

**ACBL DISTRICT 11
BOARD MEETING
February 4, 2021
Zoom Meeting**

In attendance:

Officers – Steve Moese, President; Andra Gyor, Vice President; Potter Orr, Treasurer; Maribeth Ransel, Secretary.

Voting Members - Unit 117 John Van Cleve; Unit 122 Trish Jones; Unit 124 Potter Orr; Mike Burns; Unit 130 Maribeth Ransel; Liz Brown; Unit 136 Georgia Banziger, Joyce Dennis; Unit 164 Andra Gyor, Terrell Holt; Unit 193 Jeff Chapman; Billie Brown; Unit 227 Jim Olson.

Members – AJ Stephani District Director; Siraj Haji, Education Chair; Ryan Schultz NAP/GNT Chair; Potter Orr Recorder; Steve Moese, Webmaster.

Call to order –Meeting called to order by President Steve Moese.

Secretary’s Report – Maribeth Ransel

⇒ **Moved that the minutes from the November 2020 meeting be approved as written. (Banziger/Chapman approved unanimously.)**

President’s Report (Moese)

- ACBL Membership down 5.2% from one year ago;
- District 11 Membership down about 6%;
- All districts got smaller with one exception;
- Member loss rate is twice as much as member gain;
- Every unit should look at what membership committees are doing; look at what ACBL suggests that will encourage online play until we can return to face-to-face bridge;
- Online play – 50% NOT playing; remaining 50% playing more than when they were playing F-2-F;
- Particularly need to look at how to encourage NLM games;
- Teachers raving about teaching online – greater flexibility; lower cost;
- No current information about when we will resume F-2-F bridge.

Q: Are the 50% of people playing online playing in sanctioned games?

A: These figures do not include non-sanctioned games

Steve brought up an idea about holding future meetings by Zoom: BOG will soon have all meetings on Zoom. Zoom meetings have proven their effectiveness. Since we do not know when we can have next Regional in D11 and whether/when we resume regionals, should we have all future meetings via Zoom? Some indicated they still want to occasionally hold in-person meetings. Other comments mentioned that it would be a money-saver; that those who are unable to come to a Regional could still attend the meeting; we would avoid problems of running out-of-time at meetings at a tournament; and someone mentioned if we have one meeting a year, it should be at a time that most new people are coming on the Board. Steve mentioned his concern that if we have Zoom meetings, perhaps not everyone from the Board would show up for our District regionals.

⇒ **Moved that the D11 Board should adopt Zoom as its principal way of having meetings. Face-to-face meetings may take place as board feels necessary. (Van Cleve/Jones: Passed unanimously)**

NEW BUSINESS:

Reports:

Unit News: None

Q: Terrell asked if will we be able to have virtual games after face-to-face starts again?

A: Nothing has been decided yet.

Q: Terrell also asked if anyone is doing anything with virtual teaching for youth bridge?

A: No one is having any programs at present in our District, but there is another District with a program. Steve will send a link to Terrell, if he can locate it.

Secretary's Report – Maribeth Ransel

- If you have any changes in your membership on the D11 Board, please notify Maribeth. Make sure you make changes to unit officers list on the ACBL site so that Steve has correct info for the website;
- To report a phone change, contact Steve Moese, by email with the new number.

Recorder's Report: Potter Orr

Nothing to report since we have not had any incidents reported due to lack of events occurring within the District.

Treasurer's Report – Potter Orr

Not much activity except for the receipt of a small Grass Roots check, which was about ¼ the usual amount we receive. Also, money has been received from Evansville and from Indianapolis after their last tournaments.

NAP and GNT Coordinator Report – Ryan Schultz

- For NAP 2019, District qualifiers will compete online in March. Ryan has confirmed list of qualifiers.
- For GNT, there will also likely be an online event this year. ACBL will assign directors.

Q: Will we allow members to compete in more than one bracket?

A: Yes.

- Steve pointed out that the Swiss Team set-up has not been solved by ACBL at this point. Ryan is not sure how all that will be handled yet.

Q: If we charge \$25 and BBO gets \$5, will we have enough to cover director expenses? We will not have rent to pay, so that will help.

A: Ryan will explore the monetary issues to make sure the funds will be sufficient.

Q: Will the District provide money for NAP stipends for the 2019 players as we did in the past?

A: AJ said ACBL sent notice to qualifiers saying they would get ACBL stipend. Although the ACBL Management had already sent the notice, the ACBL Board would have taken a different stance and would not have paid the stipend since no travel expenses will take place for the players this year. There was further discussion as to whether the District should pay out its usual stipends since they are meant for partial reimbursement of travel expenses. Some thought it was given as an “incentive” to attend. Ryan said we have about \$18,000 in Grass Roots funds that can be used to provide stipends.

⇒ **Moved that D11 should pay the stipends to the 2019 NAP qualifiers as we have previously done. (Chapman/Banziger Passed 8 to 3.)**

Steve asked Ryan if we should allow people to play in multiple flights in the 2021 GNTs. Steve asked Ryan if he had a proposal ready, but Ryan said there are still questions about how ACBL will handle. Steve said that he would like more information before a final decision is made and if necessary, he is willing to call a short meeting later this year to discuss. Ryan asked to defer the discussion to a later meeting. Jeff asked that if the GNTs must be played online that we not give stipends for the GNT since there would be no added expenses. Steve asked that we wait until we have more information to make the decision. Several people brought up the timeline that must happen to give people have enough time to make decisions. Steve said we still need to understand if there will be a national in Providence, and Ryan still will need to give us some information based on facts he will obtain.

Tournament Coordinator Report – AJ Stephani

- Providence has not been cancelled yet;
- ACBL is now sanctioning tournaments into the future;
- We need to be flexible moving forward with tournament schedules; we can sanction tournaments, but we are still not permitted to sign new contracts;
- There are many unknowns, especially regarding attendance;
- Need to reserve dates with AJ.

District Director's Report – AJ Stephani

- Board is meeting at least once a month;
- Looking at issues of budgets; online cheating, among others;
- Will have new logo in the next couple of months;
- New alert chart adopted in January: support doubles no longer alerted; transfers announced now but not alerted. A few other changes were also placed on the new chart;
- BBO still testing Swiss Team events, but it will probably not be ready by spring. Hopefully, it will be ready soon after that;
- Other companies are coming out with online play platforms, but they cannot award ACBL points yet because we have contract with BBO which has exclusive rights at this point;
- All MPS in tournament pairs events will be looked at with “strength of field” formula. This will be only used in tournaments and not at clubs.

Education Chair Report – Siraj Haji

- Shark Bridge is the big favorite for online teaching; they can do demo on February 17th for the District teachers;
- Need to promote these teaching programs to encourage attendance; send names and addresses to Siraj;
- Siraj will proceed with contacting teachers once more to announce this program.
- Terrell said that they are launching youth bridge program through Shark Bridge. It will be a twelve-week program, two times a week. They will send flyers to schools in six or eight counties and the unit is underwriting the cost. When they get back to face-to-face bridge, they will then have a Saturday game for youth at the Lexington club.
- Bridge Bee also has an interest in doing a demo for the District once they know how much interest there is in Shark Bridge. Siraj thinks we should wait to see what happens with Shark Bridge before entertaining other platforms.

Q: ACBL/ABTA are having monthly roundtables. Must you be a member of ABTA to participate?

A: Siraj will try to find out who may participate.

Q: Are there any classes for directors to learn these new platforms?

A: Siraj believes that ACBL will help, if requested.

ACBL Board of Governors Report – Steve Moese

- Steve announced that Ryan Schultz has agreed to be our new representative to the ACBL Board of Governors. Thanks, Ryan for taking on this job for the coming three years;
- New Bylaws changes: BOG will go from 125 to 75 members. It is hoped this will make the BOG more effective;
- The BOG is also looking at how to have more communications with Districts and Units;
- The District needs to have BOG reps at our D11 Zoom meetings beginning with special meeting in February; current reps are Vangie Smith, Billie Brown, Steve Moese, Bill Cook and Ryan Schultz.

Grooming Leaders: Maribeth Ransel

- No report currently.

Google Drive:

- If anyone needs assistance with Google Drive, please contact Steve Moese for help.

Flying Pig:

- If the Flying Pig occurs this year, it will end on Thursday.

ADJOURNMENT:

⇒ **Moved that the meeting be adjourned.** (VanCleve/Banziger --- approved unanimously).

Next Meeting via Zoom: Thursday, June 10th