

DRAFT MINUTES OF ACBL DISTRICT 4 BOARD MEETING
King of Prussia, Pennsylvania
July 1, 2016

Voting Member Attendees:

- At-Large: Dan Boye (President), Ed Bissell (IPP), Joann Glasson (District Dir.),
Tom Weik (Pres. Appointee) (4 of 6) Note: 2 vacancies.
- Unit 112: Jonathan Forde, Mary Poplawski, Harry Nuchols, Jerry Manioci (4 of 6)
- Unit 120: Bill Orth (Unit Pres.), George Mansour (2 of 2)
- Unit 121: Sue Wessner (Unit Pres.), Brian Snyder (2 of 2)
- Unit 133: Stan Yellin (Unit Pres.), Dave Kresge (2 of 2)
- Unit 141: John Dickenson (Unit Pres.), Mike Giesler, Tom Purl, Meyer Kotkin,
Bob Glasson, Pat Civale, Dave Legrow (for Jay Apfelbaum), April Uhlenburg
(for April Apfelbaum), Ken Chatzinoff, Everett Young, Allison Brandt, Ray
Raskin (12 of 12)
- Unit 168: Bridget Whitley (Unit Pres.) Barry Gorski, Debi Klinger, John Klinger, Ian
Milnes (5 of 5)
- Unit 190: Alan Horowitz (Unit Pres.), Karen Pollak, Ala Hamilton-Day, Richard Popper
(4 of 4)
- Unit 217: No representatives (0 of 2)

Also Present

Rick Rowland, D4 Treasurer
Walter Mitchell, GNT Coordinator and 2nd alternate District Director (Board of
Governor's member
Bob Cole, 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 the King of Prussia Doubletree by Hilton, July 1, 2016. Dan Boye, President, called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM, a quorum being present (35 of 41 voting members representing 7 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: Jonathan Forde
Unit 121: Brian Snyder, Unit VP
Unit 141: Pat Civale
Unit 168: Bridget Whitley (Unit Pres.). Ian Milnes

SECRETARY'S REPORT & APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF OCTOBER 31, 2015

The minutes of the Lancaster Board meeting of October 31, 2015 were unanimously approved with one correction at the bottom of page 1 (Unit 112 not 122). Bill reminded the Board that the minutes appear on the District website.

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, 2016) balance sheet reflects a \$205K cash balance (including \$109K in the Nationals Account) and \$16K of outstanding advances to Tournament Committees for total assets of \$221K.

The fiscal year-end P&L statement shows a District net income of \$7K aided by Regional profitability.

District expenses remained in line for the past fiscal year ended May 31, 2016. We were finally invoiced and paid the ACBL for a past Teacher Accreditation Program (TAP) as well as for the upcoming TAP at the Lancaster Regional for at a total cost of \$3,500. There was no offsetting revenue in the past fiscal year.

The Board approved the Treasurer's report unanimously.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Dan Boye announced that Rick Rowland, Treasurer, was retiring effective upon the election of a new treasurer later in this meeting. Dan thanked Rick for his 14 years of service as District Treasurer. Rick's successor will be elected later in the meeting.

Due to district Director Craig Robinson's relocation out of the District, Joann Glasson moved up from 1st alternate District Director to become District Director after the Reno Spring NABC. Richard Popper moved up to 1st Alternate District Director.

Elaine Landow who also relocated was replaced on the Board of Governors by the Presidential Appointment of Allison Brandt.

By Presidential appointment, Walter Mitchell, was selected to be 2nd Alternate District Director.

All of the above fill out the current term of the person who vacated their position.

Dan announced the resignation of District 4 Vice President, John Schwartz in April. John's successor will be elected later in the meeting.

RATIFICATION OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ACTION

Dan Boye requested that the Board affirm the Executive Committee's decision to increase the STaC table fee from \$6.00/table to \$7.00/table effective with the August 2016 District STaC.

The information included with the agenda noted that the ACBL had increased the per table sanction by this amount or a bit more depending upon the number of tables in the STaC.

Mary Poplawski questioned whether the Grass Roots Fund had any tie-in to the STaC. Joann explained that when a club or Unit elects to hold a Grass Roots game, the funds come back to the District but are to be used to promote the NAP and GNT events.

The motion to affirm the Executive Committee action carried unanimously.

PUBLICITY

Joann Glasson reported that the ACBL offers a free 1st year subscription to a new marketing tool. This targeted mailing program is available to units as well districts. Players in surrounding units may also be included in the targeted mailing.

Joann noted that once again some bidding boxes were in poor condition. So, Joann moved for the District to spend \$500 for plastic bidding card replacement sets at \$27.00 per set. Joann and her helpers handled the past replacement of bidding box inserts and will do so again during the Lancaster Regional. The motion was approved.

DISTRICT 4SPOT

Allison Brandt has taken over 4SPOT responsibility from Elaine Landow starting with this past June's issue. She will utilize Constant Contact which allows for all links that are contained in the 4SPOT to be "hot links".

Allison recommends that the 4SPOT become a monthly publication as the information would be timelier. She requests concurrence from the Units as their submissions would become monthly rather than quarterly. Of course, a Unit could miss a month if there was nothing to report or publicize. Dave Kresge emphasized that Units should notify Allison if they are not going to submit a report so that publication is not held up.

President Boye thanked Allison for all her work.

TOURNAMENT COORDINATOR

John Marks was not present. The Secretary did receive John's e-mailed report but not in time to read it at the meeting. His report follows:

Unit Tournament Coordinators please finalize and complete your Unit's tournament schedule for 2017 and start submitting your schedules for 2018.

CHARITY

April Uhlenburg reported that the District did not hold a Longest Day fundraising event because the Valley Forge Regional was held a week later this year. Harrisburg BC raised \$2,000, Mary Poplawski's club about \$1,500 and John Klinger's Lancaster Club, \$1,400. Mary Miller also held a game in her New York club. Dan requested that those clubs that held a Longest Day event let April know how much was raised and sent to the ACBL.

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

April noted that the District's allocation from the ACBL's Charity Foundation will occur in 2017. April will propose a process to be used by the District's units to select the beneficiaries. The last allocations were made based upon grant applications. The charity need not have any relationship to bridge but it is the hope of the ACBL that the charity will help publicize that a bridge organization made a donation.

FINANCE

Dave Kresge reported that he had received all tournament reports.

Dave mentioned that Jay Whipple (D9 district Director) is promoting a program to increase attendance at regionals. Jay asks clubs to issue a free regional play certificate to any player who has never played in a regional (with the purchase of an entry). Further, when the certificate is redeemed, the issuing club receives a payment equivalent to the club's regular entry fee. Dave was requested to bring the details to the Lancaster board meeting.

NAP

Bob reported that the various District Finals will be held as follows:

Flight "A" will be held October 15 & 16 in "Philadelphia" this year, specifically at the AMI Bridge Club in Langhorne (convenient to the PA TPK, 295 and Route 1).

Flight "B" will be held October 22 at two sites, Harrisburg Bridge Club and in Endwell, NY.

Flight "C" will be held October 15 at Clubs electing to register to host the event. Bob noted that District 4 has the largest Flight "C" participation amongst all ACBL districts.

GNT

Bob Glasson has taken over for the retiring Walt Mitchell. Dan Boye thanked Walt for his service. Bob will bring the District finals to the Philadelphia/Wilmington area in 2017 after 15 years in Scranton/Wilkes-Barre. Walt reported that this year's attendance in Wilkes-Barre was up 8 tables over 2015 and equal to attendance in 2013 and 2014. Walt said that if relocating the tournament does not work out, the tournament is welcome back in W-B (the geographical center of the District). After the meeting, Bob informed the Secretary that Scranton/W-B did not have a site available to host the event in April/May.

EDUCATION

Dan Boye announced that Jerry Manioci would be taking over as Chairperson of this committee. Mary stated that the Lancaster Regional will host an ACBL Teacher Accreditation Program (TAP) which will begin on the Sunday morning preceding the Regional. The plan to host a TAP in conjunction with the Valley Forge Regional did not work out.

Mary would like to have a TAP or Better Bridge Teacher Training workshop every year, rotating among the various regionals. See motion adopted under New Business.

Next Mary requested to know how well Learn Bridge In A Day (LBIAD) fared. Some think the program was held successfully and others did not. The comment from John Klinger from Lancaster was that the session was too long. However, it was felt that the presenter, Corey Krantz, did an excellent job. It is believed that two attendees went on to play club duplicate bridge. Mary's own observation was that she did not like the material and did not enjoy the workshop.

INTERMEDIATE/NEWCOMER

Ala Hamilton-Day noted that I/N's do not want to play at night, preferring the morning/afternoon tournament schedule, particularly morning sessions. Wilmington, with the 1:00 and 7:00 session starting times, did not have enough players to hold a single I/N session. At Valley Forge, some sessions had as many as 10-1/2 tables. Meyer Kotkin considers the program a success having introduced new players to tournament bridge.

TOURNAMENT

John Marks was not in attendance but submitted a report to the Secretary (which the Secretary did not open until he got home from the meeting). In his report, John indicated that he received reports for both the 2016 Wilmington Regional and the 2015 Valley Forge Regional.

Several motions appeared on the agenda relating to the conduct of District Regionals.

DISTRICT EQUIPMENT

The first set of motions on the agenda related to District equipment. An inventory of District equipment appeared in the agenda supporting material. It was the intention of President Boye to bring a motion on renting to entities other than our own Regional Committees. However, the motion is not ready.

So the policy of allowing our Regional Tournament Committees to use the equipment rent-free continues and it is proposed that units within the District have the same privilege (if the equipment is not being used by a District tournament). In all cases of the use of District equipment, the Tournament Committee is responsible for the cost of moving the equipment to the playing site and returning the equipment to the storage facility, currently Inner-Space in Philadelphia. The tournament committees are also responsible for the cost to replace lost or damaged equipment. A motion to this effect was made and approved by the Board.

Marc Labovitz is to be the primary contact for Tournament chairpersons desiring to use District equipment.

The motion to purchase additional equipment was not introduced at the meeting. However, the board authorized the purchase of \$500 of plastic bidding box inserts (see Joann Glasson's Publicity Committee Report.)

FRAGRANCE FREE POLICY

The board next took up the matter of a Fragrance Free Policy as it appeared in the agenda supporting material.

Dan Boye started the discussion with an overview of the "Fragrance Free" policy. The matter of "Fragrance Free" is an ACBL initiative. Many districts have Fragrance Free policies. The underlying health issue is that many people are allergic to fragrances. Our objective should be to have in place a uniform policy throughout the District and to educate players to adhere to the policy by advertising the policy such as on tournament flyers.

The proposed policy as it appears in the agenda follows:

The following Fragrance Policy must be included in all District 4 tournament flyers, Regional Bulletins and the Tournament Policy Manual:

All Regional tournaments in District 4 are fragrance free. Players must refrain from wearing any of the following: cologne, after shave lotion, perfume, perfumed hand lotion, fragranced hair products, and/or similar products when participating in our tournaments. These fragrances can cause serious health issues for migraine sufferers and players with breathing-related problems.

Strong scents, including fragrances, the smell of smoke, and poor personal hygiene violate the Zero Tolerance Policy.

Considerable discussion ensued. Sue Wessner questioned how and who would enforce the policy. Dan said that enforcement is a major problem with which the ACBL is struggling. Members pointed to the lack of enforcement of the existing ACBL no-smoking policy (within 25 feet of the building). Rich Popper said there was not enough room on a tournament flyer to print the complete policy statement. Joann added that people with migraines are particularly sensitive to fragrances. Joann is hoping for voluntary compliance and the Board's and tournament committee's role is to educate players. This policy is a step in the right direction. Dan Boye agreed that this is a starting point and not the final resolution to the problem. He proposed that adoption of the policy be postponed until Lancaster at which time board members and advocates can look into other ACBL entity's policies. Jerry Manioci would like to know more about the health effects. Everett Young wants to urge clubs to follow a Fragrance Free Policy and

would retain the language in the proposed policy. Bob Glasson has spoken to Bernie Gorkin, ACBL Director, about the policy. Bernie related to Bob that players at Florida Regionals have been required to go shower between sessions.

Dan Boye asked Rich Popper to state a motion. Rich's motion (after two attempts) was to adopt the Fragrance Free policy with the only difference from the one stated above being that the Tournament flyer would only say "Fragrance Free". However, on-line versions of the flyer would have "Fragrance Free (click for more information)", such that players could "click" to read the entire policy and get further information.

The motion carried with no dissent.

While not specifically stated in the motion, a number of comments prior to the final motion being adopted made it clear that the initial emphasis should be on education rather than on enforcement. There was also much sentiment for including units in the policy and even some for including clubs (all within District 4) but those sentiments did not get included in the motion that was adopted. There were also some members who were unsure whether Zero Tolerance should be invoked at this time, but that language was retained in the motion.

ZERO TOLERANCE POLICY

The Board next considered the Zero Tolerance Policy motion presented with the agenda.

The motion that Joann Glasson prepared from ACBL and Unit 141 policies follows:

General Statement

The Board of Directors of District 4 is committed to improving acceptable player behavior at all times. The ultimate purpose of the Zero Tolerance policy is to create a more pleasant atmosphere at our tournaments. We are attempting to eradicate unacceptable behavior in order to make the game of bridge more enjoyable for all.

In accordance with Laws 74, 80B2(f), 81C4, 90A, 91, and 92A (Laws of Duplicate Bridge) the following policy outlines what is expected of all players during District 4 regionals, as well as in the playing area before and after each session.

Official Policy

Bad behavior is not tolerated at the table or anywhere at the tournament venue.

Examples include:

- * *Badgering, rudeness, intimidation, profanity, threats or violence toward anyone associated with the tournament*
- * *Negative comments regarding opponents' or partners' play or bidding*
- * *Unwelcome and constant lessons or analyses*
- * *Loud and disruptive arguing with a director's ruling*

If a player behaves in an unacceptable manner, the director should be called immediately.

In accordance with the Laws of Bridge, our directors are instructed to enforce Zero Tolerance penalties as follows:

1. At the start of each event, the director will announce that Zero Tolerance is strictly enforced. The director must be called whenever bad behavior occurs.
2. When called, the director shall determine if unacceptable behavior has occurred. If the director is satisfied unacceptable behavior has occurred, each offender will be assessed an immediate disciplinary penalty of $\frac{1}{4}$ board (3 IMPs in a team game). Any one or all four players at the table may be penalized for unacceptable behavior, regardless of who initiated the incident, and that if both members of a partnership are offenders their penalty may be doubled ($\frac{1}{2}$ board or 6 IMPs).
3. As a matter of District policy, the issuance of warnings is discouraged. Warnings may be issued by the director only when the facts cannot reasonably be determined. It is far better to make a clear determination in response to the director call. In the event a warning is issued to a player, the director will provide the party who made the director call with a Player Memo form and advise such party of the procedure for reporting the behavior.
4. If a player is assessed a second disciplinary penalty in the same event, he/she will be ejected from competition in future sessions of that event, if any. In addition, a disciplinary committee may be convened to determine whether the offender should be allowed to play in subsequent events at the tournament and/or whether additional sanctions are appropriate in accordance with ACBL disciplinary rules. An offender so ejected from an event shall be deemed not to have played the event: no master points may be awarded and no refunds will be made.
5. The director in charge of the tournament shall provide to the Tournament Chairman and the District Recorder a summary report of (a) all disciplinary penalties assessed for unacceptable behavior, and (b) all Player Memos handed out to persons who made director calls in regard to alleged unacceptable behavior.
6. Directors' decisions are final and not subject to appeal.

This motion was adopted as presented without discussion.

REDUCED FEE SHORT SESSIONS

The rational and motion appear under the Harrisburg Regional report.

TOURNAMENT REPORTS:

- Valley Forge**
(6/27 – 7/3/16)
- Meyer Kotkin reported that the table count was up 63 tables at this point with Tuesday being down and Wednesday and Thursday up. The I/N event attendance was up. The mid-flight 750-3,000 game was larger than the A/X pairs. Meyer thanked his Committee – Mike Giesler and Allison Brandt, Bruce Lang, Joann & Bob Glasson and Tournament Director, Marc Labovitz. Meyer along with Bob Glasson are looking for more handicap-friendly playing sites. But the ideal site they visited rents for \$75,000!
- Lancaster**
(10/31 – 11/6/2016)
- John Klinger reported that the 2015 Regional lost \$1,500. The Regional is moving! New dates: October 31 to Nov. 6 at 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 building is the former Armstrong Floor warehouse and is owned and managed by the Beiler family (of Auntie Anne’s Pretzel fame).
- We will have a 30,000 sq. ft. playing space costing just \$3,000 plus a \$15,000 food minimum. The facility has an attached 134 room hotel (Bridge rate is \$109/night) and another hotel has opened nearby. A Hampton Inn is two miles away. Other features include everything on one level; parking is free, 212-seat restaurant and a food court and snack bar. Reminder: The tournament will be switching to a morning/afternoon starting time format.
- Harrisburg (split)**
(5/1- 5/7/17)
- Bob Priest was not in attendance. There will be a split Regional with Rochester in 2017. Bob proposes some short session events in the evening and a correspondingly reduced card fee.

John Klinger read Bob’s rational and motion as follows:

The ACBL Board has made split Regional sites “free-standing” for events played and masterpoints awarded. Due to declining evening table counts, Bob wants to try a pair of experimental events. On Tuesday/Wednesday evenings, Bob proposes a cross-day (horizontal) Stratified Swiss T/4 with three 6-board matches/session. Starting at 7:00PM, it is anticipated that the sessions will end at 9:15 to 9:30 PM. Thursday and Friday evenings would be a cross-day (horizontal) Stratified Pairs with 18 boards per session.

Bob has verified with his DIC, Marilyn Wells that such events are permitted and will award gold points. No Saturday evening events will be held.

Bob requested Board approval to set the entry fee for both of these shorter session events at \$10.00/player/session rather than the customary \$13.00/player/session.

The motion was adopted unanimously. The motion was modified before adoption to explicitly state that the motion applies to all 18-board events at any of our regionals.

Rochester (split)
(5/1 – 5/7/17) - Mary Miller was not in attendance. However, she provided the Secretary with the following report. The contract with the RIT Inn and Conference Center (same location as 2015) has been signed.

Syracuse
(8/1 – 8/7/16) - Mary Miller was not in attendance. However, she provided the following report. The Committee believes the tournament is in good shape. The Committee has done a lot of publicity and the hotel room reservations are on a par with 2014 (same Holiday Inn Liverpool/Syracuse location). The Committee has been unsure about the effect on attendance of the Washington DC NABC ending the day before. Several “big name” players are planning to attend. The tournament will kick off with a workshop conducted by Patti Lee. The morning speakers are nationally known players including Joann Glasson, Chris Compton, Donna Compton, Dan Boye and a local teacher and I/N Coordinator, Sally Hill. And the tournament has become known for great hospitality!

The Syracuse 2018 Regional will be held August 13- August 19. The contract with the Holiday Inn has been signed.

Delaware
(3/28 – 4/3/16) - Bruce Gwaltney could not attend but provided a written report to the Secretary which reads. “Attendance at the 2016 Delaware Regional increased by 10 tables over 2014. The Regional made \$10,500 profit. The next Delaware Regional is scheduled for April 30 – May 5, 2018. We considered alternate venues but the only option proved unsatisfactory so the tournament will continue at the Claymont Crowne Plaza. Herb and Kathy Chalek have agreed to be vice-chairs. We request the District’s approval to switch the main events from afternoon/evening to morning/afternoon.”

NOTE: The Secretary informed Bruce that the event starting times are under the control of the Regional Tournament Committee. Board action is not needed.

Wilkes-Barre
(2/27 – 3/5/17)

- Walt reminded the Board that the weather did not cooperate in 2015 and that players from the Harrisburg, Philadelphia and Delaware areas did not support the Regional. In 2017, the Regional will still feature \$99 rooms including full breakfast.

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

Joann presented a request to hold three week-long, one week-per-year, NABC promotional games at clubs throughout the District as permitted by the ACBL to raise funds for hospitality and entertainment (perhaps entertainers as prominent as the Beach Boys). Clubs voluntarily participate and pay an extra \$4.00/table surcharge which the ACBL collects and passes back to the District Nationals Fund. The incentive is triple masterpoint awards. Joann moved to hold the first week long event from October 24 -30, 2016 with weeks to follow in the Spring of 2017 and early 2018. The motion to hold these events was approved.

DISTRICT DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Joann said that she is proud and happy to be our new District Director completing Craig Robinson's term in office. Craig served through the Reno Spring NABC prior to his relocating outside the District.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business.

NEW BUSINESS

Mary Poplawski moved that another ACBL TAP or Audrey Grant Better Bridge accreditation workshop be held in 2017.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT AND ELECTION OF OFFICERS

The District Nominating Committee, chaired by District Director Joann Glasson, met Wednesday evening to propose nominees to the Vice President and Treasurer vacancies. The committee recommended the following replacements who will serve through the Lancaster Regional at which time they may be re-elected:

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.

Joann thanked Rick for his years of service.

NEXT MEETING

A regular meeting of the Board and the Election of Officers will take place Friday evening, November 4, 2016 (at the conclusion of the afternoon session) during the Lancaster Regional to be held at Spooky Nook, Manheim, PA.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

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