

DRAFT MINUTES OF ACBL DISTRICT 4 BOARD MEETING
Doubletree Hotel, King of Prussia, Pennsylvania
June 22, 2013

Voting Member Attendees:

- At-Large: Tom Weik (President), Bob Priest (1st VP), Dan Boye (2nd VP)
Craig Robinson (District Director), Walt Mitchell (IPP), Barry Gorski (Pres. Appt.), John Schwartz (Pres. Appt.) (7 of 7)
- Unit 112: Mike Mihevc, Mary Poplawski, Harry Nuckols (for Walt Gable) (3 of 6)
- Unit 120: Ray Depew, George Mansour (for Bill Orth) (2 of 2)
- Unit 121: Gene O'Brien (for Sue Wessner) (1 of 2)
- Unit 133: Stan Yellin (for Frank Kuebler), Chuck Campbell (2 of 2)
- Unit 141: Ala Hamilton-Day (for Mike Giesler), Joann Glasson, Meyer Kotkin, John Marks, April Uhlenburg, Dave Legrow, Corey Krantz, Tom Sakaguchi, Everett Young, Terry Coughlin, Jay Apfelbaum (for Tom Purl), Ray Raskin (for Bruce Lang) (12 for 12)
- Unit 168: Andie Shaeffer, Linda Ivanoff, John Klinger, Kathleen Del Corso (4 of 5)
- Unit 190: John Strange (for Trina Williams), Caroline Hughes (for Barbara Rhoades), Carole Everitt (for Carl Williams, Bill Everitt (for Julie Hockersmith) (4 of 4)
- Unit 217: Ed Bissell (1 of 2)

CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS

A meeting of the ACBL District 4 Board of Directors was held at the Doubletree Hotel, King of Prussia site of the Valley Forge Regional, June 22, 2013. Tom Weik, President, called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM, a quorum being present (36 of 42 voting members representing 8 of 8 units).

SECRETARY'S REPORT & APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF DEC. 8, 2012

The minutes of the Lancaster Board meeting of December 8, 2012 were unanimously approved with one correction. Bob Priest stated that the Harrisburg Regional will be held in 2013 and 2015, but not 2014 (see page 6).

Bill reminded the Board that the minutes appear on the District website.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Rick Rowland distributed the Balance Sheet and Profit & Loss Statements for the District as of the end of the fiscal year, May 31, 2013. The District has \$157K (including the National Reserve Fund of \$109K) in bank accounts and advances to tournaments outstanding of \$27K for total current assets of \$185K. The ACBL's first Grass Roots Fund payment to the District occurred this fiscal year (to be used for GNT promotion). The District continues to save money by e-mailing the 4Spot. The District paid out more in GNT & NAP expenses as the teams went further into the competition compared to the prior year and the District had an additional team participate compared to the prior year. The Board approved the Treasurer's report.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Tom said his Presidential year has been enjoyable so far. He is coping with a "learning curve" not having been involved in District matters previously. He has some ideas for improving District operations and shared them with the Executive committee which met two evenings ago.

RATIFICATION OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ACTIONS

There have been no Executive committee actions since the Lancaster Board meeting. An informal meeting, with no actions taken, took place two evenings ago.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

PUBLICITY

Joann began by thanking April Uhlenburg for promoting the Longest Day yesterday, a partnership of the ACBL and the Alzheimer's Foundation. \$2,000 was raised. Joann next provided some website traffic statistics as follows:

1. This month, the District 4 website attracted 2,952 individual visits (highest month ever).
2. The Valley Forge Regional website received 2,520 visits.
3. The Harrisburg Regional website attracted 608 visits.
4. The Syracuse Regional website received 329 visits.

Joann requested ideas for postings on the website.

DISTRICT 4SPOT

Craig reported for Elaine. Elaine requests ideas to include in the 4Spot. Tom Weik added his appreciation for the job Elaine does.

TOURNAMENT COORDINATOR

John Marks reported that he is trying to complete the 2014 tournament calendar but still needs input from Units 120 & 168 plus the GNT & NAP dates.

John pointed out that he received a cancellation notice for the 2013 Flight "C" sanction from the ACBL. The sanction needs to be reinstated.

UPDATE from Mike Giesler: The 2013 NAP Flight "C" District finals at clubs were never cancelled. The problem occurred as a result of bugs in the ACBL's new Tourney TRAX system.

The remainder of this section includes motions relating to STaC's as proposed by Bob Priest in the agenda. The original motion was:

"No Unit may hold or accept an invitation to participate in any STaC on a week containing, or immediately following, a sanctioned Sectional in its own or any immediately adjacent Unit. Said prohibition shall also apply to all STaC's the week immediately before and immediately after any District 4 Regional."

Bob pointed out in support of his motion that a Unit 112 STaC fell on top of a 20-year old Unit 168 Sectional. In 2013 a Unit 112 STaC appeared as a D-4 STaC and fell on top of a Unit 168 Sectional. In 2014, a Unit 112 STaC is on the same week as the Harrisburg Sectional.

Bob noted that the motion would place the responsibility on the Tournament Coordinator (John M.) so Bob inquired of John whether he has visibility of which units have been invited to participate in any STaC. John said he now has the visibility as STaC-sponsoring units must list all participating units.

There was considerable discussion with some Board members questioning the impact on a Regional. Next, an amendment was proposed to remove the week after an NLM Sectional.

Craig pointed out that the ACBL requires that every club in a Unit be invited if a Unit is invited to participate in another's STaC and not just "select" clubs.

The Board decided to table this motion indefinitely for further research on what tournaments need protection.

Bob Priest offered a new motion. "A Unit sponsoring a STaC and desiring to include another Unit(s) must obtain the permission of the invitee's Tournament Coordinator in order to add the other Unit to its STaC". This motion passed.

Secretary's comment: The District Tournament Coordinator, John Marks, should be copied on both the request and the approval or disapproval e-mails. If approval is given, then one of the parties should notify clubs in the approving unit.

CHARITY

April Uhlenburg thanked everyone for their support of the Longest Day, the joint ACBL-Alzheimer's Foundation fundraiser. Players have until July 16 to make a donation through the ACBL website.

John Klinger noted that he held morning and afternoon games yesterday (the "Longest Day") with 15 and 23 tables respectively and raised \$456 in donations and more from auctioning coupons from area businesses for a total raised of \$2,201. Debi & John Klinger, Ed Scanlon and Andie Shaeffer organized and conducted the event.

FINANCE

Dave Kresge was not present.

NAP

Mike Giesler was unable to attend. Tom Weik read Mike Giesler's written report in its entirety as follows:

1. This year's club qualification is underway and will continue through June, July and August.
2. District Finals
 - a. Flight "A" District Finals will take place October 19-20 at the Harrisburg Bridge club in Camp Hill, PA.
 - b. Flight "B" District Finals will be at split sites on October 26. The two sites are:
 - 1) Bridge Studio in Wilmington, DE
 - 2) Bridge Studio in Vestal, NY
 - c. Flight "C" District Finals will be "at clubs" on October 19. Four clubs have signed up so far:
 - Harrisburg Bridge Club in Camp Hill
 - North Penn Duplicate Bridge Club in Lansdale, PA
 - NEPA-DBC in Clarks Summit, PA
 - Shuffles Bridge Club in Ocean View, DE
3. District 4 club qualification on line on BBO

At the last Board meeting it was agreed that we explore the possibility of holding an NAP club level qualification online on BBO to facilitate more players getting qualified for playing in the District finals.

 - a. BBO was very helpful and encouraging and said that they could host the event meeting all of our technical requirements.
 - b. The District NAP coordinator was in favor of holding this event.
 - c. The District 4 President was in favor of the event.
 - d. The District 4 District Director was in favor of the event at least on an experimental basis.
 - e. The Unit 141 President and Tournament Director were in favor of the event.
 - f. If a local club was needed to host the event, one was available in Unit 141 to serve as the host club.

However, in the end, the ACBL would not approve trying out the event and suggested the idea be assigned to a committee.

Craig informed the Board of the current ACBL policy that BBO-based games can award "transparent" points only. Further, BBO cannot restrict participants to only one District. These restrictions may be modified in the future. Mike Giesler and ACBL CEO Robert Hartman have exchanged e-mails on the subject. Craig and Tom also spoke to CEO Hartman.

GNT

Ray Depew reported that the May GNT District finals were reasonably successful.

Ray provided the participation history as follows in an e-mail to the Secretary after the meeting:

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>FLIGHT UNLIMITED</u>	<u>FLIGHT A</u>	<u>FLIGHT B</u>	<u>FLIGHT C</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
2013	7	5	8	3	23
2012	8	5	13	6	32
2011	4	6	12	6	28
2010	5	8	15	12	40
2009	7	8	13	6	34
2008	7	7	8	5	27
2007	7	8	11	10	36
2006	9	7	14	8	38
2005	9	7	19	10	45
2004	12	2	8	3	25
2003	10	3	11	4	28

EDUCATION

Corey Krantz reported on the successful “Learn-Bridge-in-a-Day” workshop held in Lancaster. Andie Shaeffer organized the session and Corey did the presentation. Participants were given a list of teachers and clubs. Approximately 40 attended and it is anticipated that about 20% will enroll in a lesson series or begin playing at a club. Positive feedback has been received. No other workshops have been scheduled throughout the District as of this meeting but the Philadelphia Unit is close to announcing a workshop.

UPDATE: Since the Board meeting, the Philadelphia Unit will conduct a workshop at Bala GC on September 21. Mike Giesler and Wendy Dechadarevian are organizing and planning the workshop.

Mary Poplawski indicated that she would like to run a workshop. Corey advised that information on conducting the event may be found on the District website.

Bill asked about a similar program that Sue Wessner (Unit 121 President) had told him about earlier in the week when she was present. A representative from Reading stated that a beginner’s game has been started at a retirement center for the residents. The space is provided free. About 40 players are involved. One feature is that an experienced player is assigned to each table to review the bidding and play after a hand is completed.

INTERMEDIATE/NEWCOMER

Ala Hamilton-Day reminded the Board of what the I/N’s like: funny hats, “ask me” desk, candy bars for prizes, recognition (applause), pictures being taken and posted at the tournament and website, special luncheon and speakers. Many compliments have been received over the years. Ala has stepped down from the position of Philadelphia Regional Tournament Committee I/N Chairperson. She remains District 4 Chairperson.

Tom Weik had invited Caroline Hughes, an NLM from Delaware, to attend this Board meeting. She was asked for her thoughts. Caroline, being an NLM, has a different perspective than board members. She recalls clearly being new to bridge and club play. She said that new players need a person to help them along and answer questions, like Ala did for Caroline at the Wilmington Bridge Studio. Caroline reminded the board that bridge is social game. Partnership formation methods need to be developed. A focus on retention of new players is also important.

TOURNAMENT

John Marks reminded the Board that the District will host the Spring 2018 NABC (March 8-18) and that the NABC Committee will need plenty of volunteers.

TOURNAMENT REPORTS:

2018 Spring NABC – See John Marks remarks above.
(3/8 – 3/18/18)

Valley Forge
(6/17 – 6/24/13) - John Marks reported that the 2013 Valley Forge Regional attendance is up by about 10% compared to last year when the tournament was held in late February/early March. He noted that this was the first year since 2008 that the Regional was held during its traditional week.

Lancaster
(10/31 – 11/6/13) - John Klinger reminded the Board that Lancaster is returning to its traditional week this year and in the future.

Harrisburg
(7/22 – 7/28/13) - Bob Priest reported that the tournament will be played at the Park Inn by Radisson on Carlisle Pike off Route 581 in Mechanicsburg. Reservations are 2-1/2 times expectation. Based upon room nights booked, Bob now expects 750 – 800 tables. The 2015 Regional will be held at the Radisson in Harrisburg close to the Harrisburg Bridge Club. Bob has signed the 2015 contract and requests that Rochester (Syracuse) adhere to the week New York selected.

Syracuse
(7/22 - 7/28/13) - Mike Mihevc reported that Syracuse has again scheduled the two-session events for 10:00AM and 3:00 PM. The change in time resulted in a big increase in attendance last year.

The 2015 Regional has been planned to return to Rochester. However, a change in personnel at the host site has created problems. Bob Priest reminded the Board and NY Unit that he has a signed contract for the scheduled week.

Delaware
(3/31 – 4/6/14) - Rick Rowland said publicity is underway. The same playing site will host the Regional.

Wilkes-Barre
(3/4 – 3/10/13)

- Ray reported that the regional made money. He thanked all the volunteers for their hard work. Ray announced his retirement from being Tournament Chairperson. Ray received a hearty round of applause for all his service. Walt Mitchell will succeed Ray.

DISTRICT DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Craig Robinson noted that the St. Louis NABC introduced a 0 - 10,000 2-day Swiss T/4 event. This event will exclude 0.3% of ACBL members but 10% of those actually attending the Spring NABC.

ACBL regulations require that only A/X pairs can play opposite a Gold Rush Pairs. Those players with 750 to 2,000 or 3,000 points do not like their chances in an A/X pairs and do not play. The ACBL understands the problem and is trying to come up with a solution.

The Atlanta Summer NABC is the last to be scheduled for 10:00 and 3:00 (including the Philadelphia Spring 2018 NABC). The ACBL wants more input in the scheduling of Regionally-rated events at NABC's. The host may still sell naming rights to the Regional events.

Craig informed the board, that Philadelphia had the lowest number of plays/player in the past 12 years. We had enough players attend, except the players did not play enough number of times to meet the expected number of tables.

Craig noted that the ACBL does not have a trophy to award to the winner of the NABC event named for Norman Kay (the Norman Kay Platinum Pairs played at the Spring NABC). Members of the board briefly considered purchasing the trophy for the ACBL until Craig noted that the trophy cost \$7,500 to \$10,000. It seems trophies for named NABC events are always donated. Judy Kay is willing to pay for the annual engraving cost but not the trophy itself.

Meyer Kotkin questioned Craig about the disparity in the Pairs game awards from day-to-day. Craig said when the A/X pairs is played opposite a Gold Rush Pairs, the A/X pairs awards get credit for the table count in the Gold Rush Pairs. When an open pairs is opposite a Compact K/O, there is no table credit leading to the disparity of the overall awards in two games of the same size. Craig supported a motion before the ACBL BOD to base awards on the strength of field but the motion was defeated 13-11.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Members asked John about the table refurbishment project status. John said that 50 tables were refurbished for this Regional at a cost of \$25/table. A new lesser quality table costs \$32. Replacing an old steel table with a new steel table would

cost around \$90. John will have 50 more tables refurbished of the District's 230 tables.

2. Bob Priest inquired about the purchase of more bidding box inserts. This suggestion led Joann to request approval to buy more bidding box replacement inserts. The board asked Joann to see if there were any significant quantity cost breaks should the District form a consortium with Units and clubs in the District for a joint purchase. The Board approved a \$2,000 expenditure.

NEW BUSINESS

There were no items of new business.

NEXT MEETING

The next Board meeting will take place during the Lancaster Regional on Saturday morning, November 2, 2013 at 10:00 AM preceded by breakfast.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:40 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Bill Bauer
District 4 Secretary
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