

**DRAFT MINUTES OF ACBL DISTRICT 4 BOARD MEETING
Lancaster, Pennsylvania
October 31, 2015**

Voting Member Attendees:

- At-Large: Ed Bissell (President), Bob Priest (IPP), Craig Robinson (District Dir.), Elaine Landow (Pres. Appointee), Tom Weik (Pres. Appointee) (5 of 6)
- Unit 112: James Carroll (Unit President), Sharon Steinburg, Eileen Schuchmann, Patricia Jardin, Mary Jo Whitehead, Jerry Manioci (5 of 5) (Note: A 6th representative attended.)
- Unit 120: George Mansour (for Walt Mitchell), Bill Orth (2 of 2)
- Unit 121: Not represented. (0 of 2)
- Unit 133: Chuck Campbell (Unit Pres.), Mimi Lengel (2 of 2)
- Unit 141: John Dickenson (Unit Pres.), Joann Glasson, April Uhlenburg, Bob Glasson, Mike Giesler, Allison Brandt, Tom Purl, Jay Apfelbaum, April Apfelbaum, Ken Chatzinoff, Everett Young (11 of 12)
- Unit 168: Barry Gorski, Linda Ivanoff, John Klinger, Kathleen Del Corso (4 of 5)
- Unit 190: Karen Pollak (for Alan Horowitz, Unit Pres.), Caroline Hughes, Ala Hamilton-Day, Richard Popper (4 of 4)
- Unit 217: Mary Ann Churba (1 of 2)

Also Present

Rick Rowland, Treasurer
Walter Mitchell, GNT Coordinator
Marc Labowitz, ACBL Tournament Director
Alan Hodesblatt, ACBL Tournament Director
Bill Bauer, D4 Board Secretary

Excused

Dan Boye, Vice President

CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS

A meeting of the ACBL District 4 Board of Directors was held at the Lancaster Host Resort, October 31, 2015. Ed Bissell, President, called the meeting to order at 10:05 AM, a quorum being present (34 of 40 voting members representing 7 of 8 units).

Ed called on the Secretary to recognize Board members attending their first Board meeting. Bill noted the following new members and substitutes in attendance:

Unit 122: Rev. James Carroll (Unit President), Sharon Steinberg, Eileen Schuchmann, Patricia Jardin, Mary Jo Whitehead and Jerry Manioci.

Unit 133: Chuck Campbell, Unit President (has attended before) and Mimi Lengel, Unit Secretary.

Unit 141: John Dickenson (Unit President), Allison Brandt.

Unit 190: Karen Pollak, Caroline Hughes (attended once before).

SECRETARY’S REPORT & APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 1, 2014

The minutes of the Lancaster Board meeting of November 1, 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 2015 which is the basis for the determination of the number of Unit representatives on the 2016 District Board. The membership by Unit as of October 2014 and 2015 as reported by the ACBL was:

<u>UNIT</u>	<u>10/2014</u>	<u>10/2015</u>	<u>CHANGE</u>	<u>2016 REPRESENTATIVES PER BYLAWS</u>
112	1,122	1,140	+18	6
120	325	301	-24	2
121	229	222	-7	2
133	288	282	-6	2
141	2,771	2,810	+39	12
168	1,026	1,046	+20	5
190	707	699	-8	4
217	<u>135</u>	<u>129</u>	<u>-6</u>	<u>2</u>
TOTALS	6,603	6,629	+26	35

The changes in membership resulted in Unit 112 regaining their sixth representative.

TREASURER’S REPORT

Rick Rowland noted that he had placed his reports on each table. He then reported that the fiscal year-end (May 31, 2015) balance sheet reflects a \$188K cash balance and \$25K of outstanding advances to Tournament Committees for total assets of \$213K.

The fiscal year-end P&L statement shows a District net income of \$12K aided by strong Regional profitability. Rick noted that the Scranton Regional attendance was impacted by inclement weather.

District expenses remained in line for the past fiscal year ended May 31, 2015. Expenses remain in line so far this fiscal year beginning June 1, 2015..

The Board approved the Treasurer’s report unanimously.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Ed Bissell reported that he experienced a quiet year as President. He did receive a few e-mails with complaints about some Regionals. He noted that he was able to dispense with the King of Prussia Board meeting this year due to a lack of agenda action items.

Ed then called on ACBL Director, Marc Labowitz. Marc expressed his concern regarding the lack of a coordinator to arrange for the District tables, bidding boxes, and stanchions to be transported from Inner-Space and Bala GC to the Lancaster Host. Someone needs to take charge and coordinate at least 2-3 weeks ahead of the Regional. Marc said that he will volunteer to be that coordinator, but that Tournament Chairs need to contact him 2-3 weeks ahead with their table and bidding box needs. Marc asked about the arrangements to return the items to storage and John Klinger said that he had arranged for Inner-Space to pick up everything on Monday. Marc reminded John that when Inner-Space returns the 50 tables to Bala GC, that the tables must be returned to the storage space there and not just to the lobby. (Subsequently, Unit 141 returned the tables to the District having purchased their own tables. So coordination with Bala GC will no longer be an issue going forward. All 220 District tables are now at Inner-Space.)

RATIFICATION OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ACTIONS

Ed Bissell requested that the Board affirm the following Executive committee actions taken since the Board meeting in November 2014:

1. Affirm the decision to loan tables to the ABA Tournament in Atlantic City as per past practice. Also, to loan bidding boxes (new request).
2. Affirm the decision to contribute \$500 to the Longest Day (ACBL's Alzheimer's Charity Fund).
3. Affirm the decision to hold a TAP at the Lancaster Regional at a subsidized cost of \$50 for D4 members.

The motion to affirm the Executive Committee actions carried unanimously.

PUBLICITY

Joann Glasson reported that by transmitting the Tournament Daily Bulletins via e-mail that she can include photographs per the new capability provided by Jay Whipple. Joann extended a thank you to Jay. The photos can be of new LM's, winners, etc.

DISTRICT 4SPOT

Elaine Landow reported that December 1 is the next publication date and the deadline for submissions is mid-November. Elaine requested that Tournament chairs send her tournament flyers for tournaments to be held at least through March 31, 2016 to include in the December 1 4SPOT.

TOURNAMENT COORDINATOR

John Marks provided an e-mailed written report to the Secretary and to the Unit Tournament Coordinators. Bill presented the report to the Board and, as requested, included the report in the minutes as follows:

Schedules for the remainder of 2015 and for 2016 were e-mailed to the Unit Tournament Coordinators.

Units 112, 121 and 133 have all their sanctions approved and have nothing pending.

Unit 217 canceled one of their tournaments and may be searching for another weekend.

Unit 141 needs to schedule the January Sectional and their NLM Sectionals.

Unit 168 and 190 need to firm up a few more of their dates, especially the NLM Sectionals.

The NAP needs s to submit a sanction application.

The GNOT apparently needs their Unit Coordinator to approve the application.

Please review the schedules and submit the required sanction application within the next few weeks to complete the 2016 schedule preferably by Nov. 15. If there are any changes or corrections, please let John Marks know of them.

Please start to submit your tournament dates for 2017.

CHARITY

April Uhlenburg reported that the 2015 Longest Day Fundraiser resulted in a \$2,350 contribution from the District compared to over \$4,000 last year. The total ACBL contribution amounted to \$1.5 million.

John Klinger reported that he held a Charity Game at his club in July for the Longest Day, raising \$1,000, but that the ACBL would not accept the proceeds. Instead, the proceeds were sent to the Harrisburg Chapter of the Alzheimer's Association.

April offered to help with publicity for any clubs holding The Longest Day fundraiser or other charity events next year.

FINANCE

Dave Kresge was not in attendance.

NAP

Bob Glasson reported that the three flights drew 100 tables including 10 tables in Flight "A", about the same as last year. He complimented the "Endwell ladies" for the hospitality provided Flight "A" participants. Bob congratulated Allison Brandt and Mike Giesler, who were in attendance at the board meeting, for winning Flight "B"

The dates and locations for the 2016 District finals are:

October 15 - Flight "C" at Clubs

October 22 - Flight "B" in Endwell, NY and Harrisburg

October 15 & 16 – Flight "A" in Philadelphia area (site not yet determined)

GNT

Walt Mitchell reported that the 2016 GNT will take place on the weekend of May 21-22 at the same location, Quality Inn of Wilkes-Barre just off of I-81. There are three motels in the complex with restaurants nearby.

Walt prefaced his proposed Schedule of Play by noting that the ACBL Conditions of contest have changed. Also Walt wanted to guarantee two sessions of bridge for teams traveling to the event. Walt moved the following proposed schedule of play:

<u>No. Teams in Flight</u>	<u>Schedule Format</u>
2	One-day K/O*.
3	One-day 3-way K/O*.
4	K/O's day one; K/O day two.
5	Swiss day one; two survive. K/O day two with one session for Flight "C"; two sessions for the open; A&B player's option)
6	Same as above.
7	Swiss day one; three survive. Day two: 3-way match, two survive with full carryover.
8-15	Swiss day one to K/O's for four semi-finalists and finals day two.
16+	Day one: first session Swiss to eight teams, second session Swiss quarter finals day one; K/O's in the semi-finals and finals day two.

*No additional masterpoints would be awarded for second day of play.

The following amendments were offered in one motion:

1. Eliminate the format for 6 teams.
2. Add 6 teams to the format for 7 teams (becomes 6-7)
3. Change 8-15 to 8+. Eliminate 16+.

The amendment carried with 2 nays.

The main motion as amended carried with 1 nay.

EDUCATION

Mary Poplawski was not in attendance. Joann Glasson reported that Mary was present earlier in the week but had returned to NY for her scheduled knee surgery, Joann reported that the ACBL TAP enrolled 25 students yielding \$1,600 in revenue vs. the \$1,700 cost. The next TAP will be held at the site of the Valley Forge Regional. D4 members may participate at a cost of \$50 and non-D4 at a cost of \$100 per a motion that passed unanimously. Mary will be away for several months prior to the TAP, so we need someone to volunteer as the coordinator/registrar.

Bob Priest noted that Unit 168 reimburses its members who register and attend the TAPs.

2018 PHILADELPHIA SPRING NABC (March 8-18)

Joann Glasson, co-chair, reported that volunteer staffing for the NABC was underway.

The Klinger's will again be I/N co-chairpersons.

Rick Rowland will be Finance chairperson.

Bill Bauer will be Committee Secretary.

Contact Joann to volunteer.

Note: A week after being elected President, Dan Boye announced among his various appointments that Bob Glasson would be co-chair with Joann.

INTERMEDIATE/NEWCOMER

Ala Hamilton-Day noted that I/N's do not want to play at night, preferring the morning/afternoon tournament schedule.

ATLANTIC CITY REGIONAL EXPLORATORY COMMITTEE

Bob Glasson reported that he has two firm proposals for 2017 from Resorts and Bally.

Resorts will offer us a Sunday thru Thursday Regional with \$55 rooms and \$5/day parking. These are off season rates – 3rd week in November thru January. There is a \$1,500 food and beverage minimum per day. \$5 parking.

Bally would give us the last week in March 2017 (a prime week), but we would have to spend \$70K on food & beverages. Rooms at \$55 for five days with Friday and Saturday much higher.

Comments included:

1. Rick Rowland does not like the disruption from our normal Regional schedule.
2. Bob Priest thanked Bob and the Committee but felt the Committee should disband.
3. John Klinger said he would be willing to give up the Lancaster Regional if it is in the best interest of the District to try Atlantic City.

TOURNAMENT

John Marks was not in attendance and had no report.

The Unit 141 motion on the agenda regarding table swapping (after refurbishment) with the District was not presented as the Unit decided to do further study..

TOURNAMENT REPORTS:

Valley Forge
(6/22 – 6/28/15)

- Meyer Kotkin reported that the table count was up 200 (+12%). The tournament generated 475 room nights for the hotel. The tournament made a \$250 profit. There were issues with space. We had to use 3 floors. As a result directors and caddies could not be employed efficiently so Meyer engaged an additional director costing \$5K in travel expenses and added a Tournament Assistant and caddies. Meyer re-instituted a prize room and registration table at a cost of \$6K. The Dupli-Swiss events cost an additional \$2K for boards.

In 2016, the tournament will move to the week ending July 3 to get the junior ballroom without a significant increase to the food minimum. The tournament may benefit for there not being a July 4th DC Regional because of the Summer NABC in DC later in July. The 10:30 AM morning start proved a success and will be maintained. Meyer is considering doing away with evening sessions.

Lancaster
(10/26 – 11/1/2015)

- John Klinger reported that attendance was down 13%. The hotel is again for sale. Given the situation, John is looking at moving the tournament to Spooky Nook in Manheim (visible from Rt. 283). Spooky Nook is the home of the US Women's Field Hockey Training Program. The facility is not used for this purpose in November. The facility has an attached 135 room hotel and a new one being constructed nearby.

Harrisburg (split)
(5/11- 5/17/15)

- Bob Priest reported a \$3K profit. He moved hospitality to between sessions. There will not be a split Regional in 2016. He will run a split Regional with Rochester in 2017.

Rochester (split)
(5/11 – 5/17/15)

- Rev. James Carroll reported(for TC Mary Miller) that there were many positives. The tournament lost a little money in its first year since being reinstited. Hospitality between sessions was well received by players. Planning is underway for the 2016 Syracuse Regional.

Delaware
(3/28 – 4/3/16)

- Bruce Gwaltney could not attend but provided a written report to the Secretary which reads. "We believe the Regional is in

good shape. The same venue (Crowne Plaza in Claymont, DE) is under contract. The schedule has been established and approved by the ACBL. Flyers have been printed and distributed. The ACBL has assigned Marilyn Wells as DIC. We have filled all chair positions. Initial meetings with the chairs have been held.” The 2018 Regional has been sanctioned for April 30 – May 6 due to the Spring NABC in Philadelphia in March 2018.

Wilkes-Barre
(3/2 – 3/8/15)

- Walt said the weather was cold. Only 445 tables. Almost no players from Philadelphia or Delaware. Walt noted that two very positive letters from Toronto and New Jersey players were published in the ACBL Bulletin.

DISTRICT DIRECTOR’S REPORT

Craig mentioned that Sectionals can run two Grass Roots Fund sessions with 27.27% more masterpoints. Cost is \$4/table, the entire amount of which comes back to the District. So far Unit 141 and 190 have not passed along the additional cost to the players..

Marilyn Wells is in charge of District 4 tournament director scheduling replacing Doug Grove who retired.

Craig reported that split Regionals are unpopular with ACBL HQ as they “tie-up” the calendar. There is a mileage restriction which prevents other Regionals from taking place at the same time, so there are two “exclusion zones” associated with each split Regional. Our NY/Harrisburg split regional is considered a success and will be grand-fathered as long as we continue to hold the split Regional on a regular (even every other year basis) in the future..

OLD BUSINESS

Bill reported that his survey of Unit interest in renewing the license to conduct Learn-Bridge-in-a-Day resulted in only Units 141 and 190 having interest. Bill suggested that they go ahead together or individually. One change is that the annual license is good for only three sessions.

NEW BUSINESS

The following questions and comments were raised:

1. Allison requested that Atlantic City be kept under consideration and that regional location and scheduling should be reviewed as a whole.
2. Linda Ivanoff addressed the issue of “rampant STaC’s” and emphasized the need to obtain Unit permission to be included in the host unit’s STaC. Unit 168 is listed as a participant in the NY Unit February 2016 STaC and the Unit 141 May STaC without Unit 168 approval (which would not be given). Bill pointed out that the District Board approved a resolution requiring units to expressly obtain

- approval before listing a another unit as a participant. Craig will try to have ACBL Director Peter Marcus who oversees the STaC's get involved.
3. A question was raised about the District cash position. Rick pointed that the National Tournament reserve account made up about half of the balance and provides the resources to conduct aspects of the nationals such as hospitality & entertainment that are the responsibility of the host District. The other half is used to advance funds to or Regional Tournament committees that must spend funds before receiving entry fee proceeds from the players. We also must be in a position to absorb losses at Regionals which occur from time-to-time.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT AND ELECTION OF OFFICERS

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

President	- Dan Boye of Unit 112
Vice-President	- John Schwartz of Unit 133
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.

Craig noted that John Schwartz should he be elected President in 2016 may serve a 2nd term as President at the option of the Board.

REMARKS & APPOINTMENTS BY INCOMING PRESIDENT

Craig, on behalf of incoming President Dan Boye thanked outgoing President, Ed Bissell, for his year as President.

Craig then presented Ed with an honorarium check. The commemorative plaque will be presented at a later date.

Dan announced the following appointments (either at the meeting or the week thereafter as noted):

1. Bill Bauer will continue as Board Secretary (unanimous Board confirmation).
2. Elaine Landow (Unit 141) and Tom Weik (Unit 121) were nominated the week following the board meeting as the two Presidential Appointees to the Board as members-at-large (unanimous Executive committee confirmation).
3. Jerry Manioci (Unit 112) and Tom Weik (Unit 121) were appointed the week following the board meeting to the Executive Committee.
4. Joann Glasson was appointed the week following the Board meeting to be the Board of Governors representative on the Executive Committee.
5. All committee chairs and coordinators have agreed to serve another year.
6. A week following the meeting, Joann and Bob Glasson were appointed to co-chair the 2018 Spring NABC to be held in Philadelphia,

NEXT MEETING

As the Valley Forge Regional approaches, a determination will be made as to the necessity for a Board meeting. In any event the annual meeting of the Board will take place during the Lancaster Regional.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 11:55 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Bill Bauer
District 4 Secretary
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