

DISTRICT 11 BOARD MEETING
January 20, 2023 Indianapolis Regional

In attendance:

Officers – Billie Brown, President; Steve Moese, Secretary; Potter Orr, Treasurer

Voting Members - **Unit 117** Bill Cook; **Unit 124** Jim Barrett; **Unit 130** Marsha Callahan; Jerry Brelage; **Unit 136** Bob Stitt, Robert Zangri; **Unit 164** Terrell Holt; **Unit 193** Jeffrey Chapman, William Lea.

Alternates: **Unit 124** Geri Osborne; **Unit 164** Sondra Holt.

Members: Siraj Haji. Ryan Schultz

Absent: **Unit 117** Dotty Losey; **Unit 124** Bill Brewer; **Unit 164** Elizabeth Johnson;

Absent with cause: Maribeth Ransel, Vangie Smith

CALL TO ORDER – by President Billie Brown at 5:33 PM

President Billie Brown welcomed new members and alternates. She thanked all outgoing members for their service. She mentioned that all Board documents are on the D11 Website and in the D11 Google Drive (these are for Board members only). Billie asked Board members to send changes in representation to Steve Moese (Name, Player number, email and phone).

Steve Moese confirmed that a quorum was present.

President Billie Brown reminded everyone that only voting members are eligible to make motions and to cast votes, and that the meeting will be recorded (audio) with the recording published to the google drive and the draft minutes to the website. Billie also reminded those present about the best way to make a motion. No additions were offered to the agenda.

MINUTES – The Board approved the July 2023 Cincinnati minutes by unanimous consent.

President Billie Brown reminded the Board that our objective is to finish business in time for the evening session.

PRESIDENT’S REPORT –

President Billie Brown mentioned she is happy with the progress made around our District in 2023. She urged us to build on that momentum. New players, teaching, mentoring, members going to the NABC to take the Teacher training, are all important to the District.

Next Board Meeting is Monday June 3, 2024 at the Cincinnati Regional.

We thank outgoing Tournament Coordinator A J Stephani for his service to District 11. We welcome Tom Bishel (Unit 122) as the new D11 Tournament Coordinator.

NEW BUSINESS

Combined STaCs With Districts 7 and 10 – Tom Bishel, Tournament Coordinator.

The December 2023 Royal STaC was combined with Districts 10 and 7. Tom recommended D11 continue combining the three STaCs in 2024. Tom provided a handout (see the D11 Google Drive) with details.

Pros: 1) Members can get more masterpoints. 2) [ACBL sanction fees](#) drop slightly as more tables play.

Con: We will run 1 STaC of the 3 per year. There will be almost 6 times the number of clubs across the 3 participating districts (141 compared to 24). This means managing the fees and payments for a larger number of transactions. Table counts remain within each district, so any income increase comes from better attendance (and a modest reduction in sanction costs).

In the recent past, Dayton ran the D11 Spring STaC, Cincinnati ran the Summer STaC, and Indianapolis ran the Winter STaC. In the new arrangement, we would run the third (Winter) STaC and rotate the owner among Dayton, Cincinnati, and Indianapolis. An alternative is to appoint a District Coordinator and offer them a stipend. We discussed what a Royal STaC is. A District may have 2 Royal STaCs per year, one in the first half and one in the second half. The Royal STaC pays 25% Gold/25% Red/25% Silver/25% Black masterpoints.

In the 3-district agreement, proceeds will stay within the District. All money collected from the D11 tables will accrue to the designated Unit. For example, when D10 runs the Spring STaC, Dayton would get the proceeds from D11 Tables. Cincinnati would earn the proceeds from the Summer STaC, and Indianapolis would earn the proceeds from the Winter STaC. An alternative is that we rotate the Fall STaC operation among the three Units, and the unit on charge keeps those proceeds (the other two units would get the proceeds from the earlier STaCs by a prearranged plan). The intent is for Dayton to get the funds from the Spring STaC, Cincinnati gets the funds from the Summer STaC, and Indianapolis will get the funds from the Winter STaC. The Royal STaC designation will be assigned later.

We discussed the STaC finances. Table fees are set by the Club Manager for their game. The costs are according to the ACBL sanction schedule. The Club pays \$0.27/person per session to the ACBL. The Club then pays the District \$8 per table. From that, the District pays the ACBL the STaC sanction fees. Tom Bishel can provide more clarity if needed.

Bob Stitt raised concerns about scheduling STaCs that interfere with Sectional attendance. Scheduling of the 3-District STaC must take priority. Getting advance notice to the schedule will help Units schedule STaCs.

Steve Moese noted that District 7 pays a STaC Coordinator \$350 per STaC to cover the work managing receipts and payments. Tom will take this under consideration. The Board is not asked to solve the money problem today. Tom deferred the funding decision, suggesting that the Unit doing the coordination of the STaCs retains the earnings from that STaC. This way there is an incentive to do the work.

Tom Bishel mentioned that the ACBL is working to harmonize District STaC fees. If they do, then the financial work of the STaC Coordinator would be eliminated. (*The remaining work would be setting the Conditions of Contest and recruiting clubs to play*).

Bob Stitt – U136 Dayton

Motion: That District 11 combine STaCs with District 10 and District 7 three times a year.

Second: Jim Barrett, U124 Cincinnati.

Passed Unanimously.

The Spring STaC 2024 dates are set at March 25-31, 2024. Summer and Fall 2024 STaCs are not scheduled. Tom mentioned that the schedule might change as D10 and D7 join.

Steve Moese reminded the Board to approach Tom Bishel the new D11 Tournament Coordinator with any questions/changes when scheduling tournaments.

President Billie Brown mentioned that we should strive to schedule the Indianapolis Regional toward the end of March, after the Spring NABC. Jerry and Marsha will work with Tom to do what's possible.

Regional Update Indianapolis – Jerry Brelage

Indy Tournament Chairs asked players for feedback using questionnaires. The extreme cold and snow cause concern so moving later in the year is a priority. Older players do not like driving home late at night. The Drury Inn has been a good venue for the tournament. Some players like the morning afternoon schedule, some like the Afternoon Evening schedule. Indy is considering “Choice” games where people play in 2 out of three sessions. Hospitality is getting great reviews. Many volunteers did a lot of cooking. 50 people attended hospitality Friday evening. Hospitality is a draw for future years.

In 2018 Indy had 494 tables. In 2020 524. The goal was 450 tables. The tournament will do well financially at this attendance. 600 tables are a realistic near-term goal if we move to better weather.

President Billie Brown congratulated Marsh Callahan and Jerry Brelage for the great tournament they ran. The Board extends congratulation to all volunteers who helped make the 2024 Indy Regional a success. Jerry Brelage mentioned that many new volunteers brought new ideas and helped make the tournament a success.

OLD BUSINESS

Louisville NABC Committee Update - Joanne Traver

Joanne sent a report (Google Drive). Steve Moese mentioned that all Units and clubs should promote volunteering to all their members. Bill Cook mentioned that volunteers get a discount for their entry, free lunch, and they are working on a parking discount. Joanne asks that volunteers sign up for their task for the entire day. Volunteering does not interfere with any game you play. If D11 people buy entries online ahead of time, they get a discounted entry fee. Volunteers have until February 15, 2024 to sign up.

Bill Cook asked for clarification about the third regional session proposal declined by the ACBL. D11 proposed a financial risk sharing plan that would reduce the cost of sessions with very small table counts.

Steve Moese mentioned the special promotion for people who have not attended and NABC in 2022 or 2023. Buy two hotel nights and get two nights free. Steve urged the Board to promote this offer to all members.

Marsha Callahan noted that ACBL gave the NABC Committee three prizes for 299 players – 2 free nights for 299ers during the first weekend.

Split Regional – The Evansville Regional Schedule and Flyer is on the ACBL Tournament Website. The Flying Pig Regional has submitted its schedule and flyer to the ACBL and is awaiting the update on the ACBL Website.

The Split Regionals are separate tournaments – no scoring across fields between sites.

Steve Mentioned that Maribeth Ransel will provide certificates for the 2023 District Medallion Awards winners. They will be presented in Cincinnati on Wednesday, with any Evansville area winners getting theirs in Evansville at a convenient date. President Billie Brown mentioned that the next Board meeting will be Monday Evening June 3 in Cincinnati. This will facilitate her bringing Medallion Certificates to Unit 193 winners, and to attend her home Regional. Siraj Haji needs to confirm the date and arrangements for the Teacher and Club Manager Meeting in Cincinnati with Arun Goyal, the Tournament Chair.

Steve mentioned that Arun Goyal (Cincinnati Regional Tournament Chair) intends to send emails to 80,000 members in two 40,000 tranches. Billie asked if Evansville can send emails for their Regional – Steve Moese will help them do that. The Tournament Director or Communications person crafts an announcement and Steve published it to the target audience using Pianola. The Units / Tournaments are

billed by the District for the emails that they send. Because of the heavy email use in the summer, we will be buying another \$1000 worth of email credits (some 200K emails).

We usually do two emails for District Tournaments. One about 6-8 weeks prior, and another about 3-4 weeks prior. These emails are for D11 Regionals and D11 GNT/NAP Finals. We also support an NABC Committee in our District.

Secretary's Report – Steve Moese

The Board attendees received meeting nametags that we will continue using in future meetings. They differentiate among voting members, voting alternates, and officers/members. We have run out of the small reusable name tags and will not order more of those.

Treasurer's Report – Potter Orr

The report is on the Google Drive. Potter noted the profit of \$1412 in 2023. There as an additional expense for emails. He noted the account balance of \$58,377. No one from the NABC Committee has asked for the \$17,000 starter fund. This fund would be returned after the NABC ends.

Terrel Holt – U164 Lexington

Motion: to approve the Treasurer's report for calendar year 2023.

Second: Jim Barrett, U124 Cincinnati.

Passed Unanimously.

Recorder Report – Potter Orr

No business to report. Steve Moese mentioned that the ACBL has eliminated all disciplinary responsibilities at the District level.

NAP/GNT Report – Ryan Schultz

No changes for the year. The GNT is scheduled for Cincinnati in April 6-7, 2024. There is a flyer posted and Units should print copies and share with their players. Clubs and Units must promote this event to ensure good attendance.

Education Chair – Siraj Haji

11 People attended the Friday evening meeting. Indianapolis has a very successful program that we should all be working to copy. There is a desire to get more help from ACBL marketing. After trying for 6 months. Siraj got Lifetime Fitness in Columbus to start a bridge club.

Jerry Brelage offered to write up their current best approach in detail so others could replicate it. Jim Barrett though this was a great idea. There was general agreement that this would be helpful. Steve Moese offered to post the information on the District website.

Advisory Council – Steve Moese

District 11 Representatives are up for election this year. If you are interested in serving the Advisory Council, be sure to self-nominate with the ACBL. District 11 will have 3 representatives next year, down from our current 5.

The Advisory Council exists to improve communication and coordination with, and provide feedback to, ACBL Management and the ACBL Board of Directors.

Questions

Bill Cook – Where can we get better information about what's required to earn the 5/5/5 rebate for Units. Doing the data collection on lapsed people earns 7.5%. The criteria for the remaining 7.5% have yet to be developed. Tom Bishel – FAQ on 5/5/5 available to all Unit Presidents from the ACBL in a recent email. Steve asked for a copy to publish the information on the District website.

Bill Cook – we have tried calling members who are not playing anymore. Any ideas how to get them to come back?

Marsha Callahan – we found a number of deceased players, a number who have no club to play in, and people who have other pursuits.

Steve Moese mentioned that there is debate about what constitutes the New Member Recruiting goal. He mentioned the NJ Unit with a developed youth program that might not qualify. The program would then go unfunded. Steve will contact Brett Kunin for details.

Next Board Meeting is Monday June 3, 2024 at the Cincinnati Regional.

There being no more business before the Board, Bill Lea motioned to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 6:31 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Steve Moese, Secretary