

**DRAFT MINUTES OF ACBL DISTRICT 4 BOARD MEETING
Lancaster, Pennsylvania
November 4, 2011**

Voting Member Attendees:

- At-Large: Rick Rowland (Board President), Walt Mitchell (1st VP), Tom Weik (2nd VP), Bob Cole (Immediate Past President), Craig Robinson (National Board), Mike Giesler (Pres. Appt.) (6 of 7)
- Unit 112: Harry Nuckols (for Debra Suller), Mary Poplawski (2 of 6)
- Unit 120: Ray Depew, Tom Henson (for Bill Orth) (2 of 2)
- Unit 121: Sue Wessner (Unit Pres.), Jack Berry (for Anne Alderman) (2 of 2)
- Unit 133: Chuck Campbell (for John Schwartz), Frank Kuebler (2 of 2)
- Unit 141: Joann Glasson (Unit Pres.), Jane Ball (for Jay Apfelbaum), April Uhlenburg, Ken Chatzinoff (for Tom Sakaguchi), David LeGrow (for Tom Purl), Meyer Kotkin, Ala Hamilton-Day, Terry Coughlin, Marie Trethaway, Elaine Landow, John Marks, Everett Young (12 of 12)
- Unit 168: Andie Sheaffer (Unit Pres.) (for Bert Murray), Bob Priest, John Klinger, Ron Orr, Deb Klinger (for Pamela Murray) (5 of 5)
- Unit 190: Jeff Kotenuk (for Alan Horowitz), Richard Popper, Barbara Rhoades, William Everitt (4 of 4)
- Unit 217: Mary Ann Churba (for Sue Pierce) (1 of 2)

Non-Voting Members

Ray Raskin, Board of Governors

CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS

A meeting of the ACBL District 4 Board of Directors was held at the Lancaster Host Resort, November 4, 2011. Rick Rowland, President, called the meeting to order at 5:00 PM, a quorum being present (36 of 42 voting members representing 8 of 8 units).

SECRETARY’S REPORT & APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF AUGUST 26, 2011

The minutes of the Valley Forge Board meeting of August 26, 2011 were unanimously approved. Bill reminded the Board that the minutes appear on the District website.

Bill reported on the Unit Membership as of October 2011 which is the basis for the determination of the number of Unit representatives on the 2012 District Board. The membership by Unit as of October 2010 and 2011 as reported by the ACBL was:

<u>UNIT</u>	<u>10/2010</u>	<u>10/2011</u>	<u>CHANGE</u>	<u>2012 REPRESENTATIVES PER BYLAWS</u>
112	1,177	1,154	-23	6
120	348	348	---	2
121	228	224	-4	2
133	323	313	-10	2

141	2,670	2,686	+16	12
168	997	1,013	+16	5
190	753	710	-43	4
217	<u>147</u>	<u>140</u>	<u>-7</u>	<u>2</u>
TOTALS	6,643	6,588	-55	35

The changes in membership did not result in any unit gaining or losing representatives.

TREASURER’S REPORT

Rick Rowland distributed the Balance Sheet and Profit & Loss Statements for the District as of the end of October 2011. June to October is a quiet period with no income as Valley Forge and Syracuse reports have not been received by the report date. The 4Spot printing & mailing expense is a “hangover” from the previous means of distributing the 4Spot. The Audrey Grant registration money will be paid out to Audrey Grant and to cover her expenses. The 4Spot expense represents past printing & mailing costs which will not reoccur as the 4Spot is now largely e-mailed. The GNT expense is down as our teams did not go as far into the events as last year.

The Board approved the Treasurer’s report unanimously.

PRESIDENT’S REPORT

Rick Rowland announced good news – his “reign of terror” is almost over. Rick thanked all volunteers for their contributions this year and particularly thanked Joann Glasson for establishing a new district website and for her work as co-chair of the 2012 NABC; Mike Giesler for re-energizing the NAP; and Dan Boye, Joann Sprung and Bob Glasson for not having any matters to report. Rick further noted the accomplishment of the conversion of the 4Spot to electronic distribution that will conserve District funds. The conversion has been received fairly well. Also, the Tournament Committee has established guidelines for our Regionals so that they will be more uniform. These guidelines will be presented and voted upon later in this meeting.

RATIFICATION OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ACTION

The Executive committee took no action since the Valley Forge Board meeting in August.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

PUBLICITY

Joann Glasson requested each unit to designate a person to send information to her for the District website. She seeks tournament flyers and club information. If a unit appoints a contact, then Joann will not be bugging the wrong people for information to post.

DISTRICT 4SPOT

Elaine Landow reported that the transition to e-mail distribution is going smoothly. The transition is a work-in-process. Like Joann, Elaine needs flyers for Sectionals to include.

TOURNAMENT COORDINATOR

John Marks distributed the 2012 Tournament Calendar and requested to be informed of any errors. He is working on the 2013 calendar but has only received a few tournament dates from the Unit Tournament Coordinators.

Harry Nuckols questioned Rochester event dates. Both a NLM and “open” sectional are shown on the same weekend. John said that is what Bruce Todor provided to him.

CHARITY

April Uhlenburg informed the Board that it is the District’s turn to receive Charity funds from the ACBL to allocate to charities.

FINANCE

Dave Kresge was not in attendance.

NAP

Mike Giesler reported on the attendance at the various NAP events. Flight “A”, held in Allentown as a two-day event had 12 tables (same as 2010). Flight “B”, held in Wilmington as a 1-day event had 16 tables (vs. 9.5 in 2010) despite the snowstorm. Flight “C” was again conducted in a “STaC format” at 6 clubs attracting 44-1/2 tables (vs. 50-1/2 in 2010 at 7 clubs).

Mike proposed single-site all-flights District NAP finals in Allentown as follows:

Flight “A” – Saturday qualifying & Sunday finals

Flight “B” – Sunday (so that those “B”s could also play who did not make the “A” finals)

Flight “C” – Saturday (so that they could also play in “B” Sunday)

The proposal, like all previous suggestions over the years, generated many comments.

Members questioned why eliminate the successful STaC format for Flight “C”, one of the largest Flight “C” district finals throughout the ACBL. The District only got about 8 tables in “C” when held at one site. The question was called and the motion to adopt the above format failed with only two voting in the affirmative.

Members also questioned the benefit for “B” players. If a “B” pair qualified in “A” on Saturday, they would be committed to play in the “A” finals on Sunday and have to forgo the “B” event. The current way the “A” and “B” finals are scheduled permit a “B” pair to play through the “A” event and then to play in the “B” event a week later.

The motion to call the question was made and adopted. The motion to hold the events at a single site failed almost unanimously.

The Board then unanimously agreed to keep the current format (“A” in Allentown and “C” at clubs). Flight “B” will revert to a split-site event between Wilmington and Vestal, NY (Mary Poplawski’s Club). Vestal, NY replaces Rochester, NY. Bob Priest asked

that the Harrisburg Bridge Club be considered in 2014 or in 2013 if either site fails to attract sufficient players in 2012.

Everett Young would like an on-line format to be considered along the lines reported in an ACBL Bulletin article about a District that has on-line GNT District finals.

The Board thanked Mike for his ideas and the great job that he did promoting the 2011 District finals.

GNT

Ray Depew informed the Board that the 2012 GNT will again be held the first weekend in May but at the Independent Fire Hall in Kingston and not the Clarion. Mike Giesler has suggested that the conditions of Contest be changed to have a playoff between the 3rd & 4th place teams to replace teams 1 or 2 if one or both of them elect not to go to the NABC event. If none of the four teams want to go intact, then the GNT Coordinator would appoint a team from pairs on teams 1-4 who do want to go forward. A motion was made to appoint a team composed of pairs or players from the first four teams. If no team-of-four or six can be formed then no representative team will go forward. The resulting team, if only comprised of two pairs, may augment the team with a pair of their choosing (from any players residing in District 4). The motion was approved unanimously.

EDUCATION

Mary Poplawski led off her report by stressing the Board's responsibility to get teachers out there teaching. Mary would like everyone to let her know of players interested in teaching by providing Mary with contact information. Mary would like to provide help and encouragement.

Mary further reported that Audrey Grant is here. Audrey Grant conducted the first day of teacher training today. Tomorrow (Saturday) she will conduct an I/N workshop "Maxim's on Defense" which the teacher trainees will observe.

Mary asked whether the ACBL was planning a TAP at the 2012 Philadelphia NABC. John Marks will check to see whether the ACBL plans to run one. We need to publicize the TAP.

Mary also would like to find a way to get more bridge played at the college level.

INTERMEDIATE/NEWCOMER

Ala Hamilton-Day would like to have volunteers to greet I/N's thus helping to make bridge events more social. The social aspect sets apart tournament bridge from on-line bridge.

Ala also needs a volunteer to take pictures of winners which can then be posted on the District website.

TOURNAMENT

John Marks passed out copies of the proposed Tournament Policy & Procedures Manual. Rick Rowland noted that the MABC manual served as the baseline document. After a rewrite, the document was reviewed by the current Regional Tournament Chairs. In particular, Bob Priest submitted a lengthy list of comments which were reviewed by the other tournament chairs at the Tournament Committee meeting held in August in Valley Forge. Most of his comments were incorporated in the final version presented for Board adoption.

The discussion of the document primarily focused on the matter of whether or not to have a Daily Bulletin. Board members have received complaints about the discontinuation of the Bulletin at the Lancaster Regional. John Klinger noted that the Lancaster Regional has spent \$6,000 to \$7,000 on Daily Bulletins, roughly \$2-\$3/copy. A member suggested that Daily Bulletins go on-line, not just the event results. Players miss the notice of new LM's, hand analyses and anecdotes.

The question of adopting the manual being called, the adoption passed with one Board member opposed.

John Marks received congratulations for having guided the manual through the review and adoption process.

SECRETARY'S NOTE: The manual does not prohibit daily bulletins, except that the 2nd day issue shall be skipped. The decision to have or not have daily bulletins rests with the Regional Tournament Committee.

TOURNAMENT REPORTS:

2012 Summer NABC – John Marks reminded the Board that dates have been assigned (7/12 – 7/22/12) to each unit. Units provide personnel to staff registration, partnership, prize and I/N desks (31 volunteers per day). Tournament event flyers are now available.

Valley Forge (8/22 – 8/28/11) - John Marks reported that the 2011 Valley Forge Regional was curtailed due to the impending hurricane. The Saturday evening side game and all Sunday events were canceled. The 2012 regional will be held February 27 - March 4, 2012.

Lancaster (10/31 – 11/6/11) - John Klinger reported that attendance is up about 100 tables at this point compared to last year's tournament which followed closely after the WBF tournament concluded. Attendance slightly trails two years ago. Cost cutting is needed to reverse losses of the past two years (\$12K & \$7K). The decision came down to eliminating hospitality or the Daily Bulletin. It was decided to do away with the Bulletin. Next year, John said that he hopes to have the results available on the hotel TV displays.

This year, the results were posted by the next morning on the District website. John noted that caddy expenses are way down. The directors are handling some of the K/O event caddying and score pads eliminate caddies in matchpoint games.

SECRETARY'S UPDATE: The 2012 Lancaster Regional planned for 10/29/12 – 11/4/12 may have to change dates and/or location. The hotel staff reserved the wrong week for the 2012 tournament (10/22/12-10/28/12) placing the tournament in the same week as the Buffalo (District 5) and Danbury (District 3) Regionals. It is not believed that the ACBL would permit three Regionals in the Northeast in the same week.

Harrisburg
(2013 split) - Bob Priest reported that the split-site regional tournament will resume in 2013 but will not be held in 2014 due to the Washington, DC NABC. The tournament will return again in 2015. Bob requested that he be a member of the 2013 Syracuse Tournament Committee to have input on events, etc. Rick suggested that Bob contact Margie Spence directly.

Syracuse
(8/1-8/7/11) - Rick Rowland reported for Gerry Radway. There were 750 tables resulting in a \$1,000 loss. Margie Spence will be the new Tournament Chairperson.

Delaware
(6/18 – 6/24/12) - Bill Everitt reported for Tom Grabowski that the tournament will be held in the same place as 2010 (Holiday Inn Select) except that the hotel has been refurbished and is now a Crowne Plaza. The hotel is located at I-95 and Naamans Road.

Scranton
(3/4 – 3/10/13) - Ray Depew reported that the Regional will again be held at the Woodlands Resort in Wilkes Barre. The tournament made \$6K last time due to the space being provided free of charge due to the room night guarantee being met.

DISTRICT DIRECTOR'S/ ACBL PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Craig Robinson spoke of the appointment of Robert Hartman as ACBL CEO to replace retiring Jay Baum. Jay Baum will stay on for 8 months as a consultant. Craig has so far visited 99 clubs in the process of fulfilling his pledge to visit 100 clubs.

Craig announced that a contract would be signed today to re-write ACBLScore.

Craig announced the following appointments:

- April Uhlenburg (Phila. Unit) to the National Charity Committee
- Dan Boye (NY Unit) to the National Goodwill Committee
- Jane Ball (Phila. Unit) to the National Goodwill Committee

Regarding charity funds to disburse, Craig indicated that the District will have \$20,000 to allocate next year. Also, each year Craig receives \$1,000 to award. He is open to suggestions of recipients to award the \$1,000 he receives.

Craig commended Rick's efforts and accomplishments to rein in costs.

Craig reminded club managers that they may hold GNT fundraiser games, one per month from September through May (the non-NAP qualifying months). The games award 100% sectional blackpoints, better than the 70% awarded in charity club championship games. The sanction cost is surcharged \$1.00/player which the ACBL then returns to the District. With 126 clubs in the district, the District GNT expense of around \$5,600/year could be substantially funded with enough clubs participating.

OLD BUSINESS

Rick Rowland proposed that the next Board meet be held during or before the 2012 GNT in the Scranton/Kingston area the first weekend in May to accommodate NY Unit Board members. The proposal was unanimously endorsed.

NEW BUSINESS

It was reported that the NY Unit does not like the timing of the District STaC (held the 2nd week of December) due to the high possibility of inclement weather. Bob Priest suggested interchanging the December District STaC with the unit STaC's held in August. Tournament Coordinator, John Marks, will resolve the matter.

There being no further new business, President Rick Rowland declared his "reign of terror" over.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT AND ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Craig Robinson reported that the Committee met last evening and recommended the following slate of officers:

President	- Walter Mitchell of Unit 120
1 st Vice-President	- Tom Weik of Unit 121
2 nd Vice-President	- Bob Priest of Unit 168
Treasurer	- Rick Rowland

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 INCOMING PRESIDENT

Walt Mitchell thanked outgoing President, Rick Rowland, for his year of service. Walt presented Rick with a commemorative plaque. However, Rick declined to write his own honorarium check.

Walt began by saying that he is humbled by being elected District President. He will represent the little guy/gal who hasn't amassed all that many masterpoints.

Walt announced the following appointments:

1. Bill Bauer will continue as Board Secretary (unanimous Board confirmation).
2. Mike Giesler and Sue Pierce were nominated as the two Presidential Appointees to the Board as members-at-large (unanimous Board confirmation).
3. Ray Depew and John Klinger were appointed to the Executive Committee.
4. Rich Popper will serve as the Board of Governors representative on the Executive Committee.
5. All committee chairs have agreed to serve another year. He noted that the team is very strong and has served the District well.

Walt concluded by stating his pledge to hear everyone, but only one at a time. It will be necessary to raise your hand to be recognized.

NEXT MEETING

A full board meeting will take place during the GNT in Kingston, the exact date and time to be announced.

Secretary's Update: The date and time will be Saturday, May 5 at 10:00am in Kingston, PA at or near the site of the District GNT finals held in the Independent Fire Hall in Kingston.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 6:38 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Bill Bauer
District 4 Secretary
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