

**ACBL DISTRICT 5 BOARD MEETING  
Saturday, September 3, 2022**

**ATTENDANCE**

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

Executive Board Members Present: Barbara Bacon, Sharon Fairchild, Ron Franck, Mary Paulone Carns, Dian Petrov

Executive Board Members Absent: Jan Assini

Unit Representatives Present: Mike Powers(111); Dian Petrov (116); Jeffrey Weiss, Sue Knirsch, Jim Knirsch(125); Rick Klapthor (127); Lorraine Hanna, June Threlkeld, Ken Bergman (142) David Livingston (185); Betty Jo Walgren (213); Barb Grzegorzewski (226)Lois Porter (229)

Units Not Represented: 107, 129, 148, 177,

Guests: Davis Huessler (116); Jean Livingston (185); Pat Levy (213); Steve Grzegorzewski (226) Sandi Bross

**WELCOME**

The meeting was called to order at 6:49 PM by President Jim Overcashier.

**PRESIDENT'S REMARKS/CORRESPONDENCE**

Jim thanked all for attending. All attendees introduced themselves.

**MINUTES FROM THE LAST MEETING**

The minutes from the May Meeting were approved.

**STANDING COMMITTEES**

**Treasurer's Report** — The GNT losses were small (\$817.75) before the team subsidies \$4912 making the loss \$5729.75.

The June StaC lost \$247.70 and the December StaC lost \$165.71

The January Regional lost \$2416.90 while the May Regional made a profit of \$2644.70

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **Rock and Roll Regional 2023**

Jim Overcashier reported that the schedule is ready to be released soon, as is the schedule for May. We are still looking to find someone to run one of those regionals.

### **Pittsburgh Regional**

Ron Franck reported that we had great attendance on the first day. Players love the site. Bill Holt has been a wonderful co-chair.

2023 will be a 6 day tournament, Wednesday through Monday. It will be held at the Masonic Lodge. The Fairfield Hotel will offer a larger room block for a longer tournament and a better room rate.

### **Buffalo Regional**

Davis Huessler stated that the Buffalo Regional will be at the Marriott Hotel in Amherst NY October 25-30, 2022. The hotel has good access for members of District 5 and the Canadians who are so vital to this tournament. The room rate will be \$129.00 if reservations are made before October 1, 2022.

## **NAOP and GNT**

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

## **STaC**

The STaC is set for December 5-11. Mary will run it and copy Marc on everything so he will be prepared to take it over.

## **Membership Report** **Sept 2022**

Membership in District 5 continues to decline. As of the June 30, 2022 QUIP report:

We are currently as 24th / 25th in district size, with a current membership of 2611.

This is down 6.98% from last year. Our loss of members in the district is among the higher in the ACBL (20 out of 25).

We are 5 th /25 in new member retention into a second year – about 49.5% of our members continue into their second year, based on a three year weighted average.

We recruited 79 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 (18), Pittsburgh (28). Western New York (9) and Akron (8) have also done well.

We are staying the course on average age, 23rd / 25. Average age of D5 members is 74.92, compared to an average age ACBL-wide of 73.89.

D5 members have an average length of membership of 22.12 years, the third highest in the ACBL. The ACBL-wide average is 20.39.

Jeffrey Weiss asked what units are doing to increase memberships.

1. Steve Grzegorzewski is putting together a program for the Erie unit to recruit members.
2. Pittsburgh is offering Learn Bridge in a Day and having a mentoring a program with free entries for participants. They offer free mini-lessons for people from over 55 communities to encourage them to play in clubs.

### **Social Media**

Marc has posted pictures of Sharon Fairchild (Distinguished Service Award) and Cecilia Powell (Ann McGilvrey Award) on the District 5 Facebook Page.

### **Education**

Dian reported that Buffalo's kids program sent 9 children to the Providence Youth NABC, and paid for the space and a teacher to go with them.

There is an initiative from the Ed Foundation that can be found at [bridgewhist.org](http://bridgewhist.org) for 5<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> grades to introduce bridge to young players. Last year they reached 2000 young players. He program also tries to teach bridge to the parents and

grandparents as well so they can play with their children. They hope to reach 3000 new players this year. The new program starts October 17<sup>th</sup>.

### **New Business**

Jim announced that we are going to have cashless Regional Tournaments beginning in January. A discussion followed about whether or not this would be a problem for young students. If we had pre-registration they could pay with a parent credit card on line. We will look into the possibility of that in the future.

Jim also said that since covid, our attendance at tournaments has gone way down. We need to do whatever we can to encourage people to attend. Some of them have lost partners and may need help in finding new ones. Some don't have contact information for other players. However we can help them, we need to do it.

### **Election**

Past President, Mary Paulone Carns opened the floor for nominations for the office of President. Betty Jo Walgren nominated Jim Overcashier and Barb Bacon seconded. Mary moved to close nominations. Jim was elected by a show of hands.

Jim opened nominations for the office of Vice President. Barb Grzegorzewski nominated Marc Sylvester and Pat Levy seconded. Nominations were closed and Marc was duly elected.

Jim opened nominations for the office of treasurer. Betty Jo Walgren nominated Sandi Bross and Marc Sylvester seconded. Nominations were closed and Sandi was elected.

### **Closing comments**

Jim announced that three people were retiring from the board. He thanked Mary Paulone Carns, Brian Ellis, and Jan Assini for their service.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:28 PM.