

**ACBL DISTRICT 11
BOARD MEETING
September 8, 2018
Dayton Regional
Final**

In attendance:

Officers – Terrell Holt, President; Cheryl Schneider, Vice President, Potter Orr, Treasurer; Maribeth Ransel, Secretary

Voting Members – Unit 117: John Van Cleve, Kit Overpeck (alternate); Unit 122: Cheryl Schneider (alternate for Courtright); Unit 124: Steve Moese; Mike Lipp; Unit 130: Liz Brown, Maribeth Ransel; Unit 136: Georgia Banziger, Lori Horner (alternate for Camillus); Unit 164: Andra Gyor, Sondra Holt;

Members – AJ Stephani, District Director; Vangie Smith, Education Chair.

Call to order – Terrell Holt

- Meeting called to order. Terrell thanked the following for their work in preparing for meeting: AJ, Steve, Vangie, Potter, and then welcomed members and alternates.

Secretary's Report – Maribeth Ransel

- Georgia stated that the correct address/zip code of new Dayton Bridge Center is 4559 Marshall Road; Kettering, OH, 45429 (top of page 2). Minutes from Cincinnati meeting approved as corrected.

Treasurer's Report – Potter Orr

- \$1500 negative difference from last year to this year because of buying tournament supplies and because we have less income from units for Midwest Monitor;
- Balance sheet – more money in account from last year because of receipt of Grassroots checks;
- Checking account shows \$30,644;
- Potter received bill for Louisville Regional for advertising; given to Sondra Holt for payment;
- Q Do units pay for their own members' meals at board dinners? A Yes, but the bill is submitted to the units once per year and that will happen at the end of the year, thus showing as an expense at present;
- Report accepted and filed.

District Director's Report – AJ Stephani

- CEO search underway; will take more time to make sure good pool of candidates is available;
- Major departure of staff: Director of Tournament Operations; Event Planner; Contract Negotiator; Chief of Technology are no longer with ACBL;
- Joe Jones is Acting Director and board has complete faith he will assemble competent replacement staff.

Tournament Coordinator Report – AJ Stephani

- Georgia asked if second clock could be purchased for use at tournaments. AJ suggested Unit 124 has clock they are not using and it is possible they can donate it. Terrell suggested that if it is not available, the District should purchase a second clock. (Jackie Merkel has District's current clock);
- Sanction requests are coming in and it appears there are no conflicts;
- Kaleidoscope Tournament is coming up in Cincinnati with both Sectional/Regional points available, and finals for the C strat of NAP for District qualifiers;
- Maribeth reported a player asked that message be passed to the Board that players are very appreciative of cleaned up bidding boxes.

NAP and GNT Coordinator Report – Ryan Schultz

- Ryan’s survey report was sent and is self-explanatory;
- NAP has been moved a little earlier into the fall and GNT will take place later in the year (March/April) so more snowbirds will be able to participate.

Webmaster Report– Steve Moese

- All minutes and documents have been received and will be added to the website;
 - Ethics document needs a few corrections to links but Steve asked for approval of document with corrections to be made.
- ⇒ **Moved and seconded to approve the current wording of the District Ethics document, and agree to Steve’s making corrections to the final links in the document, and to then post the corrected document on the District website. (VanCleve/Lipp – Unanimous approval);**
- **Q** How can this document be used? A Steve is willing to put together some points that are most important to highlight for those wanting to use the document. Steve would like it to be used by those teaching at the club level as an instructional piece for new members. Maribeth suggested that we might also pull important pages to be used/highlighted by D11 Education Committee when they communicate with units and clubs (such as items on courtesy). These could be sent via Pianola to segmented parts of the membership; Terrell suggested that it be used for new classes at clubs;
 - Because the activity report for the website is complex, Potter and Steve will present short reports every few months to update the Board on the use of the site;
 - Brad B. told Steve that he will put past Midwest Monitors in PDF format and send to Steve;
 - Potter will take the box that contains one copy of every Monitor for ongoing storage. Scanning old Monitors into the website would use too much data and can’t be done; Potter may know someone who can scan the documents at a reasonable expense;
 - Member stories can be sent to Steve for publication on website, but suggest stories always have photos. Pictures should not be embedded in text but should be sent as picture file.

ACBL Board of Governors Report – Steve Moese

- Steve put through several recent proposals to the ACBL Board. One proposal suggests that regional and sectional chairs provide space at tournaments for events that will attract new players and allow for exchange of ideas between managers and directors. Idea was accepted as a recommendation. The second suggestion was that ACBL add information to ACBL site to show where new players are coming from. Jay Whipple put together a document within two weeks which will be distributed when it can be in a format which is easily digested. There was also a proposal to recognize “growth leaders” by giving free plays to national events to teachers bringing in most new members. There was interest in the proposal, but concern that it favors large clubs. Proposal was deferred until it can be set up in a tiered system that would appropriately acknowledge smaller clubs and their teachers.
- Steve’s report on the business aspects of ACBL are posted on the website. They reflect many red numbers. Board members should review;
- Barbara Heller is going to work on new ideas for the Board of Governors to determine best way for BOG to be useful. If you have ideas, send to Steve.

Recorder Report – Potter Orr

- Two sheets received from DIC in Dayton, neither required action; another player memo was received in Cincinnati, no action was required.

Education Committee Report – Vangie Smith

- Thanks to Kit for his help; Friday night educational program featured discussion of tournaments with AJ and was a lively meeting with good discussion; at the Louisville tournament, there will be a Friday night program with discussion of the Common Game, as well as a presentation from the US rep for Pianola on how the service can best serve the needs of the District, units and clubs. Please send your ideas for future workshops to Vangie or Kit. Vangie and Kit will be working with Steve to put information on the D11 website.

Youth Coordinator Report – Isaac Stephani

- No report.

Dayton Regional Report – Georgia Banziger; Cheryl Schneider

- Georgia believes that **IF** they have 40 tables tomorrow, they will be down 40 tables from last year; Dayton is exploring ways to increase attendance next year;
- Discussion took place on the demise of interest in KO events; many possible reasons include change in points, increase in number of Gold Rush events (especially when they are offered every day during a tournament), and lack of education at club level to encourage players to try team events; clubs need to offer more team games and should offer games like Eight is Enough that mix new players with seasoned players.

OLD BUSINESS:

Columbus 2020 NABC – Cheryl Schneider

- Having some difficulty in that ACBL representative is no longer there; still having trouble getting logo approved; ideas for giveaways in place; corporate sponsors will soon be solicited; they might copy the idea at Philadelphia where they had just one big party at night; as soon as new ACBL employees in place, Columbus will be able to proceed. Judy Auer has completed an audit of the accounts currently in place.

Progress on College Teams - Unit Presidents

- Louisville and Indianapolis still trying to secure teams.

NEW BUSINESS:

Distribution of Charity Funds: AJ Stephani

- AJ needs charity designees sent to him before Thanksgiving; information was sent to unit reps and Lexington and Indianapolis have responded. The complete list of items required must be submitted to AJ. ACBL will not let funds be given to bridge-related organizations. Once funds are distributed, units must try to get major publicity.

Nominating Committee: Liz Brown

- Note sent to Board members seeking their interest in running for office. So far the response has been light. Liz asked for clarification of members to be slated. It is only President and Vice President as others are appointed. Slate will be presented at next meeting.

Other Items for Discussion

- Vangie said that Evansville would like to request that the D11 Board meeting occasionally be held at Evansville during the split regionals. It is hard for Evansville board members to always drive to another location while their tourney takes place, and they would like an opportunity to host. The suggestion was noted for future discussion.
- Steve asked that the topic of growing membership and tables be included on a future agenda so that ideas can be generated and a list of priorities developed. **Q** I don't understand what you are asking. **A** It would be a way to generate ideas that would be helpful outside the board to those who are running tournaments/clubs and support them in what they are doing. It is not about spending money.
- Cheryl then commented that the decrease in advertising reimbursement from ACBL has hurt those at the local levels to work on growth. Sondra commented that they ran an ad four times and were able to attract 20 in an AM class and 20 in a PM class. Kit commented that ACBL needs to help with the recruitment of college players and help instruct units on what works in recruiting this group of players. Vangie commented that word of mouth is always the most effective to recruit in her experience.

Adjournment

⇒ Moved and seconded to adjourn (VanCleve/Overpeck, passed unanimously).

**Future Tournaments: Louisville/Lexington – Begins Nov. 5 (2018), D11 Board Meeting Saturday, Nov. 10
Indianapolis – Begins January 28 (2019), D11 Board Meeting Saturday, Feb. 2**