

**DISTRICT 5 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE BOARD MEETING  
May 26, 2018**

**MINUTES**

**ATTENDANCE**

Officers Present: Marc Sylvester, Mary Paulone Carns, Brian Ellis

Representatives Present: Jan Assini, Barbara Bacon,  
Sharon Fairchild, Ron Franck  
Jim Overcashier, Chris Urbanek

Representatives Absent: None

Guests: None

**WELCOME/PRESIDENT'S REMARKS**

President Marc Sylvester called the meeting to order at 10:27 AM. A moment of silence was held in memory of Barb Bergman. Marc welcomed Ron Franck to the board. He said that the January meeting had been cancelled because of bad weather; a phone meeting was held thereafter.

**MINUTES FROM THE LAST MEETING**

The minutes from the September meeting and the January phone meeting had previously been emailed to the members. The minutes were approved.

**COMMITTEES**

**Treasurer's Report** – Brian presented a written and oral treasurer's report.

- Attendance has been stable.
- Pittsburgh Regional made \$13,000.
- The January Cleveland report is incomplete.

**Report of the District Director** – Sharon Fairchild previously emailed her newsletter.

- The CEO is no longer with the ACBL. There is a search committee.
- Convention charts are changing; the new ones are effective November 22.
- Masterpoint awards have increased for District Finals of the GNT and NAOP.
- Rules for STaCs are changing as of 2019: Pre-Duplicated boards, across the event, are required to be scored in the open event. Clubs that don't use these will be in the side game. Sharon doesn't know specifically how this will be implemented.

**All American Regional (ongoing)** – Sharon Fairchild reported.

- Rooms were an issue in January; the hotel released unused rooms to the general public thus we couldn't make our block. There are fixes being tried, including a waiting list.

- Hospitality has been changed. Liquor and food must be provided by the venue. We are working with the hotel regarding this. For the remainder of the current contract, food will be provided and served by the hotel, at a discount.
- Attendance is up so far by about 40 tables.

**Pittsburgh Labor Day Regional** – Mary reported that flyers are out for September. 2018 is the final year of our current 3-year contract. The hotel continues to be in flux and remains unwilling to negotiate contracts past October 2018. She will begin to visit other venues.

**Buffalo Regional** – Chris Urbanek reported.

- She brought flyers.
- Hospitality was between sessions in the form of a light meal, and that worked well.
- The Adams Mark is the most workable site.
- The Prize Room is doing well.

**Rock and Roll Regional (2019)** – Sharon reported. Jill Smith and Bill Hogsett are working on a schedule (early times). The executive committee will see the schedule before it's sent to the ACBL.

**Rock and Roll Regional (2018)** – Jim Overcashier reported. The weather was bad but the tournament still made money. Regarding the sleeping rooms: attrition wiped out the contracted rebate, so the finances came out even. There were a lot of positive responses regarding the times (10 and 2:30 rather than 10 and 3). There was a discussion about the desirability of starting later on the first day to allow for travel.

**NAOP and GNT** – Barb Bacon reported.

- There were some flight C teams at the recent GNT event, unlike the recent past.
- This is our last year at Erie Bridge Association at the \$300 rate; the new rate is \$500.
- Regarding management of the GNT/NAOP:
  - This was Barb's last GNT; she is retiring in December.
  - For the upcoming NAOP, Barb can do organization but can't do hospitality because of her back.
  - The NAOP/GNT is the responsibility of the District Director. Sharon will work on getting someone.
- Marc is working with Alex to interpret the CoC more consistently.
- Masterpoint awards continue to be problematic. Lower flights sometimes pay more than higher flights, depending on attendance. The new charts have fixed figures which don't depend on the size of the field.

**STaC** – Mary reported that District 5 will have new rules for evening games; all unlimited games will be in the open event regardless of number of tables. This is because the majority of evening games are small, and on some evenings the open event is smaller than the "small game" event.

She also discussed the fact that the new rules (as of 2019) requiring duplicating boards will be difficult for District 5 clubs because many of our games are small, with volunteer directors, and many clubs and/or directors only have one game. These clubs have no realistic way to duplicate. This affects not only the small clubs, but the whole district, since clubs who don't duplicate will be removed from the open event, thus giving everyone fewer masterpoints. Many of our directors have limited computer skills and, even if they want to duplicate, will have difficulty downloading the hand records.

**Website** – Mary discussed the issues concerning the website. The board decided to recruit a new webmaster. Mary has identified a candidate and will speak with him.

**Membership** – Marc Sylvester will present a full report in September. We are now 23<sup>rd</sup> of 25 in District size. As of May 31 we have 3245 members, a decrease of 2.6% over 1 year. We are 2<sup>nd</sup> of 25 in membership retention into the second year; and first in average length of membership. The latter isn't considered to be good because it indicates too few new members. We are 23<sup>rd</sup> in average age, at 73.56 years compared to 72.22 in the ACBL. Florida and S. California (excluding LA) are older than we are. The Canton Unit was second in the nation in new member recruitment based on percentage. They have a teaching program. Congratulations to Canton!

**Social Media** – Marc reported that Facebook is still not very active.

**Education** – Chris Urbanek reported.

- Howard Lebow award—there is one candidate.
- Buffalo Youth Group has 21 students, many of whom are planning to attend the NABC in Atlanta this summer. Sharon Benz will talk about this tomorrow.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

**District Service Award** – At the previous meeting, the board agreed in principle to institute a District 5 award for service. Mary presented a proposal and the details were tweaked. The following will be announced at the meeting of the Full Board tomorrow:

### **The District 5 Exemplary Service Award**

The award will be given to the living person who has provided outstanding service to District 5. Service which is limited to individual units or clubs doesn't qualify. The award may be given as often as yearly; it doesn't have to be given every year. Nominations will be solicited, but the voting body may generate proposals. The voting body will be the executive board until 5 winners have been chosen, and thereafter a committee made up of the previous recipients.

**District Director Candidates** – Sharon reported that there are 2 candidates so far: Brian Ellis and Jim Overcashier. [NOTE: After the meeting, another candidate registered: Dian Petrov]. Deadline for submitting candidacy is May 31. The Board thanked Sharon for her years of service.

**Starting times at Regionals** – After the vote in May 2017 to retain times of 1 and 7 for the May Regional, it was decided to revisit the issue in a year. This will be discussed at the meeting tomorrow. Brian suggested determining how many people work. Jim and Chris reported that the people who attended the Rock 'n' Roll and Buffalo Regionals seemed to be happy with the early times. Chris recommended times of 1 and 7 on the first day.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

**Volunteer Webinars** – Sharon said that the Board of Directors put together a webinar about getting and keeping volunteers. She asked for ideas about who would benefit from this. She will discuss this tomorrow at the meeting. People can sign up through Sharon.

**Buffalo/Niagara Falls (Canada) Regionals** – Barb Bacon (District Tournament Coordinator) received email from the Niagara unit. They want Buffalo to return to the previous schedule of summer/fall dates in alternating years. We have a commitment to our current site through 2021. Barb Bergman, past coordinator, sent an email to Niagara in 2017 and this issue was discussed at the meeting before that. Our site isn't available in the summer, and all sites are cost prohibitive in the summer, so we don't have a choice.

**McGilvrey Electronic Voting** – Mary reported that she has a better idea to solve the McGilvrey voting issue (see minutes from September, 2017). Previously, email voting was not considered since sensitive discussions are sometimes necessary. However, those conversations could be had, when necessary, by a group phone call. Thus the proposal is to institute email voting for the McGilvrey. If any voter wishes, he/she may request a phone conference call. The advantages of this approach are that the members of our aging population wouldn't have to travel to a meeting; and those who have moved out of our area would still be able to vote. The board agreed with this plan and gave permission to institute it immediately, if the McGilvrey committee agrees. Mary will present this information to the committee, and if it agrees, the plan will be instituted.

**Seeding Rights** – Brian asked whether there is a District policy about seeding rights in team games. He will discuss this with Ken Van Cleve and bring this up tomorrow.

**Choosing Members of Committees at Regionals** – Brian reported that for many years he has been the person responsible for finding people to serve on committees at Regionals. He wants to give this up, and will have to if he is elected as District Director. This function will become the responsibility of the tournament chair, who may delegate it.

**GNT/NAOP Coordinator** – Ron Franck volunteered to take over this position.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 12:30.