

**ACBL DISTRICT 5 BOARD MEETING
Sunday May 27, 2018**

MINUTES

ATTENDANCE

Officers Present: Marc Sylvester (President), Mary Paulone Carns, (Vice President), Brian Ellis (Treasurer)

Executive Board Members Present: Jan Assini, Barbara Bacon, Sharon Fairchild, Ron Franck, Chris Urbanek

Executive Board Members Absent: Jim Overcashier

Unit Representatives Present: Robert Ryan (107); Elizabeth Goldthwait (111); Sharon Benz, Dian Petrov (116); Cathy Wolford, Barbara Greenspan, Chuck Ladiha, Hope Ellis (125); Rick Klapthor (127); Jane Marshall, June Threlkeld, Bob Flynn (142); John Tscholl (213); Barb Grzegorzewski (226); Lois Porter (229)

Units Not Represented: 129, 148, 177, 185

Guests: Jim Fasnacht (107); Richard Goldthwait (111); Steve Grzegorzewski (226); Chuck Weber (229)

WELCOME

The meeting was called to order at 5:20 PM by President Marc Sylvester. There was a moment of silence in memory of Barbara Bergman.

PRESIDENT'S REMARKS/CORRESPONDENCE

Marc introduced Ron Franck, a new member of the Executive Board. He thanked all for attending. All attendees introduced themselves.

MINUTES FROM THE LAST MEETING

The minutes, previously emailed to the members, were approved.

STANDING COMMITTEES

Treasurer's Report— Brian Ellis distributed the Treasurer's report. He reported that regional attendance has been stable, and the cash balance has increased. All tournaments had profits. The GNT's lost money as expected because of subsidies.

National Board Items—Sharon Fairchild reported that the CEO is no longer employed. There is a search committee; currently the CFO is filling in. There are new convention charts which take effect Nov. 22. There will be educational information in the bulletins. STaCs will require duplicated hands starting January 1 (duplicating machines aren't necessary). In answer to a question, Sharon didn't know whether hands from the Common Game would be used.

SPECIAL COMMITTEES

REGIONAL TOURNAMENT REPORTS

All American Regional (ongoing) – Sharon reported that the tournament is going well. There have been some changes mandated by the hotel. We are no longer allowed to bring in food. We're working with the hotel to get something affordable. Attendance has been good. In reply to a comment about the poor condition of the playing cards, Sharon said she will talk to Ken Van Cleve.

Roni Atkins Pittsburgh Regional – Mary reported that she has flyers and asked attendees to take them and distribute them locally. She reminded attendees that there is a full schedule starting Tuesday afternoon, and there are 4 Gold Rush events.

Buffalo Regional –Chris Urbanek reported that the tournament is October 16-23 at the Adam's Mark. She brought flyers and asked members to distribute them. Early times (10 & 3) will continue. Serving a light lunch between sessions worked well. No night games are scheduled for Friday and Saturday due to previous poor attendance. There is a great prize room, and free parking.

Rock and Roll Regional (2018) – Sharon reported for Jim Overcashier. The tournament was a success. It was the first Cleveland tournament that had early times, so there were some glitches. Lunch was served between sessions.

Rock and Roll Regional (2019) – Jan Assini reported for Jill Smith and Bill Hogsett. Plans are in place. Times will be 10 and 3 with possible 1:00 start on the first day to accommodate travel.

NAOP and GNT

Barb Bacon thanked the Erie Bridge Association for allowing us to hold the games there. There were 5 flight C teams this year, compared with none last year. NAOP Finals are Oct. 6-7. Club qualifying games start on June 1. Barb is retiring from this position and Ron Franck is taking over. Ron commented that his favorite event is the GNT because it is fun to go to the Nationals. He is going to try to promote attendance. He thanked Barb and Sharon on behalf of the whole district.

STaC

Mary reported that the Summer STaC is June 11-17; registration is underway. There are new conditions in District 5 for evening games: all unlimited games will be in the open event, regardless of size. This is because most evening games are small and in some recent events, the small game event was bigger than the open event. Starting in 2019, preduplicated hands will be required in order for clubs to participate in the open event. Clubs that don't use preduplicated hands will be in the side game.

Website

Mary reported that there will be a new webmaster soon.

Membership

Marc Sylvester gave a limited report. A full report will be presented in September.

- Membership is still declining; we're 23rd of 25 in size. We have 3245 members, down 2.6% over 1 year.
- We are 2nd of 25 districts in new member retention.
- Our average age is 73.56, the 3rd oldest behind Florida and Southern California. ACBL average age is 72.22.
- The Canton Unit had the second highest number of new members.

Social Media

Marc said that we have a Facebook page but it doesn't get much activity. He encouraged members to post pictures. If you "like" the page, you'll get some notifications when there are posts.

Education

Chris Urbanek reported

- District 5 has money for Bridge in Schools, which can pay for supplies and extras.

- Buffalo has a program for students, taught by Sharon Benz. Sharon Benz said that there is a game Sundays from 11:30-1:30 with 21 students. Eight students are going to the Youth NABC in Atlanta. Adults mentor students preparing to go to the NABC.
- There is one candidate for the Howard Lebow award; Applications close May 31. Barb Grzegorzewski spoke about Robin Katona, a senior in college, who has been in the program for 4 years. She is helping with recruitment. Barb further said that she has Middle School classes of 30 students through the gifted program; and High School classes of 50 (gifted) students. She and Steve go during the school day, and more experienced students help the newer students.

Marc thanked all of the teachers.

OLD BUSINESS

District Director Election – Sharon reported that she is retiring at the end of 2018, when she will have served 21 years. Two people have announced candidacies: Brian Ellis, and Jim Overcashier. [NOTE: After the meeting, another candidate registered: Dian Petrov]. Units will receive information about the candidates along with instructions of how to vote. Unit boards are the electors. Now there is a 4-term limit. There was a round of applause for Sharon.

Starting times at Regionals – Marc summarized the current situation:

January Rock 'n' Roll Regional	10 & 3
All American Regional	1 & 7
Pittsburgh Regional	1 & 7
Buffalo	early times

Comments were solicited and included:

- Akron Sectional changed to 10 & 3; it was suggested not to have a big gap between sessions if lunch is provided.
- Sarasota uses 10 & 2:30; they provide some food and have food sales. There are horizontal events in the evenings.
- Having a variety of times within the same regional is appreciated by some players. People like Fast Pairs.

NEW BUSINESS

Volunteer Webinars – Sharon reported that the Board of Directors put together a presentation regarding how to recruit and manage volunteers. She is looking for a group of District 5 members to attend a presentation. We need at least 5 people in order to hold the presentation. The entire event, including presentation, Q&A, and comments is under 45 minutes. You do it at your own computer. Let Sharon know if you're interested.

Team Seeding Rights – Brian reported that we now have a written policy.

- For KO, at start of match, coin toss. Winner may defer to second half.
- For KO, if rights are not exercised at the beginning, at the half, the losing team may choose.
- In Swiss matches, if positions are contested, there is a coin toss.

District 5 Exemplary Service Award – Mary announced the implementation of this new 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. An email blast may be sent to District 5 members, soliciting nominations.

ADJOURNMENT

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