

**DRAFT MINUTES OF ACBL DISTRICT 4 BOARD MEETING
Lancaster, Pennsylvania
November 1, 2014**

Voting Member Attendees:

- At-Large: Bob Priest (President), Ed Bissell (2nd VP), Craig Robinson (District Dir.), Tom Weik (IPP), Ala Hamilton-Day (Presidential Appointee) (5 of 7)
- Unit 112: Larry Sunser (for Warren Marsland), Harry Nuckols (for Bill Port), Mary Poplawski (3 of 6)
- Unit 120: George Mansour (for Walt Mitchell), Tom Henson (for Ray Depew) (2 of 2)
- Unit 121: Sue Wessner (Unit Pres.), Carl Ziegler (for Diana Mulligan) (2 of 2)
- Unit 133: Chuck Campbell (Unit Pres.), Stan Yellin (Unit VP) (2 of 2)
- Unit 141: Mike Giesler (Unit Pres.), Joann Glasson, Meyer Kotkin, John Marks, April Uhlenburg, Dave Legrow, Bob Glasson (for Corey Krantz), Ray Raskin (for Tom Sakaguchi), Everett Young, Terry Coughlin, Jay Apfelbaum (for Tom Purl), Allison Brandt (for Bruce Lang), (12 of 12)
- Unit 168: Barry Gorski (for Ron Orr), Linda Ivanoff, John Klinger, Kathleen Del Corso (4 of 5)
- Unit 190: Debby Purbrick (for Barbara Rhoades, Unit Pres.), Ala Hamilton-Day (for Cindy Rowland, Rick Rowland, Richard Popper (4 of 4)
- Unit 217: Sue Pierce (Unit Pres.) Carol Reitz (for Mary Ann Churba) (2 of 2)

Also Present

Elaine Landow, Board of Governors & 4Spot Chairperson
Marc Labowitz, ACBL Tournament Director
Alan Hodesblatt, ACBL Tournament Director
Bill Bauer, D4 Board Secretary

Excused

Dan Boye, 1st VP

CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS

A meeting of the ACBL District 4 Board of Directors was held at the Lancaster Host Resort, November 1, 2014. Bob Priest, President, called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM, a quorum being present (36 of 42 voting members representing 8 of 8 units).

SECRETARY'S REPORT & APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF AUGUST 9, 2014

The minutes of the Syracuse Board meeting of August 9, 2014 were unanimously approved. Bill reminded the Board that the minutes appear on the District website.

Bill reported on the Unit Membership as of October 2014 which is the basis for the determination of the number of Unit representatives on the 2015 District Board. The membership by Unit as of October 2013 and 2014 as reported by the ACBL was:

<u>UNIT</u>	<u>10/2013</u>	<u>10/2014</u>	<u>CHANGE</u>	<u>2015 REPRESENTATIVES PER BYLAWS</u>
112	1,143	1,122	-21	5
120	334	325	-9	2
121	235	229	-6	2
133	296	288	-8	2
141	2,774	2,771	-3	12
168	1,030	1,026	-4	5
190	702	707	+5	4
217	<u>139</u>	<u>135</u>	<u>-4</u>	<u>2</u>
TOTALS	6,653	6,603	-50	34

The changes in membership result in Unit 112 losing a board representative in 2015.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Rick Rowland noted that he had placed his reports on each table. He then reported that the balance sheet reflects a \$183K cash balance and \$20K of outstanding advances to Tournament Committees for total assets of \$203K.

The 5-month P&L statement shows a District net income of \$2K aided by a profit of \$8.6K from the Valley Forge Regional. The \$5K profit from Syracuse is not included. The District STaC was more profitable this year since the Baltimore Unit participated.

The Board approved the Treasurer's report unanimously.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Bob Priest thanked Board members and substitutes for coming to Syracuse last August to participate in the Board meeting and achieve a quorum. Bob believes that one meeting should be held in New York as a courtesy every four or five years.

RATIFICATION OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ACTION

The Executive Committee took action to approve the following request made by Joann Glasson. Bob requested that the Board affirm the following:

Affirm the decision to spend \$3,200 for 75 sets of bidding boxes and 40 sets of plastic inserts to be stored by the NY Unit. Other than Regionals, Units and others will rent the boxes for \$0.25/table, the same rent paid by Unit 141 (Philadelphia).

Bob noted the bidding boxes used in Syracuse were disgraceful. He then went on to explain the reason why the decision could not wait for the Lancaster Board meeting. The inserts are obtained directly from the Swedish manufacturer at a savings over Baron Barclay's price. However, the manufacturer only ships to the US when they have enough orders to fill a container. So, in order to "guarantee" arrival for the Rochester Regional in May, the proposer and the NY Unit felt we should place the order before the Lancaster Board meeting.

In addition, Bob said that in the future he would like to see a fund established by the Board for equipment replacement such that purchases would be reported to the Board but would not have to be voted upon provided funds were available. One source of funding would be rentals paid by other entities to use District equipment (tables, Bridgemates, and bidding boxes).

Mary Poplawski asked about where the new and refurbished boxes for NY regionals' use would be stored. Joann addressed this issue by saying that Phil Clark and Mark McDermott had placed the order and that the New York Unit would be responsible for storage and renting them out.

The motion to affirm the Executive Committee action carried.

PUBLICITY

Joann Glasson reported that banners were purchased for all our Regionals and the Spring 2018 NABC and that Tournament Director Marc Labowitz is taking them to all the tournaments. They are currently hanging in the Exhibit Hall (Lampeter Room). The Wilkes-Barre tournament flyers are available to players here in Lancaster.

Joann commented on the wonderful "feel" of the Lancaster tournament. The board gave a round of applause for Deb & John Klinger's work and that of their committee.

Barry Gorski announced that there would be a party for after today's 2nd session in honor of Joann and her women's team accomplishments in a recently concluded competition in China wherein the team finished third.

DISTRICT 4SPOT

Elaine Landow reported that no more 4Spots will be mailed. December 1 is the next publication date and the deadline for submissions is mid-November. There is a new Master Solvers club chairperson, Nick Straguzzi since Henry Bethe elected to retire. Nick proposed to Elaine that the annual winner of the contest receive 4 free plays to District 4 Regionals. The request was approved by the Board.

TOURNAMENT COORDINATOR

John Marks thanked Unit Tournament Coordinators for their submissions. As a result, the 2015 Tournament Calendar is complete except for a few "odds & ends". John noted that it is now time for tournament coordinators to begin work on the 2016 calendar.

Sue Wessner called attention to the Reading 2015 Spring Sectional having had District and ACBL approval (3 years prior) getting bumped by the 2015 Rochester-Harrisburg split Regional. As a result, the Reading Unit had to cancel a contract with the tournament site. Bob advised Sue to seek compensation from the District if cancellation charges were incurred. However, there is no precedent for the District to pay compensation. Bob Priest apologized on behalf of the Harrisburg Split Regional, the tournament having received ACBL approval only 1 to 1-1/2 years ago. He acknowledged that Regionals take priority over Sectionals in the District even when the Sectional had prior approval.

Bob added that the ACBL failed to notify Unit 120 and District 4 officials of the conflict leaving the affected parties to find out about the conflict themselves.

CHARITY

April Uhlenburg reported that the 2014 Longest Day Fundraiser held at clubs and during the Valley Forge Regional resulted in over \$4K being sent to the ACBL from the District. In 2015, the “Longest Day” will take place the Sunday before the Valley Forge Regional.

The District will be allocated funds from the ACBL Charity Foundation in 2017.

There will be a nationwide Parkinson’s fundraiser in honor of Zeke Jabbour utilizing the common game. Jane Ball is chairing the Philadelphia area event (luncheon and bridge) which will be Sunday, January 25, 2015, most likely at Bala GC.
(SECRETARY’S NOTE: The event was unable to be held.)

FINANCE

Dave Kresge was not in attendance.

NAP

Jay Apfelbaum reported on the attendance at the various 2014 District Final NAP events. Flight “A”, held in Harrisburg, a two-day event, had 11 tables. Flight “B” was conducted as a 23-table split-site 1-day event in Wilmington and Vestal, NY. Flight “C” was again conducted in a “STaC format” at 10 clubs (up from 7 clubs in 2013) attracting 67-1/2 tables (vs. 53-1/2 in 2013).

Jay reminded the Board that the 5-year rotation proposal was approved at the Syracuse board meeting and the rotation has been made a part of the Conditions of Contest. The dates for the 2015 District finals are:

October 17 - Flight “C” at Clubs

October 17 & 18 – Flight “A” in New York. Mary Poplawski volunteered to host the event near Binghamton, NY; however, the decision is up to the New York Unit.

October 24 – Flight “B” will be split between a site in the Philadelphia/Wilmington area agreed upon by the two respective units with the other site in Central PA.

The conditions of contest were approved by the Board. Alan Hodesblatt noted that the provision for awarding masterpoints and subsidy when one Flight “B” site has 12+ tables and the other fewer than 12 tables is contained in the Conditions of Contest.

GNT

George Mansour reported for Walt Mitchell. Walt has secured a site, the Quality Inn, just off Route 81 on Kidder Street in W-B. The GNT will be held the first weekend in May.

EDUCATION

Corey Krantz was not in attendance.

INTERMEDIATE/NEWCOMER

Ala Hamilton-Day reminded the Board and tournament I/N chairs of the “must dos” to provide a pleasant experience for I/N players – provide signage to get I/N’s to their playing area, pictures, prizes and being greeted as they arrive to play. Ala noted that Jane Ball ran an excellent one-day NLM Sectional this past summer.

Ala noted that players had difficulty finding the partnership desk and did not know the hours that the desk was staffed.

ATLANTIC CITY REGIONAL EXPLORATORY COMMITTEE

Bob Glasson reported on his discussions with Bally. He is looking at the last week in March 2017, Sunday through Friday with room rates of \$60 - \$65. The problem is that the casino really doesn’t want us as they are looking to book events in the months of November, December, January & February when playing space would be almost free. The ABA (a smaller version of the ACBL) holds a tournament in AC in those months. Ballys will not give us a proposal until sometime in 2015.

Meyer Kotkin feels an AC Regional is worth a try but we would need to give a two-year commitment to be taken seriously by the casino. Bob Glasson felt he would be in a much stronger position offering a 3-year commitment.

Rich Popper asked what D4 Regional would be dropped to make room for an AC Regional. John Marks replied that we could go back to a 3-year rotation or split the AC regional with another Regional. Elaine Landow said it may be possible to join with District 3 to give us a 5th Regional.

Sue Wessner commented that AC is popular with players in Reading. She has organized a sanctioned “landcruise” bus trip to Resorts for about the past 5 years.

TOURNAMENT

John Marks estimated that the last three regionals saved \$1,100 on Bridgemate rentals as a result of the District Bridgemate purchase.

The Committee last met in Valley Forge with the AC regional a topic of discussion.

The March 8-18 2018 Spring NABC staffing is underway. So far we have Co-Chairs (John Marks & Joann Glasson), I/N Chairs (Debbie and John Klinger), Hospitality (Joan Brandeis), Prizes (John Schwartz), Finance (Rick Rowland), Partnership Desks (Dan Boye) and Entertainment (Pat Civale). Those interested in chairing other committees should contact Joann and John.

Joann Glasson informed the board of Nicholas Hammond’s offer of free use of Bridgescore+ at our Regionals. Note that Nicholas Hammond’s software development contract with the ACBL was canceled by the ACBL but that some aspects of the software were completed, namely the software to form brackets from the team entries and the ability to project the seating assignments on a screen or the wall.

Meyer Kotkin commented on the technical aspects. First, there is no documentation. How are late arrivals accommodated and other stressful situations? How reliable is the software? Meyer feels it would be best to run ACBLScore in parallel at twice the director workload. Meyer likes the projection aspect but Howard Kahlenburg has done just that already for Philadelphia Sectionals.

TOURNAMENT REPORTS:

- Valley Forge**
(6/22 – 6/28/15) - John Marks reported that the schedule of events would be published after the Rhode Island NABC Board meeting (the Board is likely to approve seven days of gold point events for Regionals in 2015 and beyond).
- Lancaster**
(10/27 – 11/2/2014) - Bob Priest reported for John Klinger (who had left the meeting to attend to tournament matters) that through Thursday the tournament was down 15 tables compared to 2013.
- Harrisburg** (split)
(5/11 – 5/17/15) - Bob Priest he has an approved schedule and will forward it to Joann Glasson.
- Rochester** (split)
(5/11 – 5/17/15) - Phil Clark did not attend or send a report.
- Syracuse** (split)
(8/4-8/10/14) - No report. Rick Rowland had mentioned a \$5K profit in his report.
- Delaware**
(3/28 – 4/3/16) - Rick Rowland informed the board that Bruce Gwaltney has replaced Tom Grabowski as Tournament Chair. The contract with the Crowne Plaza in Claymont, DE has been signed.
- Wilkes-Barre**
(3/2 – 3/8/15) - George Mansour said flyers were set out for players to take home. The tournament is again at the Woodlands Inn & Resort in Wilkes Barre. Permission was requested to name events for Dave Meyer and Ray Depew. The board voted approval.

DISTRICT DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Craig announced the appointment of Michael Mayer, hard-working Longest Day Committee member, to the ACBL Charity Committee. Craig requested nominations for future appointments from Board members. Craig appointed Barbara Rhoades, Delaware Unit President, and Phil Clark, Rochester Tournament Chair and Syracuse Co-Chair to the ACBL Goodwill Committee.

The matter of the 7 full-day Regional with Gold point events every day will come before the ACBL BoD meeting at the Fall NABC in Providence, RI.

The rewrite of ACBLScore has been discontinued as negotiations between the software company and the ACBL broke down. \$1.4M had been spent. Instead the ACBL will add “bells & whistles” to ACBLScore. The ACBL’s consultant will meet with the BoD in Providence. Craig will write a report and forward it to Joann to put on the website. Two programmers and Jim Lopushinsky of the ACBL will do the actual programming work.

Mike Giesler questioned how the consultant was selected and would like to see the contact between the ACBL and the consultant. Mike would like assurance that the new effort will result in Bridgemates being able to be used in Swiss T/4 events. Texas Regionals (Tom Marsh, DIC) use Bridgemates for Swiss T/4 events now but it requires the use of an additional computer program according to Meyer Kotkin.

OLD BUSINESS

The Secretary, Bill Bauer, stated that the bylaws required revision as a consequence of the elimination of the position of 2nd VP which will be going into effect now as no 2nd VP will be nominated here in Lancaster today or thereafter.

There are two changes needed to the bylaws:

1. Article VIII, Paragraph B, eliminate “the second Vice-President” from the list of who will preside over a Board meeting in the absence of the President.
2. Article X, Paragraph B on Executive Committee membership, eliminate “the second Vice-President”.

The Board approved these changes.

The second order of business is for the Board to vote on a method to select a replacement (9th member) to the Executive Committee, or no one at all. Bill offered several alternatives including no replacement. Jay Apfelbaum moved that no replacement be made so that the Executive Committee would be reduced to 8 members. The Board approved this motion.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business proposed.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT AND ELECTION OF OFFICERS

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

President	- Ed Bissell of Unit 217
1 st 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

Ed Bissell thanked outgoing President, Bob Priest, for his year as President. Ed particularly called attention to Bob's commitment to Zero Tolerance so that the players have an enjoyable tournament playing experience. Also Bob's focus on resolving NAP playing locations resulted in a Board approved plan.

Ed then presented Bob with a commemorative plaque and honorarium check.

Ed announced the following appointments:

1. Bill Bauer will continue as Board Secretary (unanimous Board confirmation).
2. Elaine Landow (Unit 141) and Tom Weik (Unit 121) were nominated as the two Presidential Appointees to the Board as members-at-large (unanimous Board confirmation).
3. Walter Mitchell (Unit 120) and Tom Weik (Unit 121) 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 and coordinators have agreed to serve another with the following two exceptions: Bob Glasson is taking over as NAP Coordinator for Jay Apfelbaum. Mary Poplawski will return as Education Chairperson in place of Corey Krantz. The new appointees have agreed to serve.

NEXT MEETING

Ed Bissell set the next board meeting for Friday evening, June 26, 2015 at 6:00 PM during the Valley Forge Regional tournament.

(SECRETARY'S NOTE: It was later determined that the Valley Forge Board meeting would not be necessary, so it was not held.)

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 11:45 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Bill Bauer
District 4 Secretary
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