

**DRAFT MINUTES OF ACBL DISTRICT 4 BOARD MEETING
Lancaster, Pennsylvania
November 1, 2008**

Voting Member Attendees:

- At-Large: Joann Glasson (Board President), (1st VP vacant), Bob Cole (2nd VP), Lois Sanders (Immediate Past President), Craig Robinson (National Board), Harold Jordan (Pres Appt.), Deepak Khanna (Pres. Appt.) (6 of 7)
Unit 112: Warren Marsland, Robert Simard, Mark McDermott (3 of 6)
Unit 120: Walt Mitchell, Ray Depew (2 of 2)
Unit 121: Sue Wessner, Jack Berry (for Greg Kiddy) (2 of 2)
Unit 133: Barbara Miller, Valerie Barber (for Walter Bell) (2 of 2)
Unit 141: Jay Apfelbaum, John Marks, Everett Young, Michael Salton, Jane Segal (for Donna Morgen), Ala Hamilton-Day, Terry Coughlin, Marie Trethaway, Ray Raskin (for Tom Sakaguchi), Tom Purl, Elaine Landow (11 of 12)
Unit 168: Linda Ivanoff, Bob Priest, Ron Orr, Bert Murray (for Pamela Murray) Tim Smith (for Debi Klinger) (5 of 5)
Unit 190: Anne Taylor, Richard Popper, Ward Schaumberg (for Rick Rowland), Robert Taylor (for Jess Stuart) (4 of 4)
Unit 217: Ed Bissell (for Sue Pierce), Mary Ann Churba (for Peg Herz) (2 of 2)

Non-Voting Invitees:

Dave Kresge, Finance Committee Chair	Andie Shaeffer, Charity Chairperson
Alan Hodesblatt, Tournament Director	Tom Grabowski, Delaware Reg. co-chair
Don Swan, NAP Coordinator	John Klinger, Lancaster Regional co-chair

CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS

A meeting of the ACBL District 4 Board of Directors was held at the Lancaster Host, November 1, 2008. Joann Glasson, President, called the meeting to order at 10:15 AM, a quorum being present (37 of 42 voting members representing 8 of 8 units).

Joann requested the Secretary to recognize new and substitute Board members in attendance: Valerie Barber of Unit 133, Jack Berry of Unit 121, Bob Taylor and Ward Schaumberg from Unit 190, Burt Murray and Tim Smith of Unit 168, Ray Raskin and Jane Segal from Unit 141, Mary Ann Churba and Ed Bissell from Unit 217. Bill also recognized Bob Simard as the soon to be President of Unit 112. (Had he known, the Secretary would also have introduced Ron Orr as the upcoming President of Unit 168, but he did not recognize him without his Halloween wig.)

Alan Hodesblatt represented the Tournament Director-in-Charge, Doug Grove.

And a special welcome to Stefan Jordan, future Caddy Master and consultant to his father, Harold. (Now we know where Harold gets all his good ideas and information.)

SECRETARY’S REPORT & APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF JUNE 20, 2008

Bill advised that he would soon request Unit Presidents to submit their 2009 unit representatives’ names and that the number of representatives per unit will not change. The calculation is based upon the October 1 unit membership as obtained by Craig Robinson from the ACBL. The report showed that the District had a net loss of 45 members since last October 1. The Unit breakdown as of October 1 is as follows:

<u>UNIT</u>	<u>10/2007</u>	<u>10/2008</u>	<u>CHANGE</u>	<u>2009 REPRESENTATIVES PER BYLAWS</u>
112	1,253	1,229	-24	6
120	347	357	+10	2
121	283	280	-3	2
133	308	304	-4	2
141	2,669	2,644	-25	12
168	912	916	+4	5
190	734	731	-3	4
217	<u>149</u>	<u>149</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>2</u>
TOTALS	6,655	6,610	-45	35

The minutes of the Valley Forge Board meeting of June 20, 2008 were unanimously approved as submitted. Bill reminded the Board that the minutes appear on the District website.

TREASURER’S REPORT

Craig Robinson reported for Treasurer, Rick Rowland. Craig distributed the fiscal year-to-date (June through October) balance sheet and profit & loss statements. The District has a balance of \$237K. The P&L statement does not include two checks from tournaments (the 2nd Lancaster check and the Syracuse check) received today. Note that the reference to the Cherry Hill Regional really refers to the Valley Forge Regional. Upon motion, the Treasurer’s Report was approved.

PRESIDENT’S REPORT

Joann announced that Valley Forge would continue as the site of the Philadelphia Regional formerly held at the Cherry Hill Clarion. (Joann forgot to mention that Bob Glasson negotiated our way out of the 2009 contract with the Clarion at no cost!)

She thanked Dave Kresge, Finance Committee Chairperson, for the incredible job on the audit. For example, he found that the amount of bond insurance was inadequate. For \$30/year more, the bond was increased from \$100K to \$250K.

Joann congratulated Joann Mauger on attaining the Silver LM designation.

Joann called on the board to ratify the following Executive Committee resolution:

The Executive Committee resolved to commit to two ACBL-conducted Teacher Accreditation Programs (TAP's) at a cost of \$1,700 each provided there were a minimum of 14 registrants paying \$50/each to attend. The sites are Vestal, NY (1st weekend in April 2009) and Valley Forge (day prior to the 2009 Regional). The District would expend up to \$1,000 to subsidize each TAP. She noted that if participation exceeded 14 students, then the subsidy would be less.

The Board affirmed the Executive Committee's action unanimously.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

DISTRICT 4SPOT

Elaine Landow advised that the next 4SPOT would be the December 1 issue.

TOURNAMENT COORDINATOR

Elaine Landow placed copies of the 2009 & 2010 tournament schedule on each table. The only correction at this time is the date for the October 2009 Unit 141 Cherry Hill Sectional. The Sectional is four days, October 9 –12. Elaine requested that she be informed of changes to the tournament schedule.

CHARITY

Andie Sheaffer reported on participation in the May 5 District-wide Charity game. Four clubs participated in the afternoon session and three in the evening. The next District 4 Charity game is Thursday, November 14.

FINANCE

Dave Kresge reported that the District's financial records were in good order. The District was able to obtain \$250K (previously \$100K) of bonding for only an additional \$30/year. Dave addressed the timeliness of regional financial reports and suggested that 90 days would be a good time frame. The Treasurer has to certify IRS filings, sometimes without all the tournament reports in hand as backup. Rick Rowland & John Marks are currently working on a standard regional tournament report format. Dave concluded by stating that he would present a budget at the 2009 King of Prussia Board meeting.

DISTRICT RECORDER

Bob Grover was not present. He previously informed Craig that he had nothing to report.

NAP (See also Tournament Committee Report for NAP CofC modification motions)

Don Swan reported on the October 2008 winners in each flight:

Flight "A" (Allentown)

1. Doug Dye & Everett Young
2. Daisy Goecker & David Better
3. Jay Apfelbaum & Daniel Boye

Flight “B”

1. Anne & Bob Taylor (Wilmington site)
2. James Carroll & Jonathan Forde (Rochester site)
3. Christopher Marlow & Andy Muenz (Wilmington site) per conditions of contest

Flight “C”

1. Arlene & George Haeseler (Vestal site)
2. John Lute & Linda Johnson (Vestal site)
3. Liz Ashley & Bonnie Walker (Rehoboth Beach site)

Don presented the participation history as follows:

	Rochester					Cherry Hill (Wilmington)					Total				
	<u>04</u>	<u>05</u>	<u>06</u>	<u>07</u>	<u>08</u>	<u>04</u>	<u>05</u>	<u>06</u>	<u>07</u>	<u>08</u>	<u>04</u>	<u>05</u>	<u>06</u>	<u>07</u>	<u>08</u>
Flight “C”	11	7	0	STaC		10	5	8.5	STaC		21	12	8.5	50.5	46.5
Flight “B”	8	6	11.5	12	8.5	14	18.5	15.5	17	13	22	24.5	27	29	21.5
	Allentown														
	<u>04</u>	<u>05</u>	<u>06</u>	<u>07</u>	<u>08</u>										
Flight “A”	9	11.5	13	11	11						<u>9</u>	<u>11.5</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>11</u>
	Grand Total										52	48	48.5	90.5	79

Don noted that several clubs planning to host Flight “C” dropped out at the last minute due to insufficient pre-registration. Craig summarized the participation as follows: 3 new clubs, 2 lost from last year, and 3 collapsing in the week prior to the event.

Don Swan advised the locations and dates of the 2009 NAP as follows:

- Flight “A” - October 17 & 18 in Allentown
- Flight “B” - October 24 Wilmington and Rochester area
- Flight “C” – October 17 at clubs (STaC format)

A discussion ensued about obtaining a list of qualifiers to assist club managers in recruiting qualified players to obtain the requisite five tables and to increase the field size of games meeting the five table requirement. Bob Priest suggested that the ACBL provide the list. Bill Bauer said that could be a starting point, but the ACBL only receives the names of players receiving points. Other players qualify based upon finishing above average. Club managers are supposed to send a list of qualifiers from their club to both the Unit and District coordinators (ACBL sends names to club managers with conditions of contest). Deepak Khanna suggested that a committee look into the problem. Ron Orr noted that a District 4 player could qualify in any District, per the ACBL conditions of contest.

Craig stated that the Director of any NAP final is supposed to ask the players (as a group) whether each player is qualified. Anyone answering yes may play without affecting the game itself, however that player will be challenged by the ACBL if they win a subsidy. The NAP coordinator must then follow up to ascertain that they were qualified.

Others questioned the ACBLScore program giving "Q's" to all "C" participants. Harold Jordan had the answer -- that the program is designed to give a "Q" to all "C" pairs when there are less than 2-1/2 tables of "C" pairs.

Lois Sanders would like the player "Q" to be on the insert in the Bridge Bulletin. Alan Hodesblatt warned that the ACBL is not aware of all qualifiers, namely those that do not receive masterpoints at a qualifying game but still qualify.

Joann concluded the discussion by requesting Craig and Bill to work on a solution. Craig said that he would call Patty Taylor of the ACBL to see whether she could generate a report of qualified players for him to share with prospective Flight "C" host clubs.

GNT

Ray Depew informed the Board that the 2009 GNT would be the first weekend in May 2009 at the same location, the Scranton Clarion. The conditions of contest have not changed from 2008.

EDUCATION

Betsy Davenny was not present and did not give anyone a report.

JUDICIARY

Henry Bethe was not in attendance.

APPEALS

JoAnn Sprung was not present, but had informed Joann Glasson that she had no report.

INTERMEDIATE/NEWCOMER

Donna Morgen was not in attendance.

TOURNAMENT

John Marks advised that the Committee met Friday between sessions. The Delaware Tournament Committee (Tom Grabowski and Susan Corbett assisted by Richard Popper) is faced with an untenable hotel contract for the 2010 Delaware Regional. The committee must commit to 450 room nights to get free playing space. Worse yet, there is a new clause requiring payment for any room night shortfall (potentially \$17K to \$20K) in addition to paying for space (\$3K to \$6K). The other Delaware Doubletree hotel (Route 202) contract has the same provision. As a result the committee will look into other facilities including one on Naamans Road. Should no acceptable Delaware location be found, the Committee might consider the Valley Forge Convention Center. John said there is no room night guarantee, only the requirement to spend \$15K on hospitality.

The second item discussed by the committee was the NAP Flight “B” District Conditions of Contest. Specifically, representatives of Unit 112 requested that the “equality” table-count provision be reduced from 12 tables to 10 tables. Currently, when one site has 12+ tables and the other site fewer than 12, the 1st and 3rd place pairs come from the larger site. The committee recommends this reduction to the District Board.

After considerable debate, a motion to reduce the table count from 12 to 10 to consider both sites equal failed. The prevailing argument was that the committees at the two locations hosting the games should promote attendance in order to achieve equality.

Another motion was offered to score NAP Flight “B” across-the-field provided the ACBL directors could communicate the game files. This motion carried.

TOURNAMENT REPORTS:

2012 Summer NABC – John Marks reminded the Board that the NABC will run for 11 days and that volunteers are needed. Each unit will have a special day to volunteer. Susie and Bill Grover of Unit 168 will run the Intermediate/Newcomer program. Joann has recruited an Entertainment Committee.

Valley Forge - John Marks reported that the 2008 Valley Forge Regional made a \$7,809 profit. The table count was up 266 compared to the 2007 Cherry Hill Regional. Most players seemed to like the 10:00am and 3:00pm starting times. The Regional will next be held July 6 –12, 2009 in Valley Forge. John reminded the Board of the forthcoming District STaC from Dec. 8 – 14. Clubs should contact Tom Sakaguchi or John to register.

Lancaster - John Klinger reported that the tournament was going well. In 2009, the tournament will be held from October 26 to November 1.

Harrisburg - Bob Priest reported that the Regional would shift to the Holiday Inn at I83 & the PA TPK in the summer of 2010 (split Regional with New York). Hotel rooms are anticipated to be \$89/\$99 with free parking.

**Rochester/
Syracuse** - Lois Sanders reported that the Syracuse summer regional tournament was a financial success with a \$4,887 profit. In 2009, the tournament will be held from August 4 –9.

Delaware - Tom Grabowski reported the Regional is scheduled for April 27 to (4/27 – 5/2/10) May 2, 2010. See the Tournament Committee report above for a summary of the problem of obtaining space.

Scranton - Ray Depew reported that planning for the 2009 tournament is on (3/2 – 3/8/09) schedule and that the new Hilton hotel will host the regional.

DISTRICT DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Craig Robinson reported on the Las Vegas Summer NABC BoD meeting. The Board decided to increase the Life Master requirement to 500 points beginning with those joining the ACBL in 2010. The decision was also made for the ACBL HQ to remain in the Memphis area. The 2009 budget will be on the agenda for approval in Boston.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no item of old business on the agenda.

NEW BUSINESS

Youth Teacher Subsidy

Jay proposed that the District subsidize teachers for expenses incurred in working with youth bridge education. For example, David Jungblut has been working with youth in South New Jersey schools. Tom Purl added that prospective teachers must be fingerprinted and have a criminal background check done before going into schools to teach. Walt Mitchell added that the units could do the "due diligence" before the Executive Committee approved a subsidy. The motion carried

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT AND ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Craig Robinson reported that the 8 current Unit Presidents and 8 immediate past District Presidents are eligible to serve on the Nominating Committee. The committee met last evening to discuss and select nominees for District officers.

Craig Robinson reported the committee's recommendations as follows:

President	- Joann Glasson of Unit 141
1 st Vice-President	- Bob Cole of Unit 133
2 nd Vice-President	- Rick Rowland of Unit 190
Treasurer	- Rick Rowland

Craig noted that the 2nd VP and Treasurer are both members of the Executive Committee. He added that the Nominating Committee felt that it would be appropriate for the President to appoint three board members, rather than the two provided by the by-laws, to keep the committee at nine members. A motion was then made and adopted to permit the President to appoint three members until the Bylaws were amended.

There being no further nominations from the floor, nominations were closed and the Secretary was instructed to cast a unanimous ballot for each candidate.

REMARKS & APPOINTMENTS BY RETURNING PRESIDENT

Joann announced the following appointments:

1. Bill Bauer will continue as Board Secretary (unanimous Board confirmation).
2. Deepak Khanna and Dan Boye are Presidential Appointees to the Board as members-at-large (unanimous Board confirmation).
3. Dan Boye, John Klinger and Ed Bissell (taking one of Rick Rowland's seats) will serve as at-large Executive Committee appointees.
4. Jane Segal will serve as the Board of Governors representative on the Executive Committee.

Joann thanked the incredible Tournament Chairpersons for each of our Regionals. She also thanked the outgoing committee chairs for their service and noted those who requested that they not be reappointed as she made the following appointments:

1. Elaine Landow will continue as 4Spot Editor and Tournament Coordinator.
2. Beth Rosenthal will take over as Charity Chairperson.
3. Dave Kresge will continue as Finance Chairperson.
4. Bob Grover will continue as District Recorder.
5. Don Swan will continue as NAP Coordinator (with Craig & Bill for Flt. "C").
6. Ray Depew will continue as GNT Coordinator.
7. Mary Poplawski will take over as Education Chairperson.
8. Bob Glasson will take over as Judiciary Chairperson.
9. JoAnn Sprung will continue as Appeals Chairperson.
10. Ala Hamilton-Day will take over as Intermediate/Newcomer Chairperson.
11. John Marks will continue as Tournament Committee Chairperson.

NEXT MEETING

A full board meeting will take place during the Valley Forge Regional after the 3:00pm session on Friday, July 10, 2009.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 11:45 AM.

Respectfully submitted,
Bill Bauer
District 4 Secretary
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