

**DISTRICT 11 BOARD MEETING**  
**June 3, 2024 Cincinnati Regional**  
**Approved September 7, 2024**

**In attendance:**

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

**Voting Members** - **Unit 117** Bill Cook, Dotty Losey; **Unit 122** Tom Bishel, Daniel Loveland; **Unit 124** Jim Barrett, Bill Brewer; **Unit 136** Bob Stitt, Robert Zangri; **Unit 164** Terrell Holt, Elizabeth Johnson; **Unit 193** William Lea.

**Invited Guests:** Larry Sealy, Arun Goyal

**Alternates:** **Unit 130** Susan Spickelmier.

**Members:** Siraj Haji. Ryan Schultz

**Absent:** **Unit 130** Marsha Callahan, Jerry Brelage; **Unit 193** Jeffrey Chapman

**Absent with cause:** Maribeth Ransel, Vangie Smith

**CALL TO ORDER – by President Billie Brown at 6:05 PM**

**President Billie Brown** welcomed alternate Susan Spickelmier from Indianapolis, and Larry Sealy our Regional 7 ACBL Board of Directors representative. Billie mentioned that all Board documents for the meeting are in the D11 Google Drive (these are for Board members only).

**Steve Moese** confirmed that a quorum was present.

**President Billie Brown** reminded everyone to address the chair to be recognized, 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 and second a motion. No additions were offered to the agenda.

**MINUTES** – The Board approved the January 2024 Indianapolis minutes by unanimous consent.

**President Billie Brown** reminded the Board that our objective is to finish business in time for the evening session. All members were asked to view Unit updates on the Google Drive.

**PRESIDENT’S REPORT –**

**President Billie Brown** discussed the new approach to grants from the ACBL Charity Foundations. The amount will be \$10,000 and may be given to up to 5 separate 501c3 non-bridge related charities in the District. Information about recipient must be given to the Charity Foundation by October 1, 2024. Information required includes: Name of Charity, address, Contact person, phone, email, Tax ID number, amount of the grant. Due to a large reduction in the amount of the money received by the Charity Foundation since Covid. The trustees have decided to give \$10,000 to each District every 2 years.

Billie proposed that our District is 3 states – Indiana, Kentucky, and Ohio. She proposed that we divide the award by 3 and give it to one charity operating in all three states. She gave the Special Olympics as one example the District should consider. We have time before the next meeting to consider our decision in September. Steve asked Billie to forward the email to him for posting to the Google Drive.

**Next Board Meeting is Saturday September 7, 2024 8:00 AM at the Dayton/Columbus Regional.**

**Update on the Cincinnati Flying Pig - Arun Goyal**

We have the same schedule as last year - Pair and Team games every day. The demand for teams was less than we expected today, so Mike Roberts and his team had to scramble this morning to accommodate more pairs and fewer teams. Our turnout is slightly lower than last year, but not that far down. We hope to match last year’s table count.

**Report by Larry Sealy – Region 7 Representative to the ACBL Board of Directors.**

**Key Actions from Louisville / Status on EDGAR**

- Refined criteria for sanctioning regional tournaments. 425 mile as the crow flies. Shared decision criteria and decision process. Weight given to tradition.
- Board meetings and Expenses. Originally coupled to meeting virtually in the Fall. Want to offer Thanksgiving to employees and Board Member families. Motion severed. Virtual Fall meeting failed because budget decision benefits from F2F decision making. Did agree to start meeting a day earlier so that people can go home for Thanksgiving. The one extra day costs about \$5,000. Motion to double the expense stipend passed, but Larry opposed the change as excessive.
- Motion by the Advisory Council to create a Teachers and Club Managers Committee of the Corporation failed unanimously. Management argued against this. President Margot Hennings initiated a Club task force and the proposal was found redundant with that choice.
- Chicago 2027 NABC. Sites failed for walkability and room cost (\$255/night). Looking for 2<sup>nd</sup> Chicago hotel with < \$200 room rates – none found yet. Las Vegas is the likely substitute – Room rates at \$100 per night.
- Finance – projecting a loss of \$313K for 2024. YTD because of Louisville success results are better than expected (\$100K loss is possible). Balance sheet is strong.
- Membership down to 130,000. Loss rate is slowing. Management trying many ideas. Many Units have done nothing. Many Units have done well. Expect a status report in July 2024 on the progress with 5/5/5.
- EDGAR goes on line Feb 1, 2024.
- Life Membership eliminated. Life Masters attaining that rank prior to 1970 did not have to pay dues. Live Member service fee was established. Life Members did not sign the arbitration agreement. By eliminating the Life Member category, people will have to renew and sign the arbitration agreement. Agreeing to arbitration is essential for EDGAR to work.
- All Covid protocols eliminated May 13, 2024.
- Bridge Committee and C&C considering adding another flight for NAP. We have 4 for GNT. The new flight would be U6000. Likely to be implemented for 2025. Upper limits for flights might also change. Expense will increase due to additional stipends.
- Split Regionals eliminated. 3 Districts including District 11 are grandfathered in. Will not be taken away if sanctioned.

**Post Louisville –**

EDGAR – computer based cheating detection tool by Franco Bassegio and Brian Platnick. **Everyone Deserves a Game Above Reproach.** Appeals & Charges committee with help from Sabrina Goley spent over 100 hours updating the CDR prior to using EDGAR. New CDR approved on May 8, 2024. Changes to penalties cause some imposed since Feb 1, 2024 to be revised. Changed discipline to reflect each individual player's MP holding.

Heightened Scrutiny (run every 3 months) applies to BoD, Adv Council, Key ACBL Committees, employees, ACBL Officials. We caught some people who were local hospitality people who support local board efforts. Unit and District HS scans now limited to President. Vice President. Secretary, Treasurer, and Recorder. Changed to include people who cheat with multiple partners. This category increases penalties for offenders.

EDGAR assigns people to one of three groups – **RED** - cheating; **Yellow** – Needs further investigation; **Green** – not found (not innocent, just not proven).

**Levels of Discipline**

**FAST-TRACK DISCIPLINE (FTD): REDs** get a notice in the mail about their discipline with suspension and probation details. If they agree, they sign an ethics certification and make a fair play pledge. They must

agree or file for arbitration. Limited to players with <2500 MPs, <5 Platinum Points, no Unit, District Officers or previous BoD members. Not previously found guilty of cheating under the CDR.

Players under 300 MPs given a warning.

Between 300-600 MPs get 6-month suspension and 4-year probation.

1500 to 2500 MPs get 2-year suspension and 4-year probation.

Completing the ethics certification and fair play pledge cuts penalties in half.

Automatic 50% increase in penalty for aggravating factors like cheating with multiple partners.

**Players above 2500 MPs** are taken to Bridge Arbitration unless they accept a Negotiated Resolution (NR). Pairs just do not respond to many contact attempts. In that case Management might hold an in-house expedited disciplinary proceeding. Players will be prohibited from playing with partners with whom they have been cheating during the penalties. NRs also require ethics certification and fair play pledge.

**Statistics** – 8 runs made. Started slow. Initially ran employees, governance leadership, BoD, AC, Committees, and got 2 reds from high profile person leading an ACBL committee. Found a former member of BoD and wife cheating.

We send EDGAR these **Lists**: Heightened Scrutiny, Player Memos, and Random Draws. Total submitted on lists through May 21 slightly under 3700. 12,700 examined by EDGAR. 188 **REDS** 2 Cases of **RED STRIPE** (one person blatantly cheating, the other not), Data for EDGAR comes from BBO.

40 in **FTD**. 2 expelled for multiple instances of cheating. 1 Expedited Disciplinary Panel. 22 NRs, 4 resigned to avoid discipline, 12 warnings and a number of cases pending, 6 awaiting IBA Arbitration.

Nicolas Hammond claimed 2% cheating, but 5% in BBO games. So far EDGAR has found about 1.3%. Heightened scrutiny people have low incidence, possibly reducing the estimate of the population rate.

EDGAR cannot work on face-to-face results because it depends on computer data from bidding and play not available from face-to-face bridge.

**Are some governance responsibilities being transferred to the Advisory Council from the BoD?**  
Masterpoint Committee is one possibility. Likely Committees will retain at least 2 BoD members.

**Larry Sealy** congratulated everyone involved with making the Louisville NABC the success that it was. People were impressed with the venue, the city, and the support.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

**Flying Buckeye Regional Update** – Tom Bishel, Sept 3-9, 2024. We've added Sunday. The D11 Board meeting will be Saturday Morning 8 AM with breakfast.

**D11 Election Committee** – Two members are recruited and awaiting the response from a third. Officers for 2025-6 are to be nominated in the September Meeting and elected in the November meeting.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

**Report on Louisville NABC** – Joanne Travers –See Joanne's report on the Google Drive.

The Board congratulated the Louisville Committee and all volunteers for their work in support of a highly successful NABC in March 2024. Steve Moese wil draft a letter on behalf of the Board.

## **Status Reports on 5/5/5 Plan**

### **U124 Cincinnati – Bill Brewer**

For the past 3 board meetings the Board said they would do this but no action was taken. Got 3 volunteers to help and we are now seeing results. Oddly the results are not showing up in the tool's report. Advised Bronia

of this issue. The 5/5/5 tool is wonderful to use – great work by ACBL. Easy to use. Very quick. If you do this each month you meet your 5% goal. Get volunteers to help!

We do not get timely notice of guest memberships in our Unit. This has to change. We need to know who they are and be able to reach out to them. Jan-Apr had 60 people who signed up and we had no idea they were there. ACBL working on getting those names to Unit Boards. We want to know who they are. They don't even show up in pianola. Check to see who they are because we won't know until they lapse and that could be too late.

**U164 Lexington – Terrel Holt**

Just got 2 new members yesterday. Our Unit Secretary sends letters to lapsing members and keeps them renewing.

**U136 Dayton – Bob Stitt**

Susan Freeman has called people and gotten renewals. We've had over 200 people take classes in the past 7 months. We're starting a new U50 game Wednesday next week with 5 tables committed to play. Of those 20, 15 are new members just from those classes. We lost \$13,000 last year in Dayton. This year through April we are down only \$350.

**U122 Columbus – Tom Bishel** – Nothing to report.

**U 130 Indianapolis – Bill Cook**

**Sandy Spears** and her team have been running classes, with well over 100 people in the last year. We just started a third U50 Game with 5 tables. Sandy runs a 5<sup>th</sup> chair event quarterly with 15-16 tables. Conversion to new members is reasonable. Anyone who wants to play bridge can use our back room. Tables up since last year and year before, but about 60% pre-covid levels. Some members are simply not returning to the club.

**Bill Brewer** – ACBL can send you a list of people who are playing online with their contact information.

**Larry Sealy** – we have people who start online and don't want to go back to face to face.

**Unit 193 – Billie Brown:** We are working on 5/5/5 with some progress.

**BOOST UPDATES - Siraj Haji**

Progress has been a little difficult. Applications are being turned down due to poor past track records in recruiting. Will start classes on 26 June 2024 taught by Dallas Moore.

Spurious advice from BOOST: Do not send an email, call. Call, but do not leave a voice mail. Who calls can have an impact on connecting.

I offered to write a check for \$500 to cover ACBL cost. That's like 4 students and they were going to give me 80 names. Worth the investment.

Stakeholders meeting will be in this room on Wednesday. Trish Jones going to Atlanta for training on Gifted Students Programs for Bridge.

Lifetime Fitness Bridge classes underway. Free class to exercise your brain. Consistently getting 16 people.

When faced with a crisis in membership, why would we take our best tool and deny those trying to make an improvement? They spend money to advertise. They want their limited funds to be spent effectively.

If there are three teachers offering a beginning class at the same time they will invest because people will have a choice. Doesn't make sense for many Units where one class is all that's manageable.

Billie thanked Siraj for running the District networking meeting for Teachers and Club Mangers.

**District 11 Medallion Winners** – Recognition postponed to Dayton Columbus Regional. We wish Maribeth a speedy recovery.

**Indianapolis Regional Update – Susan Spickelmier**

Instead of January, we will run Feb 24 – March 2 – New location Marriott East 7202 East 21st St, Indianapolis, IN 46219. It's a bigger hotel with more space. Rooms are about \$100. Marsha Callahan worked very hard to get this site.

**Secretary's Report – Steve Moese**

Steve reviewed the Pianola charges for each source. Potter will bill the appropriate users. Steve mentioned data on the maximum reach from Pianola based on center of the 500-mile radius circle. Regionals can use strategies to maximize reach. Sending zip code has to be within District 11.

**Advisory Council Report – Steve Moese**

Jeff Chapman, Steve Moese, and Vangie Smith are appointed to terms for 2025-2027. Having no challengers, there will be no election later this year

**Treasurer's Report – Potter Orr**

The District shows a **loss of \$3200** through the end of June compared to a **loss of \$373** from last year. Reason: paid NAP awards more promptly (an \$1800 difference). Lost **\$208** from GNT finals compared to a gain of \$440 last year because GNT finals were very small. Indianapolis got a check for \$500 and some but no record of reason why.

**Bill Brewer** – U124 Cincinnati

**Motion:** Moved to approve the Treasurer's report for Jan-May 2024.

**Second:** Tom Bishel, U122 Columbus

**Passed Unanimously.**

**NAP/GNT Report – Ryan Schultz**

Report is on the Google Drive. GNT was one table bigger than last year. Perhaps Directors fees increased causing the shortfall. Attendance was below expectation. We all need to do more to promote grass roots events. Indianapolis and Lexington reached out to get more information. Check out the District 11 Website for details:

[DISTRICT 11 NAP FINALS](#)   [DISTRICT 11 GNT FINALS](#)

Some people tried to form teams and couldn't get there. Helping with partnerships would increase attendance.

**Tournament Chair Report – Tom Bishel**

The District Tournament Calendar Page has been updated.

[DISTRICT 11 TOURNAMENT CALENDAR](#)

[DISTRICT 11 TOURNAMENT LIST](#)

Changes made by ACBL Board regarding tournaments. Split Regionals have been eliminated except for 3 Districts with grandfathered permission (D11 is one).

STaCs received a major change. They will run like a club championship. The club will report STaC games to ACBL LIVE 4 CLUBS. Must set up games in ACBLScore right or it won't get recorded properly. ACBL will charge \$7.50 per table. Sponsor gets \$2.30 per table. This eliminates the check collecting and payments by the local sponsor. Hassel free STaCs.

**I/N Regional – Indianapolis** wants to run one every year. Current policy is for one Regional to rotate throughout the Units every year (starting in 2017). Highest was 122 tables in 2017. Indianapolis got 128 tables in October 2023. They deserve this. Am asking the Board to grant this. The District can run up to 5 I/N regionals per year. What are the schedule implications in doing this? Interest is in summer, when the snowbirds are up north. Early October or some time in July. October might conflict or draw NLMs from the D11 NAP Final. 148 individuals went to the Indianapolis I/N tournaments and only 29 went to another D11 Regional – Indy is drawing mostly from Indy. Attendees are not a group that’s travelling to regionals. We want to space this one month among regionals. July interferes with the NLM Sectional in Dayton. Units run NLM Regionals simultaneously with Local Sectionals. Cannot run with a local director for I/N Regionals. So, there is a cost difference with local sectionals. Can have one TD supported by local directors for the local sectional players.

Should we require they be combined to avoid having two events on the calendar. We can look into that. 4 Regionals and 5 I/Ns and all our Sectionals are a lot of tournaments for our members to support.

Should we limit the proposal for 3 years?

If Indy does this in early October, this is an opportunity to promote the I/N Regional. I/N Regionals can allow gold Rush eligible players. U750.

**Bob Stitt – U136 Dayton**

**Motion: That District 11 allow Unit 130 Indianapolis run one I/N Regional per year for the next three years starting this October 2024.**

**Second:** Bill Brewer, U124 Cincinnati.

**Passed Unanimously.**

**Next Board Meeting is Saturday September 7, 2024 8:00 AM at the Dayton/Columbus Regional.**

There being no more business before the Board, Billie Brown adjourned the meeting at 7:26 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Steve Moese, Secretary