

**MINUTES OF THE DISTRICT 5 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
January 8, 2022, at 6:30 PM**

ATTENDANCE:

Officers Present: Jim Overcashier, Marc Sylvester.

Representatives
Present: Barb Bacon, Ron Franck, Chris Urbanek and Sharon Fairchild.

Absent: Jan Assini, Mary Paulone Carns and Brian Ellis

WELCOME/PRESIDENT'S REMARKS

President Overcashier called the meeting to order at 6:31PM. Correspondence received included a report of incoming money available from Bridge Tournaments at Sea that were attended by members of our district. To get monies from bridge at sea events we need to register with the cruise lines. This was referred to the treasurer for follow-up.

MINUTES

Jim asked if everyone had read the minutes of the last meeting. As there were no changes, Mark moved, and Barb seconded, and the minutes were approved as written.

ROCK AND ROLL REGIONAL

Jim said he had no complaints about the tournament.

He expects to have 220 tables for the tournament. In speaking to the hotel, Jim expects that the penalty for not meeting the room block will not be imposed but we will have to pay for the rooms that were not sold.

ALL AMERICAN REGIONAL

Barb said that we need to renegotiate the terms of the May contract with the hotel, as we did for this one.

Mark suggested that when doing the schedule, we should include two-day knockouts with a place for teams to "drop in" to another event the second day.

PITTSBURGH REGIONAL

Ron will be meeting with the Double Tree soon to try to schedule the tournament.

BUFFALO REGIONAL

Chris reported that neither Sharon Benz nor Patti Rasmus is willing to chair the upcoming Buffalo Regional. Davis Heussler has said he would be willing to take it on.

TOURNAMENT COORDINATOR

Barb reports that the Pittsburgh sectionals have been sanctioned for 2022 and the Unit 125 sectionals for 2025 and 2026 are being processed.

GNT/NAP

The NAP finals in Reno may be face-to-face or online. If they will be face-to-face in Reno, then 50% of the qualifiers will not attend.

The GNT will be April 30-May 1, 2022, face-to-face in Erie. All flights will compete on the same weekend. The final approval of the Conditions of Contest has not happened yet. There is a new process involved so it is taking time. It was suggested we run GNT fundraisers at the clubs to raise money.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Brian submitted a written report. The checking account has \$107,243.18 and the savings account has \$69,173.75 for a total of \$176,446.93.

We had two events so far: the STaC which lost \$225.71 and the NAP which showed a profit of \$918.00.

STAC

Mary submitted a written report. The STaC had 223 tables. That compares with 772 in December of 2019. Some clubs aren't open yet. She didn't attempt to determine whether open clubs are participating as in the past, but all the clubs that she is aware of in her unit participated, if they had done so in the past. Her unscientific analysis was that most of the larger clubs had a drastic drop-off (example previously 16-20 tables now 4-5), while the clubs which formerly had attendance in the 5-7 range mostly held onto their numbers.

Mary received some information that she got from ACBL about the Royal STaC:

ACBL is testing during a three-month trial period, the Royal STaC. In a Royal STaC, the point awards will be one quarter each of gold, red, silver, and black. The cost to the district is the same. The first of these is being run at the end of January.

For participating in the STaC, the ACBL is sending out notices to all eligible players to help promote the special event. After the trial period, if the Royal STaC isn't adopted, future STaCs will be run in the usual way.

Citing the short preparation time to promote and put on a Royal STaC, the committee decided not to undertake this event.

SOCIAL MEDIA

No report

MEMBERSHIP

Membership in District 5 continues to decline. As of the Dec 31, 2021, QUIP report:

We are currently as 24th / 25th in district size, with a current membership of 2603. This is down 8.51% from last year. Our loss of members in the district is among the higher in the ACBL (20 out of 25).

We are 4th /25 in new member retention into a second year – about 51.0% of our members continue into their second year, based on a three year weighted average.

We recruited 59 new members to D5 in the past 12 months: Not surprisingly it's the larger units that have the most new members over the last year. Cleveland (15), Pittsburgh (13), and Western New York (20). Akron has also done well (7).

We are staying the course on average age, 23rd / 25. Average age of D5 members is 74.69, compared to an average age ACBL-wide of 73.87.

D5 members have an average length of membership of 22.69 years, the *fourth* highest in the ACBL. The ACBL-wide average is 20.73.

EDUCATION

There is nothing new to report. Buffalo currently is not running any educational programs and Barb G. is unable to go into the schools now during the pandemic.

OLD BUSINESS

Notification of the May meeting about the Bylaw change.

Sharon reported that the notice will go out on February 21 to all units.

NEW BUSINESS

Bridgemates and Boards

We used to get Bridgemates from Ken Van Cleve. They have since been sold. This tournament is supplied with borrowed items. Jim will talk to Alex to see if he would be willing to transport Bridgemates and boards to the regionals.

Youth Program Availability

We received an introduction to a new program from Patty Tucker called "Jump Start Junior Bridge" which Jim referred to the Education chair, Chris Urbanek.

Plaques and Timer Transportation

The plaques which are displayed at each regional will go home with the chairman of the next regional.

We will purchase 4 new timers so that each population center (Cleveland, Pittsburgh, and Buffalo) will have 2 stored in the area. It is suggested that a member of the Executive Committee from that area be responsible for transporting them to the tournament.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:20 PM.

Follow-up from this meeting:

Brian to register with cruise lines for reimbursement for members attending bridge cruises.

Sharon and Barb to negotiate hotel contract for May and plan the schedule.

Ron Franck to meet with the Double Tree to try to schedule the Labor Day tournament.

Sharon to send out meeting notices for May D5 Board meeting by Feb 21, 2022.

Sharon and Barb need to plan for boards and Bridgemates for May. What about dealing machine?

2 timers for Buffalo and 2 for Pittsburgh need to be purchased. No one was assigned this project.