

**DISTRICT 11  
BOARD MEETING  
November 14, 2022  
Louisville/Lexington Regional  
Approved March 23, 2023**

**In attendance:**

**Officers** – Steve Moese, President; Andra Gyor, Vice President; Potter Orr, Treasurer

**Voting Members** - **Unit 117** Dotty Losey; Hannah Davis; **Unit 122** Tom Bishel; **Unit 124** John Altman, **Unit 130** Liz Brown, Peggy Kramer (alternate); **Unit 136** Bob Stitt, Jim Rachal; **Unit 164** Sondra Holt (alternate), Terrell Holt; **Unit 193** Stephen Brouillette, Billie Brown; **Unit 227** Jim Olson, Ellen Olson.

**Non-Voting Member** – AJ Stephani (District Director; Tournament Chair)

**Guests:** Bill Cook (**Advisory Council Member**); Bill Lea (**Guest of Unit 193**)

**OLD BUSINESS**

**CALL TO ORDER – Steve Moese**

Steve called the meeting to order and welcomed members and guests. He reminded everyone that those with a yellow name card were voting members (eligible to make motions and to cast votes.)

**RECOGNITION OF AJ STEPHANI FOR BOARD SERVICE – Steve Moese**

Steve asked the Board to recognize AJ Stephani for his many years of service to the D11 Board. AJ was presented with a “Loyalty and Leadership Award” for his many outstanding contributions. Steve asked all members to sign the back of the award before they leave the meeting.

**MINUTES –Steve Moese for Maribeth Ransel**

Steve asked for additions or corrections to the minutes from the past meeting. There were none and the minutes were accepted as written.

**LOUISVILLE/LEXINGTON TOURNAMENT - Hannah Davis and Sondra Holt (co-chairs)**

- ✓ Through Saturday afternoon, the table count was 54% of the 2019 count;
- ✓ Chairs are working to terminate their lease for future tourneys at the casino and will be pursuing the selection of a new venue for subsequent years;
- ✓ The chairs were congratulated on reaching 54% and were thanked for their service.

**LOUISVILLE 2024 NABC – Dotty Losey**

- ✓ Joann Traver is the chair of the 2024 Louisville NABC;
- ✓ She has met with representatives from Horn Lake to begin to put her plan in place;
- ✓ Soon, there will be a site visit to the Galt House with Louisville and Horn Lake personnel attending;
- ✓ Chuck Fassler is the tournament treasurer; please send all fund-raising checks to Chuck made out to:  
Louisville 2024 NABC  
c/o Chuck Fassler  
Louisville Bridge Club  
9870 Linn Station Road  
Louisville, KY 40223

**TREASURER’S REPORT: Potter Orr**

- ✓ Potter stated the current balance sheet can be seen on the District Board Google Drive;
- ✓ The sheet shows a loss this year of \$1300 which is mostly due to fees that have not yet been collected from the units;

- ✓ “Grass Roots: is money received from ACBL and then used to supplement stipends for GNT winners who play at the NABC; we use these funds because our profit from the GNT, though fairly large, is below the amount needed for the stipends; ACBL Grass Roots funds are down (we received \$2300 which is lower than in past years);
- ✓ \$17,000 has been earmarked for the 2024 NABC and will be sent to the NABC treasurer once an account is set up; Potter reminded Louisville that if a profit is made, this amount is expected to be returned to the District.

**RECORDER’S REPORT: Potter Orr**

- ✓ There have been no recorder complaints filed recently.

**GNT/NAP COORDINATOR: Ryan Schultz**

- ✓ Ryan was unable to attend in person, but joined by phone during the meeting;
  - ✓ His full report is posted on the Google Drive;
  - ✓ NAP in Cincinnati was a success drawing about 75% of pre-Covid tables.
  - ✓ NAP netted slightly more than \$2,000;
  - ✓ Ryan asked for a motion to make the C Flight for GNT always take place in Cincinnati; doing this would be a plus for the financial situation of the event;
- ⇒ **Moved and seconded** that the Flight C GNT games be held permanently in Cincinnati. (Holt/Stitt – Passed unanimously)
- ✓ Steve also commented on a group of emails that was sent regarding hospitality at Cincinnati events. He stated that as post-Covid events began, there was still a reluctance by organizers to serve food, and that even the hotels were not anxious to have food in playing areas. As we continue to rebound from Covid, hospitality will eventually return to prior levels. He stated that it is important to make players comfortable in our venues. He thanked those who made the NAP a success;
  - ✓ Ryan noted that there will be some slight changes to future COC based on ACBL guidance;
  - ✓ Ryan also asked that at our next meeting, the Board discuss changing start time for NAP/GNT events to 10:00 and 2:30 or 10:30 and 3:00. Steve added that in our discussion, we should consider that some people come from over two hours away and driving into Cincy might be difficult if the times are changed. Discussion tabled till next meeting.

**TOURNAMENT CHAIR REPORT: AJ Stephani**

- ✓ Not much happening since last meeting; sanctions are slowly arriving for approval;
- ✓ There are still many problems with Tournery Trax; although some features seem to be available when you look at the screen, these features are really not accessible (for example, you can’t make changes once you have submitted your request for a sanction, even though the screen indicates you can do this online); to make any changes to your schedule, you must call or email Crystal Mann.
- ✓ Steve asked if it is possible for Indy tournament to be moved farther into the year. AJ said yes, as long as it stays at least two months away from the Cincy Regional; Steve suggested late March or early April as possibilities. AJ pointed out that planners needed to watch for scheduling conflicts with NABC and Gatlinburg if moved to those time frames. It is recognized that Indianapolis has the worst weather situation for their regional slot, noting that weather problems can occur all the way through March.

**ACBL ADVISORY COUNCIL: Bill Cook, Tom Bishel, Steve Moese**

- ✓ Bill stated that Council members are still trying to gather information and make suggestions to the BOD, but they are uncertain as to whether the suggestions are being heard and attended to;
- ✓ There are still many problems with IT that need immediate attention.

### **DEPARTURE FROM ACBL BOARD: AJ Stephani**

- ✓ The prior evening, AJ had a Q/A session on his reasons for leaving his position on the ACBL Board; he will always be willing to answer individual questions;
- ✓ There was a discussion of several issues at the top levels of ACBL including lack of marketing perspective, differences in how F2F vs online play is viewed, lack of strategic planning perspective, spending more than is taken in, and continued problems with technology;
- ✓ There will be a special election for a new Region 7 Director in December to fill AJ's slot; AJ asked that each unit check to see that their board member list is up-to-date as only local unit board members will be able to vote; as he looked at the ACBL site, he saw that there is only one person (the same person) listed as the unit board member for several of our units; units must send their lists to ACBL and make sure they are accurate (include name/address/email address/player number); the person who had been handling these issues is no longer the one to contact, but we don't have a contact name at present; send correspondence to Joe Jones and to the BOD to alert them to the discrepancies in our lists.

### **EDUCATION CHAIR: Siraj Haji**

- ✓ Siraj was excused from the meeting. He recently became a US citizen and is now meeting with the Indian officials to withdraw his citizenship from India. Please congratulate Siraj on his new status as a US citizen.
- ✓ Steve reported on a new program being piloted by Robert Todd and the Education Foundation; this program is designed to recruit new individuals to bridge; it requires the approval of the Foundation, a local experienced teacher, and an approved lesson plan; it must be a program that charges a fee and must have a sizable number of class sessions; if the program meets the approval of the Foundation, advertising will be done through the Foundation on Facebook; thus far, those who are using the program have received lots of leads from Facebook advertising, and the teachers must follow through on the leads once received; the Foundation is taking names of prospective club enrollees for January.

### **UNIT NEWS**

- ✓ Louisville Unit President, Dotty Losey, said after several months of financial losses, the Unit has been able to re-negotiate their lease which will offset some of the problems and allow them to remain at their current site until the lease ends.
- ✓ Bob Stitt will be a co-chair of the Dayton/Columbus Regional; he reported that they have found a new site at the Community College in the gymnasium; site is large enough (but an overflow room is available in case of larger crowd), close to hotels, has convenient bathroom space, and there will not be overlap of student use at the facility; they are considering a shorter schedule for the week, and Dallas Moore and Tom Bishel are working on a draft for review; Jim Rachal said hotels have been lined up and are just two minutes from the College.
- ✓ Billie Brown and Stephen Brouillette asked for the ability to conduct their split regional on a yearly basis; they currently alternate with Cincinnati or Dayton every other year; they have secured the Cambridge Country Club which will be a very compatible site for future events due to size, convenient parking, and nearby hotel availability; it does not appear that the Evansville event has a negative effect on the other sites as Evansville draws players from a different area of the country (south and west) and these players would not be traveling to Ohio to play because of distance involved.
- ✓ Steve asked AJ if it is permitted to have a split regional in the District on an annual basis, and AJ said it was permissible. He pointed out that there can only be one split each year, and also pointed out that the point awards are smaller with a split regional than if there is no split involved.
- ✓ Because Indianapolis is not having a regional in 2023, Evansville was given permission, without objection, to have the first quarter regional in 2023; further discussions about 2024 were tabled till next meeting.

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

### **MERGER OF UNITS 227 and 164: Jim Olson/Terrell Holt**

- ✓ Procedures are being set in place for the merger of Unit 227 into Unit 164; this is based on Unit 227 having a dwindling membership and lack of individuals who wish to serve on the Board;
- ✓ Both Units have been in contact with Sabrina Golay from ACBL; she has turned their discussions over to the ACBL Unit Operations Manager who has presented them with a letter documenting all the steps that need to take place; Bob Korten, President from Lexington, is currently reviewing changes that need to be made to the Bylaws;
- ✓ Terrell stated that the players from Unit 227 would be warmly welcomed by Unit 164;
- ✓ It is hoped that all things will be in place for the formal merger to occur in the first quarter of the coming year;
- ✓ A summary of correspondence regarding this issue is available on the D11 Google Drive.

### **ELECTION OF OFFICERS: Steve Moese/Liz Brown**

- ✓ Steve introduced Election Committee Chair, Liz Brown and thanked her for her work;
- ✓ Steve then read from the District 11 Bylaws to layout the ground rules for the election;
- ✓ Liz announced that:
  - ❖ Potter Orr is the nominee for D11 Treasurer for '23/'24. There were no other nominations from the floor, and Potter was elected by the Board.
  - ❖ Steve Moese is the nominee for D11 Secretary for '23/'24. There were no other nominations from the floor, and Steve was elected by the Board.
  - ❖ Maribeth Ransel is the nominee for D11 Vice President for '23/'24. There were no other nominations from the floor, and Maribeth was elected by the Board.
  - ❖ Billie Brown is the nominee for D11 President for '23/'24. There were no other nominations from the floor, and Billie was elected by the Board.

### **CLOSING REMARKS: Steve Moese**

- ✓ Steve thanked the Board for its service and commented that of all the Boards he had served on previously, the D11 Board was the most collegial, cooperative, fun-loving, friendly and effective in his memory; he said this spirit is the result of the service of the Board members who work hard to make things happen in D11;
- ✓ Steve thanked everyone for giving him the opportunity to serve the D11 Board as president;
- ✓ Liz then presented Steve with a certificate of recognition for his service to the Board on behalf of all the D11 members;
- ✓ Steve asked that everyone remember to sign AJ's certificate;
- ✓ Steve also reminded members who were leaving their terms on the Board to turn in their nametags to Steve, Billie or the new representatives from their units.

### **ADJOURNMENT:**

- ✓ The meeting was adjourned;
- ✓ The incoming President, Billie Brown, will determine the time and date for our next meeting.