

**DRAFT MINUTES OF ACBL DISTRICT 4 BOARD MEETING  
Manheim, Pennsylvania  
November 3, 2017**

Voting Member Attendees:

- At-Large: Dan Boye (President), Meyer Kotkin (Vice-President), Ed Bissell (IPP), Joann Glasson (District Dir.), Tom Weik (Pres. Appointee), Mary Miller (Pres. Appointee) (6 of 6).
- Unit 112: DeWitt Henricks (Unit Pres.), James Carroll, Lynn Ackerman, Jerry Manioci, Pat Stadelmaier (5 of 6)
- Unit 120: No representatives (0 of 2)
- Unit 121: Brian Snyder (Unit Pres.) (1 of 2)
- Unit 133: Betsy Cutler (sub for Stan Yellin, Unit Pres.), Dave Kresge (2 of 2)
- Unit 141: Joan Warren (Unit Pres.) John Dickenson, Mike Giesler), Terry Coughlin, Bob Glasson, Pat Civale, Wendy De Chaderevian, Daisy Goecker, Ken Chatzinoff, Everett Young, Allison Brandt, Nick Straguzzi (12 of 12)
- Unit 168: Bridget Whitley (Unit Pres.) Jeanne Gehret, Pamela Murray, John Klinger, Kathleen Del Corso (5 of 5)
- Unit 190: Caroline Hughes (Unit Pres.), Karen Pollak, Ala Hamilton-Day, Richard Popper (4 of 4)
- Unit 217: No representatives (0 of 2)

Also Present:

Margot Hennings, District Director for District 6  
Shawn Stringer, District 6 President and Chesapeake Regional Chairperson  
Debi Klinger, Lancaster Regional Co-chair  
Marc Labovitz, ACBL Tournament Director  
Tom Coxey, invited guest  
Bill Bauer, D4 Board Secretary

A meeting of the ACBL District 4 Board of Directors was held at Spooky Nook Sports & Convention Center in Manheim, PA on November 3, 2017. Dan Boye, President, called the meeting to order at 7:10 PM, a quorum being present (35 of 41 voting members representing 6 of 8 units).

Dan 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: DeWitt Henricks (Unit Pres.)  
Unit 133: Betsy Cutler  
Unit 141: Joan Warren (Unit Pres.), Daisy Goecker, Nick Straguzzi  
Unit 168: Jeanne Gehret

**DISTRICT DIRECTOR’S REPORT**

Joann Glasson introduced guests Margot Hemmings, District Director for District 6, and Shawn Stringer, District 6 Board President and Chesapeake Regional Chairperson.

Joann reminded the Board of the list of initiatives prepared by CEO Bahar Gadwani which Bill Bauer forwarded to the Board.

**SECRETARY’S REPORT & APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF NOV. 4, 2016**

The minutes of the Lancaster Board meeting of November 4, 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 2018. The membership by Unit as of October 1, 2015, 2016 and 2017 as reported by the ACBL was:

<u>UNIT</u>	<u>10/2015</u>	<u>10/2016</u>	<u>10/2017</u>	<u>2017-2016 CHANGE</u>	<u>2018 REPRESENTATIVES</u>
112	1,140	1,162	1,159	-3	6
120	301	292	294	+2	2
121	222	206	209	+3	2
133	282	279	268	-11	2
141	2,810	2,832	2,797	-35	12
168	1,046	1,029	957	-72	5
190	699	696	646	-50	4
217	<u>129</u>	<u>131</u>	<u>125</u>	<u>-6</u>	<u>2</u>
<b>TOTALS</b>	6,629	6,627	6,455	-172	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 (June 1 through October 28, 2017) balance sheet reflects a \$206K cash balance (including \$123K in the Nationals Account). In addition, there is \$25K of outstanding advances to Tournament Committees for total assets of \$231K.

The fiscal 2017 P&L statement shows a small District profit of \$1.8K to this point in the fiscal year. The 2017 Valley Forge Regional produced a \$12K profit due to the \$2.00 card fee increase and the tournament being up 100 tables over 2016. However, the Rochester Tournament had a loss. Pat also presented a detailed breakdown of revenue and expense for all of the District tournaments in 2016 and 2017.

The recurring question of whether or not the District had too great reserves was addressed by saying the reserves are constantly monitored.

The Board approved the Treasurer’s report unanimously.

**PRESIDENT’S REPORT**

Dan reminded the Board that our tournaments (and clubs, too) are competing for our players’ entertainment dollars. To win the competition, tournament committees and club managers must make players feel comfortable. Another important consideration is adding new players.

**RATIFICATION OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ACTION**

Dan requested the Board’s affirmation of the Executive Committee’s decision to purchase 35 sets of replacement bidding cards for \$1,000 during Baron-Barclays 20% October 11-15 discount period.

The motion to affirm the Executive Committee action carried unanimously.

It was noted that the boxes previously purchased for use at New York Regionals are only used at the District Regionals.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**PUBLICITY**

Joann Glasson noted the growth in accesses of the District website. In 2014, accesses averaged 1,500/month. In 2017 to date, accesses averaged 2,600/month.

**DISTRICT 4SPOT**

Allison Brandt reported that the 4Spot went all digital in January 2017. There are 4,600 subscribers to the monthly newsletter. Somewhere around 40-45% of the subscribers actually open the 4Spot.

Allison recognized Nick Straguzzi for his Master Solvers column and noted that reader solutions may now be submitted on-line. Allison also thanked all the other contributors.

**TOURNAMENT COORDINATOR**

No report.

**CHARITY**

Joann Glasson reported for Chairperson April Uhlenburg who could not attend. Her committee had formulated a plan to equally disburse \$30,000 provided by the ACBL Charity Foundation to seven charities in the District as follows:

<b>Unit</b>	<b>Unit President</b>	<b>Unit Contact Person</b>	<b>Charity</b>
112	DeWitt Henricks	Betty Youmans	The Neighborhood Center
121	Brian Snyder	Dorothy McCormick	Sacred Heart Villa
133	Stan Yellin	Julia Brooks	Lehigh Valley Active Life Center
141	Joan Warren	Diane Carroll	Cancer Support Community of Phila.
168	Bridget Whitely	Pamela Murray	Ecumenical Food Pantry
190	Caroline Hughes	Jeff Ruben	Modern Maturity Center
217	Jim McKeown	Jacqueline Humilovich	Centre Volunteers in Medicine

Joann moved that the above allocation be made with the District providing an additional \$1,500 to “round up” the awards to an “even” \$4,500. The motion was unanimously approved.

## **FINANCE**

Dave Kresge had no report.

## **NAP**

Bob Glasson reported the attendance at the various 2017 District Finals as follow:

Flight “A” held October 14 & 15 in “Philadelphia” at the Valley Forge Bridge Club had 15 tables.

Flight “B” held October 21 at two sites, Valley Forge Bridge Club and in Endwell, NY had 23 and 12 tables, respectively.

Flight “C” held October 14 at local clubs had 76-1/2 tables. Bob noted that District 4 has the largest Flight “C” participation amongst all ACBL districts.

In 2018, Flight “A” will be held September 29 & 30. Flight “B” October 27 at Valley Forge Bridge Club and in New York. Flight “C” will be held September 29 at clubs electing to host the game.

**IMPORTANT: Upon Unit 141 canceling their October 12-14 Sectional, Bob later shifted the dates for Flight’s “A” & “C” as follows:**

**Flight “A”: Now Oct. 13 – 14**

**Flight “C”: Now Oct. 13**

Bob noted that Valley Forge Bridge Club (VFBC) attracted 15 tables this year, that attendance in the prior 4 years averaged 10.5 tables and that in 2014, Harrisburg had 11 tables. The VFBC provides a location that minimizes the travel time and expenses for the majority of players who actually participate.

For these reasons, Bob moved that the site of the 2018 Flight “A” District Finals be changed from Harrisburg to Philadelphia (Valley Forge Bridge Club). The motion was adopted; however, two Board members From Unit 168 opposed the change of venue.

## **GNT**

Bob Glasson announced the dates for the 2018 GNT to be held in “Philadelphia” at the Valley Forge Bridge Club. As in 2017, the four flights will be held on two different weekends as follows:

Flights “C” and “A” will be held April 7-8, 2018.

Flights “B” and “Open” will be held May 19-20, 2018. **SEE UPDATE BELOW**

**UPDATE: Flight “C” and A” will be held April 7-8, 2018. The original minutes had the dates reversed between the “C” & “A” and “B” & “Open”. In addition the ACBL revoked their approval of the dates for “B” and “Open” as the event was scheduled opposite the USBF trials running from May 11-20. “B” and “Open” are now scheduled for April 21-22. Bob has informed last year’s participants of the date change.**

Bob moved that the team stipend for the winning team in each of the four flights be increased from \$1,000 to \$2,000 per team. The Board approved this motion.

## **EDUCATION**

Jerry Manioci reported that he surveyed the attendees at the ACBL-taught Teachers’ Accreditation Program (TAP). He found that 85% are teaching.

Jerry distributed information on the ACBL’s teacher’s organization. He has obtained a coach for a Philadelphia area college team. Jerry then called upon Caroline Hughes to promote the ACBL’s College Bridge Program.

Caroline reported that the ACBL will provide support to members teaching/coaching college students. The ACBL is looking to attract new members. The coach will work in conjunction with a faculty member. Certain colleges recognize the educational value of bridge classes. For example, Oklahoma State gives academic credit for taking a bridge class and the University of Minnesota offers a bridge class as part of its honors program. The ACBL also conducts an Inter-Collegiate championship (College Bowl).

Mike Giesler added that he has been contacted by a University of Pennsylvania student who is interested in bridge.

## **INTERMEDIATE/NEWCOMER**

Ala Hamilton-Day noted that Gold Rush events are still well regarded by I/N’s. The downside is that I/N’s do not want to leave Gold Rush so that when they reach 750 points, some do not venture to play in more competitive events. I/N Sectionals continue to be well attended.

## **TOURNAMENT (INEQUITY IN K/O BRACKETING IN A SMALL FIELD)**

John Marks was not in attendance and had no report.

John Dickenson reported on Mike Giesler’s and his recommended solution to improving equity in K/O Team Bracketing per the request made of them at last year’s Lancaster Board meeting. An example of bracketing inequity occurred in the 2016 Friday-Saturday K/O at the Valley Forge Regional comprising 22 teams. The teams were split into two brackets of 10 and 12 teams.

John reported that the ACBL has taken an interest in the inequity issue and asked each District to submit their best idea. John said that he and Mike had looked at 11 approaches. Their recommended approach follows:

- Directors should normally create brackets of 9 to 16 teams.
- However, when these brackets produce a large spread between the top and bottom teams, directors should consider smaller brackets of 5 to 8 teams.
- These smaller brackets are to be run as an all-day round robin scored by Victory Points, qualifying 4 teams for the semifinals for the 3<sup>rd</sup> session the following day.

Meyer suggested that an 8-team bracket can be played as an 8-5-3-2. That is, in the 1<sup>st</sup> session there are two 3-ways with two teams advancing and one head-to-head, the winner advancing. This contest leaves 5 teams for the 2<sup>nd</sup> session. The five teams play in a three-way and a head-to-head with 3 teams advancing. The three surviving teams play a 3-way in the 3<sup>rd</sup> session yielding two teams to play in the 4<sup>th</sup> and final session.

The Board then approved John's motion to allow a bracketed K/O event to have 5 to 8 team brackets with a two-session round-robin to reduce the field to four teams for the 3<sup>rd</sup> session. This recommendation is subject to confirmation in a final report after John & Mike attend the Chesapeake Regional where small brackets will be utilized as needed.

Margot Hemmings (D6 District Director) and Shawn Stringer (D6 President and Chesapeake Regional Chair) noted that the upcoming Chesapeake Regional in Cambridge, Maryland would feature a 3-session one-day K/O on Saturday as well as the possibility of small brackets in all the K/O's. Margot succeeded in getting an increase to the masterpoint scale for a small top bracket and a nominal increase for the 2<sup>nd</sup> bracket.

**UPDATE: After attending the Chesapeake Regional (Nov. 13-18), John and Mike prepared a report affirming the conditions-of-contest preliminarily adopted by the Board.**

### **TOURNAMENT REPORTS:**

**Valley Forge** (6/26 – 7/2/17) - Meyer Kotkin reported that the table count was up even on the weekend.

Meyer reported that Jay Whipple has abandoned the off-site participation alternative to playing on-site.

Meyer is concerned about the fees charged for supplies by the D3/D4/D24/D25 co-op and also wants to know what equipment is owned by the co-op. It may be time to withdraw from the co-op and take our share of the assets.

Director staffing is another issue as the salary and expense of a director is large cost factor for a tournament.

**Lancaster** (10/30 – 11/5/2017) - John Klinger reported that the first 4 days saw decreased attendance. Debi Klinger thanked Josh Kotkin for duplicating all the boards. The Klinger's then announced their retirement after 24 years as tournament co-chairs. They introduced Jeanne Gehret and Tom Coxe as the new co-chairs. The Klinger's intend to be a resource for the new co-chairs.

Dan Boye thanked the Klinger's for their years of dedication to the Lancaster tournament. The Board responded with a hearty round of applause.

**Harrisburg** (split) (5/1- 5/7/17) - Bob Priest was not in attendance but provided the following report. Attendance, compared to 2015, was up 25-30% from Monday through Wednesday, then flat on Thursday, but down 20-30% for Friday, Saturday and Sunday. The result, net tables were about even with 2015. Nevertheless, the tournament achieved a \$5,371 profit. Terry Lavender, Director-in-Charge, went out of her way to ensure financial success.

Looking ahead to 2019, the Rochester Tournament is moving to August and as a split site regional, Harrisburg must move as well. The competition that Harrisburg will face from Hunt Valley, an established August Regional one hour from Harrisburg, will result in lesser Harrisburg attendance as many players will choose not to play in two Regionals and will elect to play at Hunt Valley. Thus, the Regional will not be able to be held in a hotel. Further, the Harrisburg Regional will experiment with a Thursday through Sunday tournament. A bracketed Swiss on Thursday and Sunday and ABC Pairs opposite Golden Pairs on Friday and Saturday. The Harrisburg Bridge Club will provide adequate tables (60 for teams and 50 for pairs, more tables than the tournament has attracted in recent memory. Rooms will be available at the Radisson Hotel, ¼ mile away.

**Rochester** (split) (5/1 – 5/7/17) - Mary Miller said the tournament lost \$14K with 200 fewer tables. The attendance decline was due to the weak Canadian dollar and local snowbirds not all as yet. The tournament will move to the summer in 2019.

**Syracuse** (8/13 – 8/19/18) - Mary Miller did not have a report on the 2018 Regional.

**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 Krauss Investments is the major sponsor. The Delaware Unit (190) is sponsoring a Treadwell Day.

The third and final NABC Fundraiser Game will be held the week of January 28 – February 3.

Joann announced key appointments as follow:

Tournament Schedule	- Meyer Kotkin
Registration	- Mary Miller & Lynn Ackerman
Caddies	- Tom Purl
Parking	- Everett Young
Information Desk	- Joan Warren & Elaine Weintraub
Volunteer Food	- Dian Wise
Partnership Desk	- Dan Boye, Tom Purl & Walt Mitchell
Volunteer Coordinator	- Pat Civale (also Treasurer)
I/N Program	- Debi & John Klinger
Player Hospitality	- Allison Brandt & Mike Giesler
Prizes	- Judith & Bruce Gwaltney
Restaurant Guide	- Ed Kung & Janet Johnson

The restaurant guide is on-line. The registration gift is a \$5.00 gift card to Reading Terminal Market.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

There was no old business.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Rich Popper, a Delaware attorney, advised the Board of an inconsistency between the District Bylaws and our Articles of Incorporation. Our Articles of Incorporation (District 4 of the ACBL is incorporated in Delaware) does not mention the Board President having the authority to appoint committee members and Delaware law says that absent such a provision in the Articles of Incorporation, that power resides with the Board. He advised that the Board could either amend the Bylaws (remove the President's authority to appoint Committee members) or amend the Articles of Incorporation to give the President that authority. The Board directed Rich to amend the Articles of Incorporation. In the interim, the Board will need to ratify appointments to Committees, especially the Executive Committee, which has the authority of the Board between Board meetings.

Marc Laibovitz raised the issue of the ABA's request to borrow 50 tables and 50 sets of bidding boxes for their organizations national tournament. The Board agreed that the requested items would be provided at no charge. The ABA is responsible for transportation costs.

### **NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT AND ELECTION OF OFFICERS**



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	- Meyer Kotkin of Unit 141
Vice-President	- Dave Kresge of Unit 133
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 Meyer Kotkin's request, Bill Bauer was nominated and reelected Board Secretary.

Meyer also requested that Tom Weik and Mary Miller be approved by the Board as Presidential appointees to the Board during his 2<sup>nd</sup> term as Board President. They were duly nominated and confirmed.

Dan announced the appointment of Tom Weik and Mary Miller as members of the Executive Committee. Allison Brandt will be the Board of Governors representative on the Executive Committee. The Board approved these appointments.

Meyer thanked Dan Boye for his two years of dedicated service in spite of his wife's (Susan's) illness and untimely death. Dan elected to forgo the customary commemorative plaque and instead the meeting organizers ordered cakes decorated to look like the plaque. (There was plenty of cake left over for the Hospitality Room.)

Further appointments were announced:

District STaC and Tournament Coordinator	- Elaine Weintraub
Tournament Coordinator	- Allison Brandt

The above three positions were held by John Marks for many years. John desired to retire. Meyer thanked John for his many years of service to the District.

Meyer outlined three areas of concern and appointed the following people to recommend enhancements:

- Tournament operations. What is working well and not so well? Allison Brandt, as Tournament Committee Chairperson will take on this assignment.
- Technical enhancements. For example, can displays replace the stantions? Mike Giesler will head up this area.
- Better Club – District Coordination. Dave Legrow accepted this assignment.

### **NEXT MEETING**

The Board will meet Friday evening, June 29, 2018 during the Valley Forge Regional.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Bill Bauer  
District 4 Secretary  
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