

DRAFT MINUTES OF ACBL DISTRICT 4 BOARD MEETING
Manheim, Pennsylvania
November 4, 2016

Voting Member Attendees:

- At-Large: Meyer Kotkin (Vice-President), Ed Bissell (IPP), Joann Glasson (District Dir.), Tom Weik (Pres. Appointee) (4 of 6) Note: 1 vacancy.
- Unit 112: James Carroll (unit Pres.), Frank Cole (for Sharon Steinberg), Leo Birmingham (for Eileen Schuchman), Mary Miller (for Patricia Jardin), Lyn Ackerman (for Mary Jo Whitehead), Jerry Manioci (6 of 6)
- Unit 120: No representatives (0 of 2)
- Unit 121: Brian Snyder (Unit Pres.-Elect) (1 of 2)
- Unit 133: Stan Yellin (Unit Pres.), Dave Kresge (2 of 2)
- Unit 141: John Dickenson (Unit Pres.), Estelle Bogart (for Mike Giesler), Tom Purl, Susan Morse, Bob Glasson, Pat Civale, David Cohan (for Jay Apfelbaum), Dave Legrow (for April Apfelbaum), Ken Chatzinoff, Everett Young, Terry Coughlin (for Allison Brandt), Ray Raskin (12 of 12)
- Unit 168: Bridget Whitley (Unit Pres.) Barry Gorski, Pamela Murray (for Linda Ivanoff), John Klinger, Kathleen Del Corso (5 of 5)
- Unit 190: Caroline Hughes (Unit Pres.), Karen Pollak, Ala Hamilton-Day (3 of 4)
- Unit 217: Carol Reitz (1 of 2)

Excused:

Dan Boye, President

Also Present:

Robert Hartman, ACBL CEO
Margot Hennings, District Director for District 6
Debi Klinger, Lancaster Regional Co-chair
Marc Labovitz, ACBL Tournament Director
Bill Bauer, D4 Board Secretary

CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS

A meeting of the ACBL District 4 Board of Directors was held at Spooky Nook Sports & Convention Center in Manheim, PA on November 4, 2016. Meyer Kotkin, Vice-President, called the meeting to order at 7:15 PM, a quorum being present (34 of 41 voting members representing 7 of 8 units).

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

Unit 112: Frank Cole, Leo Birmingham, Mary Miller, Lyn Ackerman
Unit 141: Estelle Bogart, Susan Morse, David Cohan

DISTRICT DIRECTOR’S REPORT and INTRODUCTION OF ACBL CEO, ROBERT HARTMAN

In lieu of a report, Joann Glasson introduced guests Margot Hemmings, District Director for District 6, and ACBL CEO, Robert Hartman. Joann presented them with fleece jackets emblazoned with the Philadelphia 2018 Spring NABC logo. Margot will be a valuable asset to Philadelphia NABC co-chairs Joann and Bob Glasson based on her experience chairing the 2016 Washington D.C. Summer NABC.

REMARKS OF ROBERT HARTMAN, ACBL CEO

Robert thanked Meyer Kotkin for his role as a star witness in the recent cheating scandal trials. Meyer provided testimony as an expert witness in the field of statistics. Robert also thanked Bob Glasson who served as a juror. Robert next thanked Debi & John Klinger for their service as Tournament Chairs for the Lancaster Regionals.

Robert briefed the Board on two important issues on the agenda for the ACBL Board of Directors meeting this month in Orlando prior to the start of the Fall NABC. The ACBL Board will be looking at cost cutting measures such as possibly reducing the number of Board meetings. The Board will also consider separating the Education Foundation from the ACBL as the ACBL is a 501(c)(4) corporation and the Education Foundation standing alone would be a charity, qualifying as a 501(c)(3) corporation.

SECRETARY’S REPORT & APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF JULY 1, 2016

The minutes of the Valley Forge Board meeting of July 1, 2016 were unanimously approved. Bill reminded the Board that the minutes appear on the District website.

Bill then reported on Unit membership and the determination of the number of representatives that each unit would be entitled to send to Board meetings in 2017. The membership by Unit as of October 1, 2015 and 2016 as reported by the ACBL was:

<u>UNIT</u>	<u>10/2015</u>	<u>10/2016</u>	<u>CHANGE</u>	<u>2017 REPRESENTATIVES PER BYLAWS</u>
112	1,140	1,162	+22	6
120	301	292	-9	2
121	222	206	-16	2
133	282	279	-3	2
141	2,810	2,832	+22	12
168	1,046	1,029	-17	5
190	699	696	-3	4
217	<u>129</u>	<u>131</u>	<u>+2</u>	<u>2</u>
TOTALS	6,629	6,627	-2	35

No unit’s representation will change as a result of the new membership statistics.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Pat Civale noted that she had placed her report on each table. She then reported that the current fiscal year (through October 2016) balance sheet reflects a \$189K cash balance (including \$109K in the Nationals Account). In addition, there is \$26K of outstanding advances to Tournament Committees for total assets of \$215K.

The P&L statement shows a District net loss of \$6K to this point in the fiscal year as the Valley Forge and Syracuse Regionals each had small profits or losses.

Some accounts, such as the NAOP and GNT remain to be "squared".

The Board approved the Treasurer's report unanimously.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The Secretary read a report from President Dan Boye as follows:

"First and foremost, I want to send my apologies for not being able to attend the tournament and the meeting. I also wish the Board a productive meeting, the tournament committee a successful tournament and all the players a truly enjoyable and successful bridge experience. And my thanks to ACBL CEO, Robert Hartman for finding time in his schedule to visit a D4 tournament in this little nook in the heart of Lancaster County."

Dan continued by expressing his support of the change to have the 4Spot published on a monthly basis. He urges the Units to submit the names of players advancing in rank and other players' accomplishments for publication.

Dan also asked for Board and Unit President input on naming someone to the position of Charity Chairperson as April Uhlenburg has requested that a successor be named.

RATIFICATION OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ACTION

Meyer Kotkin requested that the Board affirm two Executive Committee decisions made since the Valley Forge Board meeting July 1. They are:

1. Affirm the decision to permit the 2017 Philadelphia Regional (Valley Forge) to increase the card fee up to \$15.
2. Affirm the decision to pay for three night's lodging for the Education Chairperson in conjunction with the scheduled Teacher Accreditation Program (TAP).

Meyer, as Chairperson of the Valley Forge Regional spoke of the cost of conducting a Regional in a metropolitan area. He particularly noted the cost of hospitality (food and beverages). Further, the possibility of additional income from the price increase may allow the Tournament Committee to move to a better playing site, although no affordable, better site has been found.

The motion to affirm the Executive Committee actions carried unanimously.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Prior to the start of Committee reports, it was moved, seconded and affirmed by the Board that no written reports would be read. Rather, the reports would only appear in the minutes of the meeting.

PUBLICITY

Joann Glasson thanked Debi & John Klinger for their leadership as Tournament Co-Chairs and presented them with a gift of a bottle of wine.

We now have the use of an ACBL capability to send our own e-mail blasts to the District membership. While exciting, we only reach 60% of the membership as we are lacking e-mail addresses for the remaining 40%. The Board then offered ideas for obtaining more member e-mail addresses, including the following:

1. Send a letter requesting the member's e-mail address. State the information that the player will receive as a result. Include instructions for giving the ACBL one's e-mail address.
2. Ask Club Managers to collect e-mail addresses.
3. Merge the Unit and District databases as units may have some of the missing addresses.

DISTRICT 4SPOT

Allison Brandt was unable to attend the meeting.

In accordance with Allison's recommendation that the 4SPOT become a monthly publication a motion was made as follows:

Change the frequency of publication from quarterly to monthly starting January 2017.

The motion was approved unanimously.

Meyer thanked Allison for her work and her willingness to undertake "more work for free".

TOURNAMENT COORDINATOR

John Marks was not present.

In his written report, John reported:

1. The District August 22-28, 2016 STaC had 76 participating clubs, 1688 tables and a profit of \$2,713.94. Next year's District STaC will be August 28 to September 3, 2017.
2. Unit Tournament Coordinators were sent their schedules for 2017 for their review. Currently Units 168 and 190 have some open dates. The GNT's and NAOP's need sanction applications.
3. Please start submitting your sanction applications for 2018.

CHARITY

April Uhlenburg could not attend. Her report for the minutes follows:

District 4 is scheduled to receive ACBL Charity Foundation grant funds from the ACBL in 2017. These funds are to be used for grants to 501(c)(3) charities and to provide an opportunity to promote the game of bridge, the ACBL and bridge players and clubs.

April would like to thank the Unit Presidents who submitted the name of a volunteer from their Unit. The names of the volunteers to serve on the Committee are:

112 Mary Miller
120 No name submitted
121 Sue Wessner
133 Julia Brooks
141 April Uhlenburg
168 Pamela Murray
190 No name submitted
217 Pending

FINANCE

Dave Kresge had no report.

NAP

Bob Glasson reported the attendance at the various District Finals as follow:

Flight "A" held October 15 & 16 in "Philadelphia" at the AMI Bridge Club in Langhorne, had 11 tables.

Flight "B" held October 22 at two sites, Harrisburg Bridge Club and in Endwell, NY had 12 tables at each site.

Flight "C" held October 15 at local clubs had 58-1/2 tables. Bob noted that District 4 has the largest Flight "C" participation amongst all ACBL districts. Also Bob noted that Dave Legrow's Valley Forge Bridge Club had the largest attendance, 15 tables, of any playing site throughout the ACBL.

GNT

Bob Glasson handed out new Conditions of Contest and the Board unanimously adopted them. Bob announced the dates for the 2017 GNT to be held in "Philadelphia" at the Valley Forge Bridge Club. This year, the four flights will be held on two different weekends.

Flights "C" and "A" will be held March 25-26, 2017 at the Valley Forge Bridge Club.

Flights "B" and "Open" will be held April 8-9, 2017 also at the Valley Forge Bridge Club.

EDUCATION

Jerry Manioci reported that 46 prospective teachers attended the ACBL-taught Teachers' Accreditation Program (TAP). He received many positive comments although some commented that they would like to see more visual aids and "PowerPoint" used. Most of the attendees had fewer than 100 masterpoints. Meyer commented that when teachers encourage their students to play duplicate, both clubs and tournaments benefit.

INTERMEDIATE/NEWCOMER

Ala Hamilton-Day noted three positive developments leading to more I/N play:

1. U141 held a 20 table I/N Sectional at Valley Forge Bridge Club.
2. U190 ran a mentoring program from May to September with attendance averaging 9 tables. A mentor and a mentee played as partners.
3. 10:30 and 3:00 game times such as used for the first time at Spooky Nook are preferred by I/N's.

TOURNAMENT

John Marks was not in attendance and had no report.

INEQUITY IN SMALL K/O EVENT BRACKETING

Joann Glasson asked that the Board discuss the matter of inequities in bracketing of small bracketed K/O events such as occurred at Wilmington, Valley Forge and Syracuse particularly toward the weekend when attendance declined. The specific concern is the ratio of masterpoints between the highest and the lowest team in a bracket being upwards of 10 times. For example, at Valley Forge, only 19 teams entered the Friday/Saturday bracketed K/O. These 19 teams broke down into 9 teams between 28K to 68K masterpoints, two with 15K to 18K and 8 with 1K to 3K. What do you do with the two in the middle? The decision was to place them in the lower bracket but that created an inequity in the lower bracket such that several teams protested. Robert Hartman suggested smaller brackets such as 7/6/6 provided the event was advertise as possibly only going to be a 3-session event.

John Dickenson was appointed and agreed to serve as Chairperson of a committee to study the matter and make a policy recommendation to the Board.

TABLE-TOP DEALING MACHINE

Meyer Kotkin shared information on a new table-top dealing machine that would eliminate the need for pre-dealt boards, boards themselves and caddies. The machines are made in Denmark and presently cost about \$1,000 each. The expense suggests that a consortium of Districts be formed if the devices are determined to be durable and easily maintained. The manufacturer has agreed to come to one of the Unit 141 Sectionals (January or March) and to the Valley Forge Regional to demonstrate the devices under actual playing conditions. The expense of the trip and demonstration will be assumed by the manufacturer.

TOURNAMENT REPORTS:

Valley Forge
(6/28 – 7/3/16) - Meyer Kotkin reported that the table count was up 10% through Friday. Then a weekend attendance disaster resulted in the tournament attendance being down 3% for the week. The Gold Rush event went from 41 tables down to 17. There was a Loss somewhere between \$1K and \$3K.

Lancaster
(10/31 – 11/6/2016) - John Klinger reported that the first 4 days saw increased attendance. The new facility has been well received by the players. The Spooky Nook staff has been easy to work with. The playing space rents for \$3,000 for the week with a \$15K food minimum. There is a handshake agreement to return for 5 years. John asked the Board to “spread the word”.

UPDATE FROM THE KLINGER’S ON MONDAY, NOV. 7
Attendance was up 281 tables or 20.8% from one year ago!

Harrisburg (split)
(5/1- 5/7/17) - Bob Priest was not in attendance and there was no report.

Rochester (split)
(5/1 – 5/7/17) - Mary Miller said planning was proceeding satisfactorily.

Syracuse
(8/1 – 8/7/16) - Mary Miller reported that tournament attendance was 840 tables down 120 tables from the prior Syracuse Regional in 2014. Two factors are blamed: First the Washington NABC ended the day prior to the start. Second, the Canadian dollar is only worth \$0.75US making the tournament more expensive to Canadians. The tournament produced a \$1K profit.

Delaware
(4/30 – 5/5/18) - Bruce & Judith Gwaltney could not attend. However, it was reported that the tournament will adopt the morning/afternoon format.

Wilkes-Barre
(2/27 – 3/5/17) - Walt Mitchell did not attend. There was no representative from Unit 120 in attendance to report.

2018 PHILADELPHIA SPRING NABC (March 8-18, 2018)

Joann reported that preliminary planning is underway. Margot Hennings will be sharing her Washington DC NABC experience. Promotional games were held at clubs last week to provide additional funds for hospitality and entertainment which are the responsibilities of the host District.

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NOTE: In a Nov. 12 e-mail to Club Managers in the District, Joann changed the dates of the 2017 NABC fundraiser game to May 21-27, 2017.

DISTRICT DIRECTOR’S REPORT

Joann led off the meeting with an introduction of ACBL CEO, Robert Hartman.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT AND ELECTION OF OFFICERS

The District Nominating Committee, chaired by District Director Joann Glasson communicated with her committee via e-mail in the weeks leading up to this meeting. The committee recommended the following slate of officers who will serve through the 2017 Lancaster Regional:

- | | |
|----------------|--------------------------------|
| President | - Dan Boye of Unit 112 |
| Vice-President | - Meyer Kotkin of Unit 141 |
| Treasurer | - Pat Civale, CPA, of Unit 141 |

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

Per Dan Boye’s request, Bill Bauer was nominated and reelected Board Secretary.

Dan Boye also requested that Tom Weik and Mary Miller be nominated as Presidential appointees to the Board during his 2nd term as Board President. They were duly nominated and confirmed.

Dan announced the appointment of Tom Weik and Jerry Manioci as members of the Executive Committee. Allison Brandt will be the Board of Governors representative on the Executive Committee.

Meyer thanked Dan Boye for his year of service and noted that bridge players form a family and give each other support in times of need.

NEXT MEETING

To be announced.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Bill Bauer
District 4 Secretary
william.baueriii@verizon.net