

ACBL DISTRICT 5 BOARD MEETING
Saturday, May 28, 2022

ATTENDANCE

Officers Present: Jim Overcashier (President), Marc Sylvester (Vice President)

Executive Board Members Present: Barbara Bacon, Sharon Fairchild, Ron Franck, Mary Paulone Carns, Chris Urbanek

Executive Board Members Absent: Jan Assini, Brian Ellis

Unit Representatives Present: Bob Ryan, Myrtle Muntz (107); Ron Carter (111); Dian Petrov (116); Jeffrey Weiss, Sue Knirsch, Doug Hardman, Mike Gilbert(125); Rick Klaphor (127); David Livingston (185); Jill Otte (213); Barb Grzegorzewski (226)

Units Not Represented: 129, 142, 148, 177, 229

Guests: Davis Huessler, Dian Petrov (116); Jean Livingston (185); Leo Mann (213); Steve Grzegorzewski (226)

Before the meeting, Jim invited Davis Huessler to address the meeting about the Buffalo Regional. It is October 25-30, 2022, at the Marriott in Amherst NY. This regional is very dependent on Canadian participation, so he is hoping for a large contingent from Canada,

There were packets of flyers for the tournament at the meeting. He encouraged participants to pick up a packet and take them back to their units.

WELCOME

The meeting was called to order at 6:05 PM by President Jim Overcashier.

PRESIDENT'S REMARKS/CORRESPONDENCE

Jim thanked all for attending. All attendees introduced themselves. Jim noted that due to Covid, this was his first District Board meeting to conduct. He welcomed everyone back to face-to-face bridge.

MINUTES FROM THE LAST MEETING

Barb moved and Mike Gilbert seconded that the minutes of the September 7, 2019, previously emailed to the members, be approved. Motion carried.

STANDING COMMITTEES

Treasurer's Report — Sharon reported for Brian Ellis. The checking account holds \$96,104.05 and the savings account has \$69,175.97. This is down a little since the purchase of the Bridgemates and servers for \$6-7000.

SPECIAL COMMITTEES

REGIONAL TOURNAMENT REPORTS

All American Regional— Sharon and Barb reporting. We expect 40-50% of the tables from 2019. There have been some housekeeping issues and hotel management is working to correct them by bringing staff from other properties. Barb said Sharon is retiring after more than 30 years of running Cleveland regionals. Barb is retiring as well so a new chairman is needed.

Rock and Roll Regional – We have no financial report for the 2022 tournament yet, but the loss is expected to be minimal. Jim Overcashier will chair this event in 2023. He has signed a contract with the hotel for 2023 in January and May.

Pittsburgh Labor Day Regional – Ron Franck will be running a three-day regional over Labor Day weekend Friday, Saturday and Sunday. He feels this will limit our financial exposure post-Covid. He plans to run it at the Greater Pittsburgh Masonic Center where rent for the 3 days will be \$4000. He wants a trial run for this year and in future years the Center is available Tuesday through Labor Day.

Positives

Pittsburgh Players love this site
Easy access from all D5 cities
Kitchen facility included
Continental Breakfast and Lunch included
No charge to players for coffee and soda
Parking free and close to playing area.

Negatives

No hotel (Hotels 2 miles away)
Bridge rate Fairfield is \$129
Access for meetings

NAOP and GNT

Ron Franck reported that the NAP is October 1st and 2nd in Erie PA.

In the GNT, all flights will be represented in Providence this summer.

STaC

Mary reported that the STaCi s the week in June that ends on Father's Day.

We can also run a Royal STaC which awards some of all colors of points (Gold, Red, Silver and Black). Mark is our new STaC coordinator and will select a week for the Royal STaC. The procedures for the clubs will be the same as the regular STaC.

Membership Report

Membership in District 5 continues to decline. As of the March 31, 2022, QUIP report:

We are currently as 24th / 25th in district size, with a current membership of 2625.

This is down 7.08% from last year. Our loss of members in the district is among the higher in the ACBL (19 out of 25).

We are 5th /25 in new member retention into a second year – about 49.9% of our members continue into their second year, based on a three-year weighted average.

We recruited 67 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 74.74, compared to an average age ACBL-wide of 73.96.

D5 members have an average length of membership of 22.29 years, the *fourth* highest in the ACBL. The ACBL-wide average is 20.56.

Education

Chris Urbanek reported:

- Barb Grzegorzewski is running a bridge program again at Allegheny College. This was requested by students she taught in middle school who now attend Allegheny College.
- Steve Grzegorzewski is retiring and teaching bridge classes three times a week in Meadville and Erie. He plans to send people out into the community to advertise bridge.
- In Buffalo, Sharon Benz, Jim Gullo and Fred Yellen are running a Sunday program for youth who will be attending the Youth NABC in Providence.

NEW BUSINES

Proposed By Law Change:

Proposed change to bylaws prompted by Change in D5 representation to the ACBL

Article IV (Board of Directors) Section C currently reads:

The president, vice president, treasurer, and immediate past president of District 5, and the representative of District 5 to the National Board of Directors of the ACBL shall be members ex-officio of the District 5 Board of Directors with all rights and privileges associated with such membership.

Change to:

The president, vice president, treasurer, and immediate past president of District 5 shall be members ex-officio of the District 5 Board of Directors with all rights and privileges associated with such membership. Additionally, if the Regional Director of Region 4 is a member of District 5, the Regional Director shall be an ex-officio member of the District 5 Board of Directors with all rights and privileges associated with such membership. If the Regional Director is a member of any other District, then the President will appoint a Liaison to the Region 4 Director (who is a member of District 5). The Liaison shall be a member ex-officio of the District 5 Board of Directors with all rights and privileges associated with such membership

Article VI (Executive Committee), Section A, item 2

Currently reads: The representative of District 5 to the National Board of Directors of the ACBL;

Change to: The representative of Region 4 to the National Board of Directors of the ACBL, if that representative is a member of District 5; OR The Liaison to the

Regional Director, if the representative of Region 4 is a member of any other district.

The Bylaw change was approved unanimously.:

Entry Fees at Regionals

Barb Grzegorzewski moved to raise entry fees for regionals to \$14.00 per person per session. Bob Ryan seconded. The motion carried. This will include NAP and GNT as well beginning in 2023.

Electronic policy:

ACBL has changed their policy on electronic devices in the playing area.

Electronic Device Policy

This policy applies to all events at NABCs and events where ACBL is the Sponsoring Organization. Regional and Sectional tournaments are encouraged to adopt and apply this policy or one more well-suited to their players. A violation of any of the restrictions below will result in an automatic penalty, pursuant to Law 91 of the Laws of Duplicate Bridge.

1 - Any electronic equipment must be kept in silent mode (except for health-related equipment, where silent mode is unavailable or could constitute a health risk).

It is recommended, though not mandatory, that any such equipment remain switched off while in the playing area during a session.

Penalties: If it is determined that an electronic equipment is not compliant with (1) above, the penalty for the first offense is 1/8 of a board, 1.5 imps, or ½ VP. For each subsequent offense during an event the penalty will be doubled. Beginning with the third offense, the player may be subject to disqualification, upon approval of the Sponsoring Organization.

2 - Players are expected to be paying attention to the game. While at the table, players may not use or interact with their electronic devices during bridge play. When between rounds or sitting out, use or interaction with electronic devices is permitted, provided it is inaudible. For other situations, permission to use or interact with an electronic device will be granted upon the Director's judgment and on a case-by-case basis.

Penalties: If it is determined that an electronic equipment was operated in violation of (2) above, the penalty for the first offense is ½ of a board, 6 IMPS, or 2 VP. For each subsequent offense during an event the penalty will be doubled. Beginning with the second offense, the player may be subject to disqualification, upon approval of the Sponsoring Organization.

The above restrictions apply to all players, captains, coaches and kibitzers, except those persons granted permission by the ACBL, and are in force throughout any playing session or segment of play.

A kibitzer in violation of these policies must leave the playing area and may be readmitted only by permission of the tournament director.

Penalties for captains and coaches: Same as for players.

For the purpose of this policy, each day of a multi-day event is treated independently.

Further restrictions and requirements may apply in events involving live internet and/or VuGraph coverage and/or instruction from the Sponsoring Organization.

For the purpose of this policy, Sponsoring Organization is the ACBL for NABCs, the organizing District for Regionals, and the organizing Unit for Sectionals.

Marc moved and Barb Bacon seconded that we follow ACBL policy on this matter. Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no additional business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:14 PM