

**ACBL DISTRICT 5 BOARD MEETING
Sunday May 28, 2017**

MINUTES

ATTENDANCE

Officers Present: Brian Ellis (Treasurer)

Executive Board Members Present: Barbara Bacon, , Mary Paulone Carns, Sharon Fairchild, Jim Overcashier, Chris Urbanek

Executive Board Members Absent: Jan Assini (President), Marc Sylvester (Vice President), Barbara Bergman

Unit Representatives Present: Robert Ryan (107); Elizabeth Goldthwait (111); Dian Petrov, Sharon Benz (116); Steve Garfunkel, Cathy Wolford, Wayne Heritage, Fran Mulkins (125); Rick Klapthor (127); Jane Marshall, John Bernhard, June Threlkeld, Bob Flynn (142); Jill Otte (213); Barb Grzegorzewski (226); Lois Porter (229)

Units Not Represented: 129, 148, 177, 185

Guests: Bob Fasnacht (107); Richard Goldthwait (111); Leo Mann (213); Steve Grzegorzewski (226)

WELCOME

The meeting was called to order at 5:20 PM by secretary Mary Paulone Carns in the absence of the president and vice-president. All attendees introduced themselves.

PRESIDENT'S REMARKS/CORRESPONDENCE

Mary welcomed the members and guests and thanked them for attending. She announced that Cathy Marsteller is the winner of the McGilvrey award. The plaque will be presented at the Pittsburgh RONI Regional.

MINUTES FROM THE LAST MEETING

The minutes, previously emailed to the members, were approved with one correction.

STANDING COMMITTEES

Treasurer's Report— Brian Ellis distributed the Treasurer's report. He reported that attendance has been stable. All tournaments were profitable. The treasury balance increased from ~\$117,000 to ~\$130,000.

National Board Items—Sharon Fairchild sent the newsletter to all District members who have an email address. There is an ongoing search for a new CEO. The current CEO is staying until July. She announced that she is not running for District Director again. By the end of her current term, she will have served 21 years. There was a round of applause.

Fifth Column—Mary reported that the Fifth Column gets few readers, based on the webpage counter. It is produced at a significant cost. Thus the executive board voted unanimously to discontinue the publication. The last issue will be June 2017. The gap will be filled by the D5 webpage and the D5 Facebook page. Reporters holding unexpired free entries may continue to use them. Members were asked to report this information to their units.

SPECIAL COMMITTEES

REGIONAL TOURNAMENT REPORTS

All American Regional (ongoing) – Sharon Fairchild reported that attendance is up by ½ table. This is good news because the week started slowly. We have a contract through 2020. A member commented that the Fast Pairs is appreciated. Also Alex Bealles is doing a good job directing.

Roni Atkins Pittsburgh Regional – Mary reported that plans are underway. She brought flyers to be distributed to the units.

Buffalo Regional –Chris Urbanek reported that the Adam's Mark is contracted through 2019. She brought flyers.

Rock and Roll Regional (2018) – Jim Overcashier reported that starting times will be 10 & 3. This is being tried as a 1-year experiment. An evening game will be available (zip KO Wed. & Thurs; horizontal swiss Fri & Sat; plus side pairs game).

NAOP and GNT

Barb Bacon reported that there was no team in flight C at the GNT. The event went well. The NAP is Oct. 8-9. There is a bridge rate at the Comfort Inn for which the deadline is Sept 9. We may need extra space; she is looking at sites. The EBA site is contracted through 2018.

STaC

Mary reported that the CoC have been changed so that clubs who don't pay by the deadline will receive a warning, and if not paid after that, they will not be able to participate in the next D5 STaC.

Website

No problems.

Membership

Marc Sylvester gave written report to Mary.

- Membership is 3,331, down 1.3% over 12 months. We are 20/25 districts in membership change.
- New members over last year are 611. Retention rate into second year is 68.25%. That is 1st in the ACBL.
- Our average age is 73.51, the 3rd oldest behind Florida and Southern California.
- Average length of membership is 21.53 years, longest in the ACBL. This is considered to be a negative, as it suggests that there aren't enough new members.

Social Media

We have a Facebook page, but it gets very little use. We may get more use now that there won't be a Fifth Column. Those who "Like" the page may post.

Education

Chris Urbanek reported

- The Lebow award is going to Grace Connolly, a student of Barb Grzegorzewski at Allegheny College. Barb mentioned that Allegheny students compete online against other colleges, but many of them prefer "live" bridge. Barb will be in Pittsburgh on Sunday to discuss how to teach students. Look for the time in the Pittsburgh Bulletin.
- Buffalo is holding a summer program for students. The Bridge Center donates space.

- District 5 has funds available to help with teaching amenities such as refreshments and supplies.
- Six Buffalo students are attending the Youth NABC.

OLD BUSINESS

Starting Times at Regionals – Brian Ellis continued the discussion which was started last May. Buffalo has used early times for 2 years with mixed reviews. Pittsburgh can't change times because of traffic issues. The Rock 'n' Roll Regional (Cleveland, January, 2018) will use times of 10 and 3 as a one-time experiment. Thus, we are discussing whether to change the time for the All-American Regional (Cleveland, May). Brian favors the change, as it might increase attendance. Comments against included: earlier times don't cater to out-of-towners; could hurt hospitality; are bad for people who work; and hurt people who like to play in a championship event in the evening. The following motion was made and voted on: Change the times of the 2018 All-American Regional to 10 & 3. The motion was defeated with 3 votes in favor.

Victory Point Scale – This item was first discussed in September when Jan Assini said that we are the only District outside of Florida that uses the 30-point scale. The plusses and minuses of each scale were discussed. Steve Grzegorzewski explained the math behind each scale. A motion was made to change the VP scale used in District 5-sponsored events to the 20 point scale, effective in May 2018. The motion was defeated 11-9.

NEW BUSINESS

Cell Phone Policy – Sharon reported that the ACBL is encouraging districts and units to adopt a cell phone policy that is more fair and uniform. The following policy [see below] was adopted in District 5 and is in use at the current tournament. It is suggested that representatives present this policy to their units for possible adoption.

District 5 Cell Phone Policy

Cell Phones may not be used, even silently, or visible in any room where bridge is being played. Penalties are as follows:

- Ringing, first offense: ¼ board (pairs) *or* 3 IMPS (KO) *or* 1 VP (Swiss)
- Making a call, texting, answering phone: ½ board (pairs) *or* 6 IMPS (KO) *or* 2 VP (Swiss)
- Second offense of any of the above: 2 boards (pairs) *or* 20 IMPS (KO) *or* ½ the maximum number of available VP per match (Swiss)
- Third offence: disqualification of the pair or team from the event
- Kibitzer, first offence—must leave the room

Remote Events at Regionals – Sharon reported that this event has been developed giving players the ability to play online in conjunction with a Regional. It is coordinated by the Common Game. Reportedly Districts must give permission for their players to participate. When this was first discussed at the meeting of the Executive Board in January, the consensus was that it could hurt attendance at “live” regionals, so permission was withheld pending more information. The event is played in two sessions of back-to-back boards, for only 1 day, and must be played at a club. There are sanction fees, and funds paid to the club and the district. This event will be held in conjunction with the Cincinnati Regional, and Wayne Heritage is planning to run the club portion. Dian Petrov has also run one. It is unknown whether people can play at the regional in the same event as online. More information is needed.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no additional business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:10.