desks, the GRIN desk, and the Welcome desk, were oftentimes working straight through the lunch break and needed to have their lunch brought to them.
 - Parking was to be discounted through the use of SpotHero, but the discount code was used before the tourney began. SpotHero objected and said that discounted parking would only be available on certain days with a daily code.
 - We have perhaps 600 leftover tote bags, and much lesser amounts of socks, convention cards, and decks of cards. The leftover blue ice cream chips are being given out as prizes in the Philadelphia and Cherry Hill areas. The paper bags for packing the Welcome and GRIN gifts were too large. Packing 3,500 Welcome gift bags and 750 GRIN gift bags (the ACBL recommended preparing one-third before the tourney took place) was onerous.

OLD BUSINESS

None

Betsy Cutler

MINUTES OF F2F DISTRICT 4 LANCASTER BOARD MEETING
FRIDAY, OCT 31, 2025 @ 6:45 PM

NEW BUSINESS

Betsy Cutler

None

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT & ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Jeanne Gehret

President – Ala Hamilton Day

Vice President – Dan Boye

Treasurer – John Nothdurft

The nominees received a unanimous vote.

Remarks & Appointments by Incoming President Ala Hamilton-Day

Ala thanked Betsy Cutler for her two years of admirable service.

Nomination and confirmation of Secretary

Ala nominated Bill Herdle as Secretary. Bill's nomination was approved unanimously.

President's two appointees to the Board;

Ala nominated Todd Thorsen and Mark Cohen. They were unanimously approved.

President's two appointees to the Executive Committee are Mary Miller and Bob Glasson. Ala deferred the appointment of a committee member from the D4 members of the ACBL Advisory Council. After the meeting, Ala selected Richard Popper.

Committee Chairs and Coordinators appointments

The most important position of Education Chair will be split into a Northern Co-Chair, Sally Swing, and a Southern Co-Chair, John Dickenson of Unit 141. In those roles, they will be entitled to reimbursement of reasonable travel expenses to travel to the various clubs, to help foster clubs and teachers in bringing new players to the bridge table. John has already contacted Michael Kohler to obtain the materials that he generated during his tenure as Education Chair.

Lou Glasthal will continue as NAP & GNT Coordinator. Kurt Engleman will continue as Tournament and StaC Coordinator. Susan Morse continues as 4Spot Editor. And yes, Susan, we like your pictures! Linda O'Malley continues as I/N chair. Jeanne Gehret continues on Publicity along with Susan Morse, Jim Patton and Bill Herdle. Jeanne Gehret continues as Tournament Committee Chair.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF FUTURE MEETING & ADJOURNMENT

Ala expects to hold a zoom meeting in June (Update: Monday, June 22, 2026.). The Lancaster Board meeting and elections will be held October 30, 2026.

The meeting adjourned at 7:45 PM.

Submitted by:

Bill Bauer, D4 Secretary

See Attachments on Next Page

MINUTES OF F2F DISTRICT 4 LANCASTER BOARD MEETING
FRIDAY, OCT 31, 2025 @ 6:45 PM

ATTACHMENTS:

[Financial Report:](#)

[D4 Regional Tournament Guide](#)