

**DISTRICT 5 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE BOARD ZOOM MEETING  
September 8, 2020 8:00 PM  
MINUTES**

**ATTENDANCE:**

Officers Present: Mary Paulone Carns, Jim Overcashier, Brian Ellis, Barb Bacon

Representatives Present Sharon Fairchild, Ron Franck, Chris Urbanek, Marc Sylvester, Jan Assini

Guest: Sharon Benz, Buffalo Regional Chair

Representatives Absent: none

Permission: Barbara Bacon requested permission to record this meeting from host, Marc Sylvester and the Board members. Unanimous approval was given.

**WELCOME/PRESIDENT'S REMARKS**

President Carns called the meeting to order at 8:01 PM. She thanked everyone for being available. President Carns confirmed all members had both visual and auditory access to the meeting. She stated there were 3 members whose terms were completed, Barbara Bacon, Sharon Fairchild and Ron Franck. She contacted all 3 members and invited them to continue on the Board for another 2-year term. All 3 agreed and have been reappointed. President Paulone Carns requested members who will be making a report on a regional to please include all hotel information regarding existing contracts.

**MINUTES FROM THE LAST MEETING**

The minutes from the January 2020 meeting had previously been emailed to the members. Jan Assini made a motion to approve the minutes and Jim Overcashier seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously.

**COMMITTEES**

**Treasurer's Report** –Brian presented an oral treasurer's report.

- We changed banks from PNC to Chase and have a balance of \$179,000. plus change. Brian reported in the process we have gained \$7,000. He plans to continue working on the accounts in order to discover where the extra funds originated prior to sending the accounts to the accountants for review. All the

regionals made a profit: Pittsburgh (2019) +\$19,000.; Buffalo (2019) +\$3,000; January (2020) + \$7000.

- Buffalo's profit may increase due to some issues involving the rooms.
- D5 expenses were down due to not having Cleveland and Pittsburgh regionals.

**Report of the District Director** – Brian gave an oral report. There are numerous reports on the D5 website covering the outcomes of the various national meetings.

- Corporate restructuring was voted on during the Montreal Zoom meetings. The motion was passed with a vote of 18-7. Brian was one of the 7 who voted against this motion. The plan is that the National Board will be reduced from 25 members to 13 members within 3 years. D5 is now teamed with D6 for voting a representative to the National Board of Directors.
- Brian said there will be an election next year for the representative from the 2 districts. With D6 having 7,000 members vs. D5's 3000, it is very unlikely that a person from D5 could win this election. Brian announced he will not run in this election.
- D5 will still maintain control over our GNT/NAP events as well as all our tournaments as of now. Brian does not foresee this as changing.
- ACBL is looking at reducing the number of tournaments being held as well as number of directors. Again, is not clear how quickly this will happen.
- There several changes that are being discussed. One of these is strength of Field Master Points awards in both the team and pair events. A committee has been formed to work on this, but a change is not expected any time soon.
- The National Board is planning to have meetings later this month as well as in October and November. Brian will send out a report on these meetings when they are completed.

**Pittsburgh Labor Day Regional** –Mary reported this would have been the 2<sup>nd</sup> year of a 3-year contract with this hotel. She said the hotel personnel were easy to work with and gave her no difficulty cancelling the regional. The hotel has permanently laid off all the convention staff she had previously worked with. She expects she may encounter all new staff when she meets with them regarding the 2021 regional. Mary will report on the early start times under old business.

**Buffalo Regional** –Chris Urbanek reported that we have held regionals at this location before, but it has been sometime. She also said the General Manager of the hotel is Patty Ramus's son which helped a great deal in the negotiations. Sharon Benz, Chairperson of the 2021 Buffalo Regional, joined the meeting at this time. She has negotiated a contract with the Millennium Hotel for the regional. Copies of the contract were emailed to the executive board by Mary. The contract includes a Force Majeure clause that will allow for cancellations without penalty. Mary, Marc and Brian congratulated Sharon on the thoroughness of this contract. The contract is for one year. The hotel is located at, 2040 Walden Ave Buffalo, New York 144225. Future

contracts may be available, but Sharon pointed out this hotel has changed hands many times and she will wait to see what the both the hotel and ACBL regulations will be after 2021. Sharon Benz left the meeting after her report.

**Rock and Roll Regional (2021)**- This regional has been cancelled by ACBL due to Covid-19. Bill Hogsett, the chairperson, agreed with this action. Sharon and Barb have a meeting scheduled with the Embassy Suites hotel's sales manager, Samantha Sachs, on Thursday, September 14<sup>th</sup> to discuss the cancellation. Jim asked to be part of this meeting. They will report the outcome of the meeting to Mary, Bill and the rest of the executive board.

**Rock and Roll Regional (2022)**: Jim Overcashier, chairperson, said he has nothing to report at this time. There is a signed contract with Embassy Suites for this regional.

**All American Regional (2021)**- Sharon Fairchild said she hopes we are able to hold the tournament next year. We do have a signed contract for this regional with Embassy Suites. Sharon and Barb will be working with the hotel regarding the current contract.

**NAOP and GNT** – Ron Franck said ACBL is hoping to hold the GNT's during the 2021 summer Nationals in Providence, Rhode Island. Ron has been in discussion with ACBL regarding the teams who qualified to play in the event this past summer and if they will be eligible to compete in Providence. Currently the GNT D5 qualifiers are scheduled for May 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> in 2021. Ron asked about the possibility of holding the qualifiers online. Brian responded that he believes some districts do have online qualifiers. Ron plans to check with ABCL and see if D5 may choose this option. Mary feels that it may be a good option for D5. Ron will report back to the executive board the outcome of those discussions with ACBL.

**STaC** – This event has been cancelled by ACBL due to Covid-19

**Website** – Mary reported for Bill Hogsett who feels the site is doing well.

**Membership** – Marc Sylvester said there is no report.

**Social Media** – Marc Sylvester said there is no report.

**Education** – Chris Urbanek reported that the education efforts are going very well in Buffalo. Kathy Pollack has started a group and that has been very successful.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

**Early Times in Pittsburgh:** Mary requested permission to further work out a schedule and present the suggested schedule later. This request was approved unanimously.

**Buffalo Regional (2020):** President Paulone Carns adjourned the meeting and an Executive session was started. The executive session was adjourned, and the Board meeting continued.

### **New BUSINESS:**

**Charity Donations:** Brian reported the District has \$30,000.00 from the ACBL to be distributed to charities within the district. He said we can divide the monies among no more than 7 charities. He thought dividing the funds between either 5 or 6 charities made the most sense. In the past the nominations for charities was open to the whole district but given the time constraint we may not be able to do that this year. The deadline to have these distributions sent to ACBL is December 15<sup>th</sup>. Brian asked for suggestions of how we select the charities this year. All charities nominated must have the following information: a copy of their 501-C or tax ID number, the exact name of the charity and the email address of the person at the charity to whom the check will be sent. Mark made a motion that the D5 Executive Board nominate and determine who the charity recipients would be. The motion was seconded by Jan and was passed unanimously.

Jan Assini volunteered to obtain nominations and present the list to members of the executive board prior to our next meeting. Sharon suggested that we also include the charities that were not selected from the last donation period. She has this list and will forward the list to Jan Assini. The Executive Board agreed that there would be six charities selected and each would receive \$5000.

**Elections:** Per recent email sent out from, ACBL elections should follow as closely as possible to the standard process each district has used in the past. After much discussion it was determined that Marc would send out a ballot to each Unit president requesting their selection of officers. The D5 Executive Board nominated the following slate of nominees:

President: Mary Paulone Carns, nominated by Mark and seconded by Barb

Vice President: Jim Overcashier, nominated by Barb and seconded by Chris

Treasurer: Brian Ellis, nominated by Marc and seconded by Chris

Ballots will be sent by snail mail and must be returned signed, sealed and in an envelope. Each president will have 30 days in which to vote and return the ballot to Marc by snail mail.

**Awards:** Mary pointed out that we need to discuss the District's annual awards (McGilvery and Exemplary Service Award). Mary and Jim will work together on getting the process started. They will solicit nominations from the district members. Jim will be responsible for notifying all previous McGilvery winners of nominations and convening

an email ballot. Mary and the Executive Board agreed there is no reason these awards should not be given this year.

Next zoom Executive Board meeting is scheduled for November 10<sup>th</sup> at 7:00PM. Marc will set the meeting up and send out notifications to all members of the board.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:05 PM.