

DRAFT MINUTES OF ACBL DISTRICT 4 BOARD MEETING
Liverpool, New York
August 9, 2014

Voting Member Attendees:

- At-Large: Bob Priest (President), Dan Boye (1st^d VP), Ed Bissell (2nd VP),
Tom Weik (IPP), Craig Robinson (District Director), (5 of 7)
- Unit 112: Mike Mihevc (Unit Pres.), Mary Miller (for Walt Gable), Warren Marsland,
Bill Port, Robert Simard, Phil Clark (for Mary Poplawski) (6 of 6)
- Unit 120: Tom Henson (for Walter Mitchell) (1 of 2)
- Unit 121: None (0 of 2)
- Unit 133: Karen Yellin (for Chuck Campbell), Stan Yellin, Chuck Campbell, (2 of 2)
- Unit 141: Elaine Landow (for Mike Giesler), Joann Glasson, Bob Glasson (for Meyer
Kotkin), Bill Bauer (for John Marks), Jay Apfelbaum (for Dave Legrow), Ray
Raskin (for Tom Sakaguchi), April Apfelbaum (for April Unlenburg) (7 of 12)
- Unit 168: Bridget Whitley (for John Klinger), Linda Ivanoff (2 of 5)
- Unit 190: Barbara Rhoades (Unit Pres.), Rick Rowland (2 of 4)
- Unit 217: Susan Nichols (for Mary Ann Churba), David Hall (2 of 2)

Also Present

Mark Labovitz, ACBL Tournament Director

CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS

A meeting of the ACBL District 4 Board of Directors was held at the Holiday Inn, Liverpool, NY, on August 9, 2014. Bob Priest, President, called the meeting to order at 6:25 PM, a quorum being present (27 of 42 voting members representing 7 of 8 units).

SECRETARY'S REPORT & APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF JUNE 22, 2013

The minutes of the Lancaster Board meeting of Nov. 2, 2013 were unanimously approved as corrected (Ray Raskin, a member of the Board of Governors was also present). Bill reminded the Board that the minutes appear on the District website.

Bill welcomed and recognized the substitute unit representatives who had not attended District Board meetings in the past. They were:

- Unit 112: Mary Miller and Phil Clark
Unit 120: Tom Henson
Unit 133: Karen Yellin
Unit 141: April Apfelbaum
Unit 168: Bridget Whitley
Unit 217: Susan Nichols and David Hall

TREASURER'S REPORT

Rick Rowland reported that as of May 31, 2014 (the fiscal year end date), the balance sheet reflects a \$181K cash balance and \$20K of outstanding advances to Tournament Committees for total assets of \$201K.

The yearend P&L statement shows net income of \$16K reflecting profitable Harrisburg, Syracuse, Wilmington, Lancaster and Valley Forge Regionals. The District spent money on table refurbishment (110 tables), Bridgemates, bidding boxes and additional new bidding box inserts to improve the player experience.

Tom Weik asked if the board or Finance committee had a policy on the amount of reserves. Rick deemed the \$180,000 in the bank both sufficient to cover at least the District obligation for the upcoming NABC (Philadelphia, Spring 2018) and District needs. Rick said he will let us know if the District finances become problematic.

The Board approved the Treasurer's report unanimously.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT & RATIFICATION OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ACTIONS

Bob Priest explained his request to change the 2015 Jeanne Fisher award to include players who begin the year with fewer than 2,500 points to reflect the ACBL's new NAP point ranges. At the same time, he requested Board approval to establish a 4th award should the ACBL add a 4th event to the NAP. Further, our point ranges would change "automatically" should the ACBL change their point ranges. The board approved the changes requested but deferred the matter of naming the 4th award until such time the ACBL creates a 4th event.

Bob next presented the three Executive Committee actions taken since the Lancaster Board meeting. These are:

1. Affirm the decision to conduct the 2014 NAP District finals in the same locations as in 2013 with same the CofC.
2. Affirm the decision to donate \$500.00 to The Longest Day (Alzheimer's Assoc.).
3. Affirm the decision to spend \$400 for Fast Results at the four regionals (the payment being made to the ACBL Education Foundation).

The Secretary explained that although the payments had been made and were "unrecoverable" that the board could reject the action to give the Executive Committee direction should similar issues arise in the future.

The board approved all three actions.

PUBLICITY

Joann Glasson thanked Mark McDermott, Phil Clark and Mary Miller for co-chairing and all the effort they expended to make for a fine Regional. Joann noted that this is the 2nd Regional to utilize Jay Whipple's Fast Results. One board member commented (facetiously) to the effect that she did not need to be reminded of her poor score which she received on her hand-held device. Jay Whipple also assisted Meyer & Ethan Kotkin in restoring the on-line partnership desk. Joann noted that Sectionals pay only \$25 to use Fast Results. Tournament chairs wanting to use Fast Results should check that their DIC is aware how to report the results to the Fast Results Drop Box.

Joanne said that Mark Laibovitz will transport the District Regional banners to surrounding district Regionals and our Regionals. Bob Priest has already received approval from the Hunt Valley Tournament Chair to hang Harrisburg and Lancaster banners. Bob said arrangements need to be made by Tournament Chairs talking to Tournament Chairs when non-District 4 Regional playing sites are involved since hotel policies and charges vary.

DISTRICT 4SPOT

Elaine Landow announced that the next issue will be sent out at the end of this month. This will be the last issue for printed and mailed copies (100 are being printed and mailed). The board did not object.

TOURNAMENT COORDINATOR

John Marks submitted the following report:

The 2015 District tournament schedule was sent out to the Unit Coordinators for their review and comments. Units 120, 168 and 190 have to submit sanction applications for a few of their Sectional tournaments. Sanction applications need to be submitted for the 2015 NAP and GNOT.

CHARITY

April Uhlenburg submitted the following report:

We had tremendous support for the Alzheimers Association's Longest Day Fund Raiser at the King of Prussia Regional on June 21st. In total, \$4,185 was raised from donations by players, District 4, some Units, the VIP/Bridge Pro Raffle, and a donation from Fay Pacchioli's club in the Poconos which raised \$525.00. April and fund raiser Chairperson Lew Klein want to thank all who both volunteered and contributed.

April also thanked Lew Klein for his leadership and dedication to this fund raiser. They look forward to next year's fund raiser and welcome suggestions of activities or events to make the outcome even more successful.

Finally, April wants to remind those players who were "raffled off" to coordinate dates with their respective winners.

FINANCE

Dave Kresge was not in attendance. However, he has reported in an e-mail to Bob Priest that he reviewed the Treasurer's books for the year ending May 31, 2013 and found everything to be in order.

NAP

Coordinator Jay Apfelbaum moved the motion as it appeared in the agenda as follows:

For 2015 and thereafter, establish a 5-year rotation for Flights "A" & "B" as follows:

Flight "A"

2015 New York
2016 Philadelphia/Wilmington area
2017 Philadelphia/Wilmington area
2018 Central PA
2019 Philadelphia/Wilmington area

Flight "B" (split-site)

2015 Central PA and Philadelphia/Wilmington area
2016 Central PA and New York
2017 Central PA and Philadelphia/Wilmington area
2018 Philadelphia/Wilmington & New York
2019 Philadelphia/Wilmington & New York

Both cycles repeat, thereafter. Of course, if a site cannot schedule appropriate playing space then a "trade" or some other arrangement will need to be made.

Note: No change is proposed for Flight "C" which remains at Clubs (and/or Units) with the pair rankings determined as they are in a "STaC".

Jay commented that the motivation for the above NAP rotation was to increase attendance. District population of players fitting in each flight was used to determine the frequency that each geographic area would serve as host. Roughly speaking the Philadelphia area/Wilmington has 50%, New York/Scranton 25% and the remainder of the district (Central PA units) the remaining 25% of candidate players for the two events.

For purpose of discussion and voting, the motion was severed into separate votes on Flight "A" and Flight "B".

Regarding Flight "A", a question arose as to whether the event could be split-site like flight "B". Craig answered that only the district containing Hawaii and perhaps two other very spread-out Districts are permitted to split Flight "A". District 4 is not one of them.

The Flight "A" rotation then was approved as proposed.

The Flight "B" rotation was amended such that 2017 will be New York and Philadelphia/Wilmington rather than Central PA and Philadelphia/Wilmington. With this change, the NY Unit would host just as many Flight "A" + Flight "B" finals (total of five over five years) as New York previously hosted (Flight "B" every year). That is, New York will host either "A" or "B" every year. Unit 168 representatives were in agreement with the amended Flight "B" rotation.

The amended motion passed.

At this point, Craig informed the Board that Districts may now send four pairs to the Spring NABC to compete in the Flights "B" and "C" NAP National events.

That being the case, the Board adopted a revised subsidy schedule of \$700/pp for 1st, \$350/pp for 2nd, \$200/pp for 3rd and \$100/pp for 4th. Rick noted that the ACBL pays the subsidies for 1st & 2nd place pairs, not the District. 4th place is to be decided on percentage in both Flights "B" & "C". Third place in Flight "A" would go from \$100/pp to \$200/pp to match "B" & "C". Craig noted that the District has received "Grass Roots" funds in our last fiscal year of over \$4,000 which is to be used to promote the GNT and NAP events.

Jay Apfelbaum reminded the Board that Units may hold an NAP Unit final at any time between September 1 and the date of the District finals. There may be one, two or three events as flights can be combined or left to stand alone. Participants must be club-qualified but do not need to play in order to advance to the District finals. Participants are playing for masterpoints only. Harrisburg plans such a game on September 28.

GNT

Tom Henson reported for Walt Mitchell who did not make the trip due to not feeling well. Tom reported that Walt is moving the 2015 District finals to a hotel and has three on reserve near I-81 between Scranton and Wilkes-Barre. He shall negotiate with each to get the best deal.

EDUCATION

Corey Krantz was not in attendance and did not provide a report.

INTERMEDIATE/NEWCOMER

Ala Hamilton-Day was not in attendance but provided a report summarized as follows. Ala helped out at the July 299er held at the Pine Run Community (Life Care Facility) in Doylestown, PA. She, and the many players she heard from, complemented the facility and the organization of the event. The facility has nice playing space for 26 tables, multiple nearby restrooms, and a lovely formal dining room where lunch is served to the table and ample nearby parking. Jane Ball, the Tournament Chairperson pre-registered the pairs into a 0-20 event and also a 100/200/300 event (and sold out early for the morning session and later on, the afternoon). Along with Ala, Jane worked the floor as the events were scored with Bridgemates and many players had limited or no prior exposure to the devices. Bill Bauer directed.

Regarding the Valley Forge Regional, Ala feels the I/N players continue to need and deserve special treatment. These players like to be greeted by name and congratulated when they win. They like both the mugs given to the winners and having their pictures taken and posted. Ala had some assistance from others but will only be handling the scheduling of speakers for the morning expert lecturers and the afternoon expert tips at two next year. So the tournament will need someone else to take over the I/N table and the other tournament I/N Chairperson responsibilities.

Bob thanked Craig for his role in having the ACBL Board restore one-day NLM Sectional sanctions after about a two year prohibition.

ATLANTIC CITY REGIONAL EXPLORATORY COMMITTEE

Bob Priest said that a lot of players over the years have asked whether a Regional would ever be held again in Atlantic City. This interest led District Tournament Chairperson, John Marks, to look into things like hotel rates. He then presented his preliminary findings to the Tournament Committee meeting in Claymont during the April Regional. The Committee felt the exploration should continue for a stand-alone or split-site Regional in April 2017, scheduled to begin on a Sunday and run through Friday to take advantage of attractive room rates. The Executive Committee, meeting in Valley Forge, also felt the exploration should continue. So, after the Regional, Bob appointed Meyer Kotkin (Acting Tournament Chair), Bob Glasson (hotel negotiations) and Rick Rowland (Finance) to continue exploring. There is nothing concrete at this point but 4 or 5 hotels/casinos are willing to talk about hosting a tournament in the four months they generally have sufficient space available (January, February, July and August). John Marks will continue to be involved by assisting Bob Glasson. While not encouraging, Bob Glasson and John Marks will keep exploring the possibility of an April tournament. More information is hoped to be available for the Lancaster Board meeting.

TOURNAMENT

The Tournament Committee met during the 2014 Claymont (Wilmington) and Valley Forge Regionals and considered such items as a possible split-site or stand-alone Regional in Atlantic City. The main attraction is the reasonable room rates from Sunday evening through Thursday evening. For that reason, the schedule would be Sunday through Friday.

The other major topic was the NAP District finals proposal by Jay Apfelbaum. Jay previewed the proposal that he made earlier in this meeting. The proposal was well received by the committee.

TOURNAMENT REPORTS:

- Valley Forge**
(6/16 – 6/22/14)
- John Marks provided Bill a financial report that showed an an approx. \$8,614 profit on 1,427.5 tables. Joann added that John booked more downstairs space for 2015.

- Lancaster**
(10/27 – 11/2/14) - Deb & John Klinger were not present. However, they sent an e-mail about printed daily bulletins. Bob replied that the District tournament policy does not prohibit daily bulletins. However, the tournament budget should show a reasonable profit. Not all tournaments are sharing their budget with the Treasurer for approval however.

- Harrisburg (split)**
(5/11 – 5/17/15) - Bob Priest reported that the 2015 split-site regional tournament will be held at the Harrisburg Radisson. Splitting with an August tournament such as Syracuse does not work well due to the proximity of the summer NABC and the Hunt Valley Regional.

- Rochester (split)**
(5/11 – 5/17/15) - The Rochester Regional returns in 2015 and will be a split-site regional with Harrisburg.

- Syracuse**
(8/4 – 8/10/14) - The Tournament is on track to match last year's attendance. (990 tables). The attendance has been bolstered by the Gold Rush events and the morning/afternoon game times. Bob complimented the tournament committee for outstanding hospitality and for the time of day hospitality was provided.

- Delaware**
(3/31 – 4/6/14) - Rick Rowland said a downtown Wilmington hotel was willing to host the tournament for \$38,000! End of discussion.

- Wilkes-Barre**
(3/2 – 3/8/15) - Bill reported for Walt Mitchell that the Regional again will be held at the Woodlands Inn & Resort.

DISTRICT DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Craig reported that there will now be an additional four 0-10,000 events at the NABC's for a total of six. Some NABC events will be shifting from one NABC to another and some events made longer.

Regionals may now run for seven full days rather than 6-1/2 days. The change will permit two-session gold point events to be held on Mondays. There will be a \$1.00/pp surcharge for Charity (details to be announced) on Mondays. There are some logistical issues, however, if the Regional is on a 10:00 and 2:30 schedule.

The ACBL is concerned about the attrition in tournament director ranks. For this reason, Sylvia Harding of the ACBL has developed a program to equip a Director to be a Sectional Tournament DIC in 7 months.

Addressing the problem the ACBL created by permitting only an A/X pairs (750 to infinity) on top of a Gold Rush Pairs, Craig expects the Board will approve, upon second reading in Providence in the Fall, that an A/B/C can be held parallel with the Gold Rush

event and large Regionals can have two parallel events – a B/C and an A/X pairs. The change passed on 1st reading 25-0.

There are numerous revisions being made to point awards for pairs and team games including decreasing the depth of overall awards.

Craig reminded the Board that his full report is on the District website.

OLD BUSINESS

Bill Bauer read John Marks report on the district tables into the record. John reported that all District tables have been refurbished and were used at the Valley Forge Regional. The project was done in two stages. First, 50 tables were refurbished. Second, the remaining 110 tables were refurbished per the Board directive at the Lancaster 2013 Board meeting. There are 160 District tables in storage at Inner-Space at District expense and 50 District tables stored at Bala Golf Club, the Philadelphia Unit paying for storage in return for use at their Sectional tournaments held at Bala. The tables at Bala were in good condition and did not need to be refurbished.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no item of new business.

NEXT MEETING

Bob Priest announced that the Board will meet at the Lancaster Host during the Regional on Saturday, November 1, 2014 at 10:00AM preceded by breakfast..

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Bill Bauer
District 4 Secretary

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