

**DISTRICT 5 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE BOARD MEETING**  
**September 6, 2019**

**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: Marilyn Wells, Area Manager, ACBL

**WELCOME/PRESIDENT'S REMARKS**

President Marc Sylvester called the meeting to order at 10:30 AM. He welcomed the members and guest. Tomorrow we will have a moment of silence in memory of Ken Van Cleve. This is Marc's last meeting as president. He thanked the board for being so supportive. There was a round of applause for Marc.

**MINUTES FROM THE LAST MEETING**

The minutes from the May 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.

- Regional attendance has been stable, at about 3200 tables annually.
- Results of operations in the last year have been +\$16,000.
- Income from the All-American Regional and Pittsburgh to date has been good.
- District 5 expenses have been stable.
- GNT: Operating results are +\$300. Subsidies cause a loss. Consistent with our decision in January, we paid the second qualifying B team \$500.
- We are changing banks to Chase
  - We need another officer to authorize activity. The incoming president will appoint Sharon Fairchild as Assistant Secretary. As such, she will be able to have signing ability on the checking account, and will be an authorized user of District 5 credit cards.
  - It is possible that some fees for cash deposits will be waived.
  - A 1-year CD will be opened for \$100,000. The remainder of funds will be in the checking account.
  - There is still \$800 in the RONI fund. These funds will be merged into general D5 funds.

**Report of the District Director** – Brian distributed a written report and reviewed the highlights. The report will be on the District 5 website.

- Regarding collusive cheating, those who cheated after August 22, 2015 will have titles vacated. A motion to permanently ban collusive cheaters failed.
- Super Senior events will have a minimum age of 75. The age for senior events will be changed gradually to 65.
- Corporate restructuring is being considered. Brian thinks this will hurt the smaller districts.
- A motion to amend the bylaws got a majority of votes, but failed because 2/3 majority is needed.
- Unit Recorders and Unit Disciplinary Chairs are being eliminated as of January 1. This will be discussed in more detail at the meeting tomorrow.

**Pittsburgh Labor Day Regional (ongoing)** – Mary reported that the regional is going well. The new site is suitable and is being well received. There have been a few glitches but no more than would be expected at a new site. The new week seems to be successful, and daily attendance is up. However, we would need to have an attendance surge to make up for the lost day. We will look into keeping this date in the future, however years 2 and 3 of the current contract specify the usual week (ending on Labor Day).

**Buffalo Regional** – Chris Urbanek reported that the hotel has been sold and management is changing. Already, reservations are being declined although there are plenty of rooms.

**Rock and Roll Regional (2020)** – Nothing to report.

**All American Regional** – Sharon Fairchild reported.

- She thanked the members for working on the proposed new schedule. Everything has to be revamped since this tournament is going to have early start times.
- Both Cleveland regionals are increasing net income by being more organized regarding room rental. We have a potential contract through 2022. The Dinner for the Full Board meeting in May was comped because of some service-related issues.

**NAOP and GNT** – Ron Frank reported. The NAOP will be the first weekend of October. He's working on a backup plan in case we need extra space.

For the GNT, the CoC were approved for 2020. Per new ACBL guidelines, there were over 8 teams in flight B, therefore 2 teams qualified. Because one of the top 2 teams declined, the spot was offered to the next team. Teams tied for positions 3 & 4 both wished to attend, but a tiebreaker hadn't been defined in advance. Eventually the District Director developed a tiebreaker. For the future, a tiebreaker will be defined in advance.

**STaC** – Mary reported that the June event went well. The next STaC is Dec. 9-15. Several years ago the ACBL determined that all Open events will use hand records and be scored across the field. There have been postponements of the starting date. Mary believes that 2020 is the current planned starting date, which means that for D5 this

regulation would take effect in June. Marilyn Wells said that she thinks this requirement will be eliminated. She will investigate and let Mary know.

**Website** – Mary reported for Bill Hogsett. He emailed a report. New pages on the website: A Grand LM Page; 2019 Top 100 Masterpoint leaders; Overall masterpoint and 2019 masterpoint pages which are updated monthly from the ACBL monthly roster report.

**Membership** – Marc Sylvester will present the report tomorrow at the meeting of the Full Board.

**Social Media** – Marc Sylvester will present the report tomorrow at the meeting of the Full Board.

**Education** – Chris Urbanek reported. Buffalo has over 30 students in the Youth Program. Eight or nine attended the Youth NABC. They applied to the ACBL for an Education Grant and obtained it.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

**Award Pins** – Mary investigated getting pins for McGilvrey and Exemplary Service Award Winners. Local companies eliminated this service. There are many sites online which have suitable pins, but unless they weren't custom made, it takes a large volume to get a reasonable price per pin. She will continue to investigate options.

**Supplies and Equipment for District 5 Regionals** – Mike Roberts has taken over this function and for now there don't need to be any changes.

**Meeting times in January and May** – Mary reported that in January the Executive Board meeting will be on Saturday January 11 at 8 am. Current plans for May are Saturday 8 am for the Executive Board, and following the second session (approximately 6 pm) on Sunday for the Full Board.

**Election for First & Second Alternates** – Will be discussed at the Full Board meeting tomorrow.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

**Purple Pass** – Brian reported that we have Purple Pass (a credit card service) this year, through the Buffalo tournament. Marilyn Wells said that the ACBL is investigating another plan, which might start in January.

**Fragrance Free Policy** – Sharon Fairchild reported that she got information from District 4 about a policy that they enacted. During discussion, the concept seemed like a good idea, but it wasn't clear whether we should consider a policy, or just have a campaign. This will be discussed tomorrow at the meeting of the Full Board. Jim Overcasher put "Fragrance Free Tournament" on the Flyer for the January Regional. Times are 10:30 and 3:00.

**New Week for Rock 'n' Roll Regional** – In 2019, the Rock 'n' Roll Regional was held one week earlier than the usual week (new week: ending the day before the second Monday of January). It is scheduled the same in 2020. The consensus was to keep the new week in the future. Advantages are that the hotel isn't busy that week and there isn't a youth hockey tournament which has interfered with our regional for years. This item will be on the agenda of the Full Board tomorrow.

**Election Tomorrow** – Officers will be elected at the meeting of the Full Board tomorrow.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:40.