

**MINUTES OF ACBL DISTRICT 4 BOARD MEETING
Lancaster, Pennsylvania
December 8, 2012**

Voting Member Attendees:

- At-Large: Walt Mitchell (Board President), Tom Weik (1st VP), Bob Priest (2nd VP),
Craig Robinson (National Board), Mike Giesler (Pres. Appt.) (5 of 7)
- Unit 112: Mike Mihevc (Unit Pres.) (1 of 6)
- Unit 120: Ray Depew, Tom Henson (for Bill Orth) (2 of 2)
- Unit 121: Diana Mulligan (Sec'y) (for Sue Wessner Pres.), Anne Alderman (2 of 2)
- Unit 133: Frank Kuebler (Unit Pres.), Chuck Campbell, (2 of 2)
- Unit 141: Joann Glasson (Unit Pres.), David LeGrow, John Marks, Elaine Landow,
Terry Coughlin, Ken Chatzinoff (for Tom Sakaguchi), April Uhlenburg,
Ala Hamilton-Day, Marie Trethaway, Ray Raskin (for Tom Purl), Jay
Apfelbaum (for Everett Young), Meyer Kotkin (12 of 12)
- Unit 168: Andie Sheaffer (Unit Pres.), Tim LeVan (for Ron Orr), Linda Ivanoff, John
Klinger, Kathleen Del Corso (for Ella Zimmerman) (5 of 5)
- Unit 190: Steve Herrmann (for Trina Williams, Unit Pres.), Bruce Gwaltney (for
Barbara Rhoades), Richard Popper (for Carl Williams) (3 of 4)
- Unit 217: Ed Bissell (1 of 2)

Excused

Rick Rowland (Immediate Past President & Treasurer)

CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS

A meeting of the ACBL District 4 Board of Directors was held at the Lancaster Host Resort, December 8, 2012. Walt Mitchell, President, called the meeting to order at 10:02 AM, a quorum being present (33 of 42 voting members representing 8 of 8 units). Note that the Regional was held in December this year, as the Lancaster Host booked the Regional into the week of the Danbury CT Regional (which is within 250 miles of Lancaster resulting in Lancaster not able to be sanctioned for the same week). The incorrect booking resulted from the Host putting the "setback" week in the wrong year.

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

The minutes of the Wilkes-Barre Board meeting of May 5, 2012 were unanimously approved. Bill reminded the Board that the minutes appear on the District website.

Bill reported on the Unit Membership as of October 2012 which is the basis for the determination of the number of Unit representatives on the 2013 District Board. The membership by Unit as of October 2011 and 2012 as reported by the ACBL was:

<u>UNIT</u>	<u>10/2011</u>	<u>10/2012</u>	<u>CHANGE</u>	<u>2013 REPRESENTATIVES PER BYLAWS</u>
112	1,154	1,140	-14	6
120	348	334	-14	2
121	224	214	-10	2
133	313	304	- 9	2
141	2,686	2,785	+99	12
168	1,013	1,038	+25	5
190	710	692	-18	4
217	<u>140</u>	<u>138</u>	<u>- 2</u>	<u>2</u>
TOTALS	6,588	6,645	+57	35

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

TREASURER'S REPORT

Craig presented Rick Rowland's Treasurer's reports. The first profit & loss report for the fiscal year June 2011 – May 2012 showed a \$64K loss but \$60K went to the NABC account. In this current fiscal year beginning in June 2012 the District received \$33K back from the NABC account so that the net cost of the NABC to the District was a very reasonable \$27K. Other highlights include the Syracuse Regional's \$7K profit due to attendance being up 25% from the prior year. With online distribution of the 4Spot we spend about \$850/issue for printing and mailing to those who prefer hard copy. Mailing is \$1.70 per copy. Craig would appreciate if those with e-mail accounts would unsubscribe to the mailed copy by e-mailing Elaine at 4spot@comcast.net.

The balance sheet reflects a \$180K+ cash balance. All funds are now on deposit with PNC Bank as the Fairless Hills Credit Union CD accounts have been closed.

Walt Mitchell asked why we need such a large Nationals account. Craig replied that the funds resulted from a surcharge placed on Regional & Sectional Tournament entry fees in the 1990's for just the purpose of providing the necessary financial backing for the NABC Committee.

The Board approved the Treasurer's report unanimously.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Walt Mitchell reported on his enjoyable year as President which he attributed to the great support he received. He thanked everyone for the sacrifices they made to attend this meeting, particularly April Uhlenburg who drove over to Lancaster just to give her Charity report as she is not able to stay to play.

Walt said that he attended every D4 regional and 10 days of the Philadelphia NABC. Further, he attended just about every unit annual meeting and many sectionals. He applauded the membership's spirit of volunteerism, taking on tasks willingly and without rewards. He is further pleased that our financial house is in order as we go forward.

Walt reported that the Lancaster Regional would return to its traditional date next year, a very positive development that pleased this year's attendees with whom he spoke.

Walt ended his remarks by noting that the average age of D4 member is over 70. He requested that everyone make a bridge date with a player new to duplicate or one who has not played in a number of years. He also noted the decrepit condition of many of our tables which John Marks will address later in the meeting.

RATIFICATION OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ACTION

The Executive committee took action on the following two items since the Wilkes-Barre Board meeting in May:

1. Approved the Charity Committee's (April Uhlenburg's) decision matrix for charity funds allocations.
2. Defeated the proposal to count NABC points in the D4 masterpoint races. Only masterpoints won in D4 Regional and Sectional events held by D4 and its Units will count. STaC's do not count whether District or Unit sponsored.

The Board voted to affirm the two Executive Committee actions.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

PUBLICITY

Joann Glasson thanked everyone for sending her flyers and other information for the website. John Klinger thanked Joann for promptly posting results to the website.

Walt advised that there will be no daily bulletin in Wilkes-Barre, just a one page report on I/N event results and a mention of new LM's.

Several Board members reminded the others that the individual regional tournament committees decide whether or not to have a Daily Bulletin, say in lieu of some hospitality.

DISTRICT 4SPOT

Elaine Landow reminded the Board that she is open to ideas about what to include in the 4Spot.

TOURNAMENT COORDINATOR

John Marks thanked Unit Tournament Coordinators for their submissions. As a result, 2013 is complete and 2014 is about 50% done.

CHARITY

April Uhlenburg passed out \$5,000 checks to representatives of the units that submitted grant requests but had not already obtained the check to present to their charity of choice. Since the District had a \$30,000 allocation and could award six grants of \$5,000 each,

there was no need to evaluate the grant requests vs. the decision matrix. The six units requesting grants and the charities that each selected are:

- Unit 112 Meals on Wheels
- Unit 121 Hamburg Public Library
- Unit 133 Lehigh county Senior center
- Unit 141 ALS of Greater Philadelphia
- Unit 168 Water St. Ministries
- Unit 190 Ronald McDonald House of Delaware

The grant presentation to the Hamburg Public Library was already made and received nice coverage from the Reading newspaper.

April is willing to help anyone wanting to write a press release.

In response to a question, Craig said the ACBL Charity Foundation conducts a drawing every five years to determine the order in which Districts will receive funds to distribute.

FINANCE

Dave Kresge was not in attendance.

NAP

Mike Giesler reported on the attendance at the various 2012 District Final NAP events. Flight “A”, held in Allentown as a two-day event had 9 tables (down from 12 in 2011). Flight “B” was conducted as a split-site 1-day event. Wilmington hosted 11 tables (vs. 16 in 2011). Vestal, NY had 9 tables. Flight “C” was again conducted in a “STaC format” at 4 clubs (down from 6 clubs in 2011) attracting 23 tables (vs. 44-1/2 in 2011).

In an unfortunate development, only 2-1/2 tables of players came to the Wilmington Flight “C” playing site, so the game could not be held.

A number of Board members commented on the format. Linda Ivanoff is of the opinion that “C’s” won’t travel to a central site, so that the club locations afford more players the opportunity to participate. Ray Depew noted that even with the reduced attendance this year, the attendance is far greater than when the event was held at a single site. Ray Raskin suggested that all clubs planning to host the Flight “C” event require pre-registration by a cutoff date. If a site did not have enough pairs, then the District Coordinator could be notified and a website posting made. Of course, the club manager for the site would so advise those who pre-registered that there would not be a game.

Meyer Kotkin would like to have the NAP District finals in all flights played on-line. Mike Giesler noted the problem that players had finding a qualifying game and that a number of clubs did not hold any (or very few) and did not share the dates with Mike so that he could post them or even respond to players who called him looking for a qualifying game. Mike Mihevc noted that NY has the farthest to travel to a central site and thus is in favor of continuing “B” as a split site event and “C” as a club-based event.

Mike then conducted an informal or “straw” vote on keeping the “C” finals at clubs. The Board overwhelmingly favored the current format, District finals at clubs. Then, he asked for a vote on the “B” finals being split (versus single-site). Again, the Board overwhelmingly favored split-site. Mike Giesler noted the strength of field imbalance in splitting Flight “B”. It turned out that 40% of the players in the “B” event in Vestal were “C” players (who also possessed a “B” qualification). Dave Legrow suggested holding “B” and “C” the same day so “C” players would most likely play in the “C” event.

Mike Giesler again raised the idea of playing on-line. Rich Popper asked if the ACBL permitted District finals to be played on-line, such as on BBO. Craig answered that on-line finals are not yet permitted. Mike Giesler added that if we were allowed to conduct the District finals on-line, the players would have to bring computers to clubs or such other playing sites where they could be monitored. Mike will look into the BBO option for both club qualifying games and the District finals.

Frank Kuebler, Lehigh Valley Unit 133 President, noted the noise problem when the Flight “A” was hosted during the Allentown Sectional. Also, in 2013 there is no space available at their playing site on Saturday and not enough space available at the Allentown playing site to provide a quiet space for the NAP Flight “A” event on Sunday. Bob Priest then offered the Harrisburg Bridge Club as the site for the 2013 Flight “A” District finals any weekend selected by the NAP Coordinator (Mike Giesler) and the District Tournament Coordinator (John Marks) with the Executive Committee approving or disapproving the recommendation. After being moved and seconded the Board voted to hold the 2013 Flight “A” District finals at the Harrisburg Bridge club.

Walt thanked Mike for a job well done.

GNT

Ray Depew informed the Board that the 2013 GNT will again be held the first weekend in May in Wilkes-Barre. Mike Giesler offered to send out a blast with any promotional flyers.

EDUCATION

Mike Mihevc reported for Mary Poplawski. Mary had identified and obtained information on Patty Tucker’s Whirlwind Bridge “Learn Bridge in a Day” workshop. The license fee for 1-year is \$150. Craig noted that when the workshop was offered in Lexington, KY, 100 people attended and 40 joined the ACBL.

Bob Priest suggested that the workshop could be held in conjunction with a Regional.

Bill Bauer spoke about his e-mail exchanges with Mary Poplawski and Patty Tucker. Omaha also hosted a very successful workshop. A link to the newspaper account of the workshop is in the agenda supplement. Bill reminded potential workshop hosts that the

organizers will have to pay for publicity, space, hospitality, presenter fee and photocopying costs of workshop materials.

The Board unanimously approved the purchase of a one year license now.

INTERMEDIATE/NEWCOMER

Ala Hamilton-Day needs volunteers to greet I/N's thus helping to make bridge events more social.

Ala also needs volunteers ("clappers") to applaud the winners and to also take pictures of winners which can then be posted on the District website.

TOURNAMENT

John Marks had no report.

TOURNAMENT REPORTS:

2012 Summer NABC – John Marks thanked his co-chair, Joann Glasson, and all the (7/12 – 7/22/12) Committee chairs and volunteers. The tournament was a financial success. The District subsidy amounted to only \$27K.

Valley Forge - John Marks reported that the 2013 thru 2016 Valley Forge (6/17 – 6/23/13) Regional will be scheduled in its traditional week, the week after Father's Day in June.

Lancaster - John Klinger reported that attendance is down 20% largely as a (12/3 – 12/9/12) result of the scheduling mishap that forced the tournament into December this year. This is despite our Regional being the only one in the Northeast. There will be some savings with the hotel rooms for the directing staff, etc. but not enough to compensate for the loss of tables.

John noted that Hurricane Sandy struck the area the traditional Week of the Lancaster Regional! John has been able to book the Host for the next several years for the traditional week.

Harrisburg (split) - Bob Priest reported that the split-site regional tournament (7/22 – 7/28/13) will resume in 2013, skip in 2014 and resume in 2015. Bob faced a playing space charge of \$5,000 vs. \$0.00 in the past, so he has moved the Tournament to a Radisson hotel where he will start to hold Sectionals in January 2013. Bob needs the Syracuse Event Schedule to be able to do his tournament flyer.

Syracuse (split) - The Tournament produced a \$7K profit due to the increase (7/22-7/28/13) in attendance believed attributable in part to the new 10:00 and 3:30 schedule. Also the tournament cut back on hospitality.

John Marks reported that Rochester has found a playing site and would like to be the New York 2015 Regional host. The playing site has preliminary approval and there is no room night guarantee required.

Delaware
(3/31 – 4/6/14)

- Rich Popper reported that the 2014 Delaware Regional was originally scheduled the same week as Gatlinburg, so the dates have been changed but not the playing site. (Crowne Plaza on Naamans Road off I-95).

Wilkes-Barre
(3/4 – 3/10/13)

- Ray Depew reported that the Regional will again be held at the Woodlands Resort in Wilkes Barre. The room cost is \$99/night including free breakfast. Last time, 80% of the players came from D4, but only 5% of the district players attended. One-third of the local unit players attended.

DISTRICT DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Craig Robinson reported on the new Grass Roots games taking place this month (Dec. 2012). The entire \$4.00/table surcharge by the ACBL will come back to the District to promote the GNT and NAP events. Craig believes District 4's share could be as much as \$5K. The money may be spent on publicity, increasing player subsidies to go to the National events and subsidizing entry fees in the District events. The next Grass Roots month will be January 2014.

Craig announced his appointments to the National Goodwill Committee. The appointees are Margie Spence, Syracuse Regional Tournament Chairperson, and Andy Stayton and Jeff Rueben of the Delaware Unit. Andy & Jeff initially won the 0-5000 LM Pairs at the Philadelphia NABC but discovered a scoring error, reported the error and dropped to 2nd place. Craig said he gets to appoint two members per year but can replace a deceased member in order to make additional appointments.

Craig mentioned that the District may have a Goodwill Committee in addition to the ACBL's Goodwill Committee.

Craig announced that the ACBL would not be increasing any fees for 2013.

Craig anticipates that ACBLScore+ will be ready to debut in 1Q2014.

The ACBL is also working on an interactive version of "How to Learn Bridge". Fred Gittleman and Audrey Grant are involved.

Another ACBL initiative is to enable finding a partner for club play in addition to tournament play.

The ACBL is conducting training programs for current Tournament Directors, many of whom have been in place since the major skill requirement was that of adding columns of numbers!

Ethics violations which result in a 3+ month suspension will be reviewed by the Nationals Appeal Committee. A player may now lose some or all masterpoints as well.

Craig is advocating that the ACBL BoD increase the masterpoint awards for pair games.

The motion to permit 1-day NLM Sectionals was defeated at the San Francisco board meeting. Craig said that there were 7 held in the first 6 months of the year with 4 of the 7 being held in D4. The matter will be reconsidered in St. Louis.

OLD BUSINESS

John Marks moved to spend \$6K to buy 200 tables approximately 70/70/70 tables over a three year timeframe. Meyer Kotkin mentioned that a table can be recovered for perhaps \$25 to \$30/each. He pointed out that the quality of many of our existing tables is better than what can be purchased today and that it is the covering that is worn out. The Board unanimously gave John Marks the authority to purchase new tables and/or refurbish tables within a \$6K maximum.

Craig mentioned that table storage is running \$3,600/year and also that the District spends \$2,000 to ship them to Regionals (except Syracuse and Wilkes-Barre).

NEW BUSINESS

1. GNT Club qualifying games

Bob Priest moved that the District add \$1.00 per table to the cost of a club or unit holding a GNT qualifying game. He pointed out that the games carry a full sectional rating, pay ½ red points and cost only \$1.25/table for the ACBL sanction fee. Craig pointed out the difficulty in collecting a potential District surcharge as the District would have no way of knowing what clubs conducted the event. The motion was tabled.

2. Banning of tobacco and tobacco substitutes

The board unanimously voted to ban the use of smokeless tobacco, unlit cigarettes and cigars, chewing tobacco and similar products at District 4 Regionals and District Final GNT and NAP events effective January 1, 2013. Further, these products may not be visible and if carried into the playing area, must be sealed as well.

SECRETARY's NOTE: Tournament Chairs, Tournament Directors, and website coordinators all need to be made aware of this policy.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT AND ELECTION OF OFFICERS

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

President	- Tom Weik of Unit 121
1 st Vice-President	- Bob Priest of Unit 168
2 nd Vice-President	- Dan Boye of Unit 112
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

Tom Weik thanked outgoing President, Walt Mitchell, for his year (plus a month) of service. Tom presented Walt with a commemorative plaque and honorarium check.

Tom announced the following appointments:

1. Bill Bauer will continue as Board Secretary (unanimous Board confirmation).
2. Barry Gorski (Unit 121) and John Schwartz (Unit 133) were nominated as the two Presidential Appointees to the Board as members-at-large (unanimous Board confirmation).
3. John Schwartz (Unit 133) and Ed Bissell (Unit 217) were appointed to the Executive Committee.
4. Joann Glasson will serve as the Board of Governors representative on the Executive Committee.
5. All committee chairs have agreed to serve another year except for Joann Sprung (Disciplinary) who moved and Mary Poplawski (Education) as she will be away on cruises a large part of 2013. Barry Gorski will assume the Disciplinary Chairperson position and Corey Krantz will assume the Education Committee Chairperson position.
6. Tom will invite an I/N player, Caroline Hughes of Delaware, to be a guest at the Valley Forge Board meeting in 2013.

NEXT MEETING

A full board meeting will take place during the Valley Forge Regional on Saturday evening, June 22 after the 2nd session. There will be some food and time for social interaction prior to the formal meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 12:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Bill Bauer
District 4 Secretary

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