

**DISTRICT 11  
BOARD MEETING  
February 10, 2022  
Via Zoom  
Draft**

**In attendance:**

**Officers** – Steve Moese, President; Maribeth Ransel, Secretary.

**Voting Members** - Unit 117 Dotty Losey; Unit 122 Tom Bishel; Howard Sanders; Unit 124 John Altman; Unit 130 Maribeth Ransel, Jerry Brelage (alternate) Unit 136 Jim Rachal; Bob Stitt; Unit 164 Terrell Holt; Unit 227 Sarah Sentman.

**Non-Voting Members** – AJ Stephani (District Director; Tournament Chair); Ryan Schultz (GNT/NAP Coordinator).

**Advisory Board Members:** Tom Bishel; Bill Cook; Steve Moese; Ryan Schultz; Vangie Smith.

**CALL TO ORDER** – Steve Moese

- Meeting was called to order.
- Steve announced the following members have completed their terms on the board and have been sent thank you notes: Georgia Banziger, Jim Olson, Jeff Chapman, John Van Cleve, Trish Jones, Joyce Dennis, and Mike Burns.
- Steve also welcomed new members: James Rachal and Bob Stitt (Dayton); Pam Campbell and John Altman (Cincinnati); Stephen Brouillette (Evansville); Dotty Losey (Louisville); Tom Bishel (Columbus); Sarah Sentman (West Virginia).
- Steve invited new members to share their interests:
  - Bob Stitt is 30-year ACBL member, interested in membership;
  - Dotty Losey is 12-year member of ACBL, interested in membership;
  - Tom Bishel is 6-year member of ACBL, interested in strategies to stabilize clubs after Covid;
  - John Altman is 15-year member of ACBL, interested in membership and attracting young members (Steve mentioned that John was ACBL King of Bridge in 2013);
  - Sarah Sentman, long-time ACBL member (Steve said we have fond memories of Sarah's husband Bill, now deceased, who was a past president of the D11 Board);
  - Jim Rachal has been a member of ACBL for 6 years; interested in social bridge for entry level players.
- Steve also introduced the members of the ACBL BOD Advisory Council. Tom Bishel, Bill Cook, Steve Moese, Ryan Schultz and Vangie Smith have accepted appointments to Advisory Council positions and in their roles will try to facilitate communication between D11 and the Board of Governors.

**MINUTES** –Maribeth Ransel

No additions or correction to minutes from October 14, 2021. Minutes stand as written.

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT**- Steve Moese

- Steve has determined two priorities for the District for this year: (1) reopening in-person bridge,

classes, and tournaments; and (2) reversing member losses and recruiting new members. He also acknowledged hearing interesting ideas tonight such as focusing on recruiting youth and trying to get district-wide games online for new players. No other ideas were proposed as priority items for the year.

- Steve gave a brief description of Google Drive which is a repository of all D11 Board documents. He stressed that members should not delete items since we have no way to retrieve them. If anyone wants to have special meeting to discuss how to use Google Drive, Steve would be happy to set up a Zoom meeting sometime later. Email him if you have an interest in learning more about Google Drive. He urged everyone to also look at the D11 website for additional information regarding responsibilities of Board members, among other items.
  - 2021 trends: Please go to folder to review the Trend Report which allows comparisons across and within districts and units but doesn't answer the question about why these trends are occurring. The Trend Report comes from the ACBL Marketing Department.
  - There is also information in the folder from an unofficial source on reopening of clubs and tournaments post-Covid. According to this source, clubs are averaging about six tables, and tournaments are seeing about 30-40% of pre-Covid rates. The expectation is that these trends will move upward as it becomes safer to assemble. We can help by encouraging our clubs with messages that things should be better as Covid abates and that we should be returning to a more normal way of operating.
  - The old Board of Governors has been renamed as the ACBL BOD Advisory Council. The Advisory Council will encourage Districts to hold Town Hall meetings. The first D11 meeting will hopefully take place in May after face-to-face bridge increases.
  - Our D11 Advisory Council members will now attend all D11 Board meetings. Steve asked for a resolution on payment for dinners for these Council members when they attend face-to-face meetings. (On average, dinners cost about \$25-\$30 per person. Since three members of the Advisory Council are already members of the Board, the cost will only be for the two members who are not already on the Board.)
- ⇒ **Moved and Seconded:** That the District 11 Board pay for the dinners of the Advisory Council members at face-to-face meetings of the Board. (Stitt/Ransel: Vote 8 ayes; 2 abstentions; 0 nays. Motion passed.)
- Louisville will host an NABC in 2024. We will set aside time at the Cincinnati meeting for the tournament chair to discuss their plans and to tell the Board what is needed from D11.
  - Next meeting of the D11 Board will take place at the Flying Pig Regional. AJ and Steve will determine the best time for the meeting and will get back to the Board.

#### **NEW BUSINESS: Steve Moese**

- Bylaws changes: After the ACBL made changes regarding the Advisory Council, these changes will also require some changes to the D11 Bylaws. Steve has made a mock-up copy that is posted to the Google Drive. We need to vote on these changes at the next meeting. Members felt it would be easier to review the copy on their own before the meeting in June when Steve will present the changes in detail. (In 2025, the Advisory Council representatives will drop from five to three members from D11.)
- Nominating Committee: At our November meeting, we will elect a President and Vice President for the coming term. We will also appoint a Secretary and Treasurer. Steve asked for volunteers to comprise a Nomination Committee to present a slate at the November meeting. Howard Sanders and Dotty Losey volunteered to be part of the committee. Liz Brown (not in attendance but a previous member of the Nominating Committee) was suggested as a third member. Steve will confirm with Liz.

- District 11 Celebrate our Clubs – Once-a-Month STaCs. AJ explained that though we normally have 3 STaCs per year in the District, ACBL does not hold us to that number. In order to encourage F-2-F play at our unit games, D11 will hold monthly STaCs this year. This gives those seeking silver points several opportunities to get these points. In April, Dayton will sponsor a Royal STaC week. AJ needs volunteers to sponsor the other D11 STaC games for the year. He reminded everyone that it takes a good deal of work on the part of the local coordinators. Sarah pointed out that getting all the units to make their payments to the sponsoring unit is not always easy. AJ suggested that units might want to consider electronic payments, but Sarah pointed out that not all units are set up to do this. AJ said if units do not pay, a memo can be filed with ACBL which will then pursue resolution. The following clubs volunteered for some of the remaining months in 2022: June, Indianapolis; July, Columbus; August, Dayton; December, Indianapolis (provided W. Virginia does not want to take back this STaC). Other units will check and get back to AJ about their interest in being a sponsor. AJ also pointed out that the Conditions of Contest should remain about the same for each STaC. There might be minor adjustments from unit-to-unit, but we should have a unified approach from the District.

#### **SECRETARY'S REPORT - Maribeth Ransel**

- Thanks to all who responded for the meeting in a timely fashion. It helps the meeting organizers to have your response when it is requested.
- Jerry Brelage was introduced as the alternate from Indianapolis.
- Maribeth pointed out that a complete roster is available on the Google Drive. This roster contains names, positions, contact information, and whether a member is classified as a voting member. Please review this information.

#### **TREASURER'S REPORT - Potter Orr**

- Potter's written report stated that about \$3500 was realized from last year's GNT.
- Little other change is noted.

#### **RECORDER'S REPORT - Potter Orr**

- Nothing has been submitted to the Recorder during the last few months.

#### **GNT/NAP COORDINATOR'S REPORT - Ryan Schultz**

- NAP: Down a lot this year to 14 tables. Not enough tables to have a Flight C (in last NAP in 2019, there were 45 tables.) We still have a significant amount of money in the Grass Roots Fund. Usual payouts for Reno will be subsidized for this year.
- GNT: Will take place in Dayton in early April. Flyers are on the website and ACBL is selecting a Director. It is hoped that we will have 15-20 teams in attendance. The Board had previously discussed always having the top flights play in Cincinnati and having the C Flight rotating from unit to unit. The schedule provides for Dayton to have the C Flight in 2023. However, Ryan now believes everything after 2023 should be in Cincinnati to simplify the process. This can be an agenda discussion for a vote at the June meeting. Steve added that tournament numbers had largest decrease in 500 and under players. These players need extra encouragement including phone calls and special communication. Sarah questioned whether Flight C players may need to play fewer boards per sessions. Louisville reported that they tried to hold shortened sessions for C players, but they didn't attract players and the games were suspended. Steve asked Ryan if masks will be required for the GNT and Ryan stated that the tournament protocol dictated by ACBL will be followed.

### **TOURNAMENT CHAIR'S REPORT - AJ Stephani**

- Steve introduced AJ and congratulated him on being appointed to the prestigious WBF Executive Council. Steve complimented AJ on his superior work and offered best wishes to him as he takes on the WBF role.
- AJ reported that some units are starting to schedule sectionals, and that these are usually being scheduled at local clubs instead of hotels. The next District Regional will be in Cincinnati in June. Evansville and Dayton are making plans for their split Regional in the Fall. He recognizes the difficulty in scheduling because of the financial commitments that must be made to hotels, and he doubts that these hotels are willing to do much in the way of negotiation on contracts. Steve asked if there is a current problem in getting sanctions online, once approved. AJ said he is not aware of any issues and that he thinks the tournament should be online within 24 hours of the sanction approval.

### **ACBL BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S REPORT – AJ Stephani**

- The Board met F-2-F in Austin. The Austin NABC had about 60% of pre-Covid tables. NABCs are seeming to bounce back faster than Regionals which are currently only seeing about 40% of pre-pandemic numbers. On the agenda for the Reno meeting will be what will take place because of the recent decrease in the number of members on the BOD (13 as opposed to 25 in the past). They will also address issues pending between board and management. There is agreement that F-2-F bridge plays a vital role in the development of players, in the recruitment of volunteers, and in the retention of players. AJ thanked everyone for their hard work for ACBL and the District.

### **ACBL ADVISORY COUNCIL- Steve Moese**

- Steve asked the current Advisory Council members to update the Board on their roles:
  - Vangie works with the Membership/Retention Committee. They are in discussion about attracting younger players and understand that these players may be more attracted to online play with shorter games.
  - Bill stated that he did not have an Advisory Council report, but he did have news from Louisville. Their unit is conducting a test program to recruit and recapture members using Google ads. They are asking ACBL for additional advertising funds. According to Google, it is estimated that each ad will cost about \$8. He will try to have an update in June.
  - Ryan is working with the Bridge Committee. He said this could be sub-titled “At the Table Experience”. They are looking for new members of their committee. The individuals do not have to be Advisory Council members. If you, or someone you know, might be interested, contact Ryan.
  - Steve will continue to provide summaries of the three main meetings of the Council throughout the year. These summaries will be posted to the D11 website.

### **OTHER NEWS - Steve Moese**

- Steve commended Columbus on their new website. For others who do not have a current site, Steve has information on low cost site hosts. Contact him if you are interested in more information.
- Dotty invited everyone to the upcoming Louisville Sectional which will take place at the end of February.

### **GROOMING LEADERS - Maribeth Ransel**

- Postponed to later date.

**ADJOURNMENT – Steve Moese**

- The President called for the meeting to be adjourned.

**Next D11 Board meeting: After this meeting, Steve and AJ agreed to hold the next Board meeting at the Flying Pig Regional on Monday, June 13<sup>th</sup>, immediately following the afternoon game.**