

District 11 board meeting June 8, 2019 Cincinnati

In attendance:

Lipp  
Mehta  
Banziger  
Moore  
Chapman  
Schneider  
Holt  
Gyor  
Brown, Liz  
Overpeck  
Kramer  
Brown, Billie  
Moese  
Schultz  
Stephani  
Orr

Meeting called to order about 6:20 PM after dinner orders had been placed.

Pres. Moese open the meeting with introductory remarks and asked if anyone had additions to the agenda.

Pres. Moese distributed District 11 board nametags to those in attendance who had not yet received theirs. He also explained that these name badges were for permanent members of the board and he asked that these board members wear them at all bridge games in which they play including local club games. He also noted that the badges are reusable and that in November they would be collected from those people who will no longer be members of the District board.

Motion Georgia Banziger made a motion seconded by Nalin Mehta to authorize reimbursement for Pres. Moese for the purchase of these badges. The motion carried without dissent.

Pres. Moese continued with some housekeeping issues for the board

- Our bylaws require that every four years we perform a review of the bylaws. This review was due in May 2019. Steve Blank has been asked to head that committee and find five members (including Pres. Moese) to conduct a review. Mike Lipp, Terrell Holt and kit Overpeck volunteered to be members of the committee.
- Bob Sulgrove has been the District discipline chair for a number of years but has announced his intention to resign at the end of 2019. Nominations from board members for a replacement as disciplinary chair should be sent via email to Pres. Steve Moese.
- A general thank you for the volunteers of unit 124 for their work on the regional met with applause.
- Pres. Moese asked for unit news if any board members had those to contribute:
  - Chapman from unit 193 announced that one and ½ weeks ago two classes were started in Hopkinsville Kentucky, one for beginners and one for intermediates.

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- Liz Brown from Indianapolis announced that they have 16 participants (the limit they can handle) for a bridge camp that starts next week. The Indianapolis Bridge Center has been making space available for rubber bridge players in addition to duplicate players.
- Georgia Banziger (unit 136) announced that Ryan Schultz has been giving a class at their center on card play. In addition, they are about to start fall bridge classes through the University of Dayton OLLI program.
- Terrell Holt (unit 164) announced that they have also had five OLLI classes. He also asked if the ACBL could provide information on how units might attract more party bridge players.
- Nalin Mehta (unit 124) said he has been visiting social bridge groups in Cincinnati including some senior centers. He has played in these games and offered introductory free play certificates to encourage these players to try duplicate at the bridge center.
- Kit Overpeck (Louisville) announced that to boost attendance at a small Thursday evening game they have arranged for a one half hour lecture prior to the game for which they charge \$15, however, if people stay to play that night the \$9 entry fee is waived.
- Cincinnati, in connection with the recent regional had Robert Todd conduct seminars at our bridge center on Saturday and Sunday. In addition, a Best Practices workshop was put on by ACBL to certify bridge teachers. Of the 18 students 11 came from District 11, 7 more from outside the area including Canada. Patty Tucker from the ACBL was the presenter and she was also giving this course for her own certification to do the seminars..
- Best practices meetings: the District has been arranging for a Friday evening meeting to discuss various topics that would be of interest to directors, club managers and teachers. The topic for the upcoming Louisville regional will be how to develop new directors. Topics for subsequent meetings were requested from the group and unit 117 suggested discussion of the process of how to develop new leadership to replace those who will no longer be on their board. Georgia Banziger was asked to suggest topics for this meeting for the upcoming Dayton regional.
- Treasure (Potter Orr) gave his report which showed income up a minuscule amount over the same period last year in the bank balance about \$4000 higher than the same time last year. He stated the intention to take a portion of the money in the bank and place it in an insured interest-bearing account. No additional questions were asked.
- District recorder (Potter Orr) reported that one incident report had been received for the Cincinnati regional so far and no others were currently pending.
- A.J. Stephani reported that attendance at the regional was down 60 to 70 tables so far or approximately 6%. This is in keeping with the results of most regionals in our part of the country. The general reception to the venue this year has been good although there have been some inconveniences due to substantial construction being done to the hotel. This rehab is part of an acquisition by Marriott of the hotel. Cincinnati has one more year left on his contract with the hotel and discussions will begin as soon as the new management team is in place for an extension. This led to a discussion of entry fees charged by regionals within the District. The guideline so far has been to assure that there is no more

than a two dollar spread among our regionals. Currently Indianapolis is charging \$14 and the other regionals are at \$13.

- As District tournament chair AJ continued with some thoughts about tournaments:
  - He asked that the District explore the possibility of contracting for acceptance of credit cards on a District basis. This would then be offered to all of the regionals held within our District. The cost and logistics of such a program will be investigated and reported to the board.
  - The District currently owns one round timer for games at regionals but no one has seen it for some time. One of the directors at our regional said that she had it and that given its age and condition she was certain that we really wouldn't want it back. A.J. suggested that the players really like to have a timer available and he requested that the District approved the purchase of four timers.
    - Motion Mike Lipp moved that the District purchase four timers not to exceed \$1000. Motion was seconded by Georgia Banziger and after discussion the motion passed without dissent. A.J. is commissioned to make the purchase.
  - A.J. also discussed the nationwide problem of declining attendance at regional tournaments. Several factors seem to be at play in this decline.
    - The distance players are willing to drive to go to a tournament is declining.
    - The number of regionals held around the country has been increasing which serves to dilute the market.
    - Players over the age of 70 (most of us) are reluctant to travel out of town.
  - A.J. is going to attempt to explore a coalition among the Districts that immediately surround ours in hopes of cooperating and coordinating on regionals.
- The education coordinator one that unable to attend the meeting - please see his report posted online in dropbox.
- The youth coordinator was not available and had not prepared a report.
- The webmaster (Steve Moese) invited all members to send to him any local unit news that they would like to see on the District website.
- It was noted that the daily bulletin most of us receive from ACBL when we are participants in regional has a button near the top that will display a map showing the location of participants in the tournament.
- Steve Moese and Kit Overpeck described meetings which will begin working on restructuring the mode of governance of the ACBL. Do not expect quick results.
- A.J.'s spring newsletter of ACBL board activities should be out shortly. The last two presidents of ACBL, Russell Jones and Jay Whipple will both be leaving the board at the end of this year.
- A.J. also mentioned that the ACBL has separated its disciplinary action from that of other global bridge associations. The primary reason for this was that most of the world bridge associations have mandatory arbitration for disciplinary matters. These arbitration panels have often handed down very light penalties for serious infractions. By separating ourselves from these other associations, ACBL has complete control of its bridge games within the United States.

- Following this report a question was asked about liability for the District. Since the District does not run any of the regional tournaments (they are run by units) there is little liability exposure for the District.
- Finally, A.J. announced that one of his duties as District rep is to provide nominees to the ACBL Charity and ACBL Goodwill committees. Generally, he can suggest to individuals from our District for each of these committees. He asked that anyone with a suggested nominee email their name to him.
- GNT and NAP chairman Ryan Schultz delivered his report:
  - Attendance at the recent GNT District finals was down a little bit in section C and up a little bit in the open game.
  - Ryan recommended that the District finals for 2021 be held in Cincinnati. This generated an extensive discussion with the following points made:
    - Kit Overpeck asked why we would not be continuing the current system of rotation. At the same time, he quoted the statistics delivered in Ryan's report that show attendance when the event is held in Dayton is around 15% lower than either Louisville or Lexington.
    - Many people contributed their two cents and finally a motion was made.
    - Motion Mike Lipp moved and Nalin Mehta seconded the motion to "Allow Ryan to decide on his own as chairman where the GNT finals would be held in 2021 and 2022". After some additional discussion the motion passed without dissent.
    - Ryan then discussed some changes made to the conditions of contest for the GNT finals. These changes are part of Ryan's report and another motion was made.
      - Motion Georgia Banziger moved in Terrell Holt seconded a motion to "Accept the changes to the conditions of contest" The passed without dissent.
- Cheryl Schneider delivered a report on the upcoming NABC in 2020 in Columbus.
  - Cheryl and her committee had met with Ken (cute blonde guy) from the ACBL about bridge questions for the tournament. No DIC has yet been selected.
  - Cheryl also reviewed the venue for the tournament. The Hyatt and the convention center in Columbus are in adjoining buildings and the space was judged as very satisfactory.
  - The Hyatt is the primary hotel with the Hilton across the street as a secondary hotel. Overflow beyond those two hotels will go to the Drury Inn.
  - The ACBL is moving to an entirely different model for running an ABCs. Columbus will be a guinea pig for this new method.
    - The local committee running the will have much less possibility of losing money and consequently much less chance of showing a profit.
    - The ACBL will provide the money for most purchases (prizes and welcome gifts) but will allow the local committee to choose these items within the budget provided. The ACBL will then do the actual purchasing.
    - The ACBL is also switching to a new provider to handle travel and housing.

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- The local committee will soon be meeting with Steve Bates from the ACBL to work on the schedule of events for the tournament. If any members have suggestions, please forward those to Cheryl.
- The local committee presently has about \$40,000 in the kitty for expenses other than those covered by the ACBL. This includes both the tournament surcharge for the NABC and extra table fees collected for those games run as support for the NABC.
- A list of the events available for naming rights was sent earlier to all of the unit presidents but a new copy will be forwarded to Steve Moese to go on the District website.
- Cheryl reported that some of the units have submitted the name of a local volunteer coordinator but that she needed a name from every unit for this person. This person's job will be to find volunteers from the unit to work in Columbus during the NABC and coordinate that with Judy Williamson. The following job functions will need to be covered by volunteers.
  - Partnership
  - I/N partnership
  - registration
  - Price desk
  - information
  - hospitality
- each of these areas will need volunteers in these timeslots:
  - 8:30 to 10 AM
  - 12 noon to 1 PM
  - 6:30 PM to 7:30 PM
  - Very occasionally from 2:30 PM to 3 PM for I/N only
- An organization called Experience Columbus will provide restaurant information, general information, maps and guides for players.
- Present Moese announced that a link to the District 11 dropbox on Google had been resent. The goal of this arrangement is to substantially reduce the amount of paper involved in our board meetings. All of the documents relating to a meeting should be stored in our dropbox. He emphasized that the contents of the dropbox are strictly for the use of District board members. If other people need specific documents, these can be forwarded to them but we are not to share our access link to the dropbox with anyone not on the District board.
- He also emphasized that an important duty for us as a District board is to help find new board members and new tournament chairs.
- With a general sigh of relief from all in attendance the meeting was adjourned at 9 PM.

Submitted by substitute secretary Potter Orr.