

DISTRICT 11 BOARD MEETING
September 7, 2024 Dayton-Columbus Regional
DRAFT

In attendance:

Officers – Billie Brown, President; Maribeth Ransel, Vice President; Steve Moese, Secretary;

Voting Members - **Unit 122** Tom Bishel, Daniel Loveland; **Unit 124** Jim Barrett, Bill Brewer; **Unit 130** Susan Spickelmier; **Unit 136** Bob Stitt, Robert Zangri; **Unit 164** Terrell Holt, **Unit 193** Jeffrey Chapman, William Lea.

Alternates: **Unit 164** Sondra Holt; **Unit 130** Jerry Brelage;

Member: Ryan Schultz

Absent: **Unit 117** Bill Cook, Dotty Losey; **Unit 130** Marsha Callahan, **Unit 164** Ken Katen **Treasurer** Potter Orr.

CALL TO ORDER – by President Billie Brown at 8:10 AM

President Billie Brown welcomed new Board member Susan Spickelmier from Indianapolis, and alternates from Indianapolis and Lexington. 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 June 2024 Cincinnati meeting minutes by unanimous consent. Moved: Jim Barrett Unit 124, seconded Terrell Holt Unit 164

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

PRESIDENT’S REPORT –

President Billie Brown discussed priorities for member growth and retention with a focus on the new 5/5/5 plan.

Next Board Meeting is Friday November 8, 2024 ~5:30 PM at the Louisville-Lexington Regional.

NEW BUSINESS

Update on the Flying Buckeye Regional – Tom Bishel and Bob Stitt

Membership is tracking with last year. We did add one more day and we hope to see more players. This is a non-smoking facility. We are discussing whether to move this regional one week later or two weeks before (middle August). The second week of September is the week before the Lexington Sectional.

Maribeth Ransel Unit 130 – Labor Day weekend is when many close summer homes and end summer vacations.

Tom & Bob – we will come back to the Board in November with a proposed new rime.

District 11 Medallion Winners were recognized this week. We congratulate all winners, and thank Maribeth Ransel for the great D11 Certificates, and the Tournament Chairs for managing the presentation of the awards. The Unit Representatives received the undelivered certificates to deliver to their members.

District 11 Officer Nominations – Bob Stitt reported that all officers are willing to serve their office again. No other candidates were offered. Bob mentioned that Steve Moese faces a decision that might not allow him to continue as Secretary. Steve Moese (Unit 124) mentioned that he has been nominated to the Chair of the ACBL Advisory Council and that the election will be contested in December 2024. If the workload allows Steve will continue as Secretary. If not, Steve will be happy to train his replacement. The election of officers for 2025-26 will occur at the Louisville-Lexington Regional meeting Friday evening November 8, 2024. All members are urged to attend. Nominees from the floor are allowed.

Charity Funds Disbursement

Billie Brown, President - D11 will receive \$10,000 from the ACBL Charity Foundation. We have until October to decide where the money should go.

Unit 164 Terrell Holt - Lets split it among the units.

Steve Moese – Should we split it evenly or weight the split by membership?

Unit 136 Bob Stitt – by membership would be most fair.

Steve Moese – based on membership on August 12, 2024 here is what the split would be:

Row Labels	Count of ID	% D11 Members	\$10,000	
117	441	12.8%	\$1,275.7	Louisville
122	480	13.9%	\$1,388.5	Columbus
124	733	21.2%	\$2,120.3	Cincinnati
130	828	24.0%	\$2,395.1	Indianapolis
136	291	8.4%	\$841.8	Dayton
164	381	11.0%	\$1,102.1	Lexington
193	303	8.8%	\$876.5	Evansville
Grand Total	3457	100.0%	\$10,000.0	

MOTION: Unit 136 Bob Stitt – moved that the Board divide the charity funds based on Unit membership. Bill Brewer – Second. Passed unanimously.

Billie Brown - mentioned that the Google Drive has the information about the requirements. Steve Moese could not locate the documentation and has e-mailed Nancy Strohmer for details about how to apply. There might be a limit to the number of checks that the ACBL will create for the District. We have 7 Units.

Maribeth Ransel Unit 130 – this is a great opportunity to get advertising for the ACBL and local bridge. Work to get into the organization’s publication and community newspapers.

OLD BUSINESS

Status Reports on 5/5/5 Plan

Unit 122 Columbus – Tom Bishel

We were able to get 6 members retained. Larry Jones is leading our Unit effort.

Unit 130 Indianapolis – Jerry Brelage

Our classes are going really well. Spring and Summer we had about 150 new people in classes. We are working to get these people into games. We are going to use Jump Start – at the state gifted students conference in December. We are working with Indiana Bridge Foundation and the Indiana Bridge Club clubs

to prepare. Georgia ended up with over 1000 students. Patty Tucker is anticipating 9 different state conferences this fall. We are working to support teachers who participate in Jump Start. There is a Northern Indiana and Southern Indiana Unit to coordinate efforts with.

3 Weeks after class we started a 0-5 game to get new people playing.

Unit 136 Dayton - Bob Stitt

We've done 9 sets of lesson in the past 15 months. We have new players who are afraid to get into duplicate so we started a 0-50 game with helpers this summer – 4-5 tables Wednesday mornings. All played in the Regional this week. They've had fun. Several have played more than once.

Unit 193 Evansville – Jeff Chapman – We work off the Return to the Fold emails and reach out to everyone. Owensboro, KY is doing a great job bringing in new members. Evansville has classes for new players. Nancy Irwin does a chat game on Sat Aft 12:30-2:30 so people have a place to go immediate to practice playing.

U164 Lexington – Terrel Holt

Our most success comes from OLLI (Osher Lifelong Learning Institute). Students are now progressing to other bridge classes. We have 3-4 different classes at the bridge club. Our Unit Secretary has always reminded lapsed members to renew membership. She also sends free games to new members. I personally called every lapsed member and we got 15 people to rejoin.

Unit 164 – Sondra Holt -

Several games have disappeared. We added two 18 board games. 9.5 tables in a new short game \$5 per person.

Unit 124 Jim Barrett

Bill Brewer started an Under 200 game (really a 0-200 game) that is a comfortable, helping game and attracted 8-10 table per week. Players have begun attending other tournaments and open club games.

Unit 124 Bill Brewer – we are working with the OLLI teacher to pay the first-year membership for all Guest Members OLLI creates. This is a win-win for us. We are also starting a class, cards in hand in the evening, inviting parents and their kids to learn together. The final game will be a masterpoint game. No long lectures – cards in hand focus on fun. Text is “Teach me to Play” a light.

Steve Moese – there's a big idea: Look at the money each unit gets from the 5/5/5 program and divide that by the number of new players you create. Paying the discounted first year membership from Unit funds is a great way to create new members and give prospects a low-risk full membership trial.

Unit 124 Bill Brewer – as a full member they get the ACBL Bulletin, a big benefit.

Steve Moese – offered the following perspective from the recent ACBL Advisory Council Meeting - The ACBL paid out only 76% of the available funds. Of 288 units, 173 did nothing. 220 units did poorly in their activity grade. Most of these units are small. About 50 Units got more than 11%. Easy volunteer work gets you lots of money. This contrasts with all the good news shared here.

BOOST UPDATES - Siraj Haji

Unit 193 Evansville – Jeff Chapman Nancy Irwin is leading Boost. We are signed up for another session this fall.

Unit 122 Columbus – Tom Bishel We did a Boost class in the summer and plan another in the fall. Siraj has been running a play bridge class at Lifetime Fitness to 4-5 tables per week. Lifetime has expressed interest in expanding to their other sites. One or two people have come to our bridge club. After 3-6 months we hope to have them interested in more classes and club bridge.

Unit 130 Indianapolis – Jerry Brelage Is ACBL discontinuing Boost? Are they defunding it?

Steve Moese – Boost is run by the ACBL Education Foundation and is partially funded by the ACBL. There is no intention to allow this program to decline. Boost is a major success. The ACBL is working toward being the central contact for all ne prospects who want to learn to play bridge. The Marketing department hopes to be ready to deploy this idea in two years. The concern is whether we are effective enough turning prospects into new members.

Unit 124 Cincinnati - Bill Brewer We applied to Boost last year and got turned down because our classes do not create enough new members. We are working with our one teacher to change that. We want to participate.

UNIT REPORTS

You can add reports to the Google Drive at any time.

We discussed the impact that the EDGAR Program (cheating detector for online bridge) on D11.

Unit 136 Dayton - Bob Stitt – Georgia Banziger, Club Manager, has set a goal of 200 tables per month for breakeven at the Dayton club. In July we had 219 tables! We lost \$14,000 last year but this year we are down only \$1000 so far this year. Food matters.

Unit 130 Indianapolis – Jerry Brelage – We are visiting our local clubs and telling them about EDGAR. They appreciate it. The ACBL publishes names of everyone receiving discipline.

Secretary’s Report – Steve Moese

Our meeting attendance has been good. Unfortunately, Louisville could not attend this meeting.

Steve confirmed that the Google Form for Regrets (when we cannot attend Board Meetings).

Steve offered to hold zoom conferences for those wanting to learn how to use the District Google Drive.

Steve mentioned that he will update the home page of the District website next week.

Advisory Council Report – Steve Moese

Steve is nominated to run for Chair of the Advisory Council for 2025-26. He has 2 opponents: Richard Potter, Past Chair, and Peter Marcus D25, past ACBL TD. The election is in December 2024 after our last board meeting of the year. Steve will focus on improving communication throughout the ACBL to improve business and bridge results.

Steve mentioned that the Advisory Council successfully convinced the ACBL Board of Directors to redo their decision to change the design of the grass roots events (NAP and GNT) for 2025 going forward. This marks the first time a Motion for Reconsideration was accepted by the Board in the past 9 years or more. The new design will have same flights across both GNT and NAP:

- Open
- Flight A 0-6000 MPs (New)
- Flight B 0-3000 MPs (up from 2500 MPs)
- Flight C 0-750 MPs Non-Life Master.

The board of Directors had included Life masters under 750 masterpoints in flight C, but based on feedback changed back to NLMs. District 25 ran their first GNT post covid with 5 Flight C tables. By changing their advertising to promote local gold points among NLMs only (no mention of GNT, grass roots, NABC attendance or stipends) Sue Miguel D25 got 60 Flight C tables the next year.

Gold points for Non-Life Masters playing against only Non-Life Masters.

This is an example how data and good communication changes decisions for the better.

These changes do NOT impact October's D11 NAP Finals.

For details from Management meetings and ACBL Board of Director decisions, see [ACBL MEETING REPORTS](#)

NAP/GNT Report – Ryan Schultz

See the report is on the Google Drive. Please promote the upcoming NAP finals in Cincinnati in October 19-20, 2024. Everyone on the D11 Board has a responsibility to promote this event to clubs and players. Ryan introduced his [PROPOSALS](#) for discussion and evaluation that will improve the NAP/GNT D11 finals. In short:

1. **Reduce the length of the GNT.** Reduce Flight C (and possibly Flight B) to a 1-day Swiss/Round Robin event. For A & Open consider online qualifying sessions. This reduces the face-to-face commitment to 1 day. If all flights were reduced to a single F2F day this change would also reduce director costs.
2. **Hold GNT/NAP events during existing D11 tournaments.**
3. **Hold NAP C or GNT C during a D11 NLM Tournament.**
4. Allow players **free entry when they play in multiple flights**
5. Require **Unit qualification for Flight C GNT Teams**

Discussion: This requires an ACBL TD and raises the cost of running a local sectional. There is no income for the District with this approach.

Discussion: Perhaps we can do this without reducing the field. Indianapolis mentioned that they ran GNT events with cash prizes to cover gas money for the top 4 finishers. Could be a "Preparation Game, or a NLM Regional (Gold/Red Awards).

Unit 124 Jim Barrett – Supports one day finals. Also supports running them as part of a tournament.

Steve Moese shared information about NAP Attendance last year 30.5 tables or 122 people at most. 1417 people have qualified as of August 30. Where are our qualifiers? Why don't more qualifiers attend? Are we promoting Gold Points.

Unit 124 Bill Brewer – There are so many NAP qualifiers. Many people play and have no desire to play in the finals. We can do more to promote the District Finals.

Unit 136 Bob Zangri – People have no desire to go any further and they think there is pressure for them to go further.

Steve Moese – we need to change that impression and get people playing in the District Finals. We own helping clubs and players understand the opportunity.

Billie Brown - Remind the club managers that there are stipends should people win and attend the following NABC.

Ryan Schultz – A one day even avoids the uncertainty about arranging a hotel for out-of-town players. This is a deterrent to attendance when the hotel is needed only when a team advances. Online for lower flights is too much. Many don't even play online and teaching them would be a distraction.

Unit 130 Jerry Brelage – Is this worth the time and effort? Do we have other bigger fish to fry?

Steve Moese – We all have a responsibility to help people to grow from playing in clubs to playing in tournaments. This is a gold point event against NLMs.

Unit 122 Dan Loveland – There is pride when someone from D11 does well in a Grass Roots Event.

Unit 124 Bill Brewer – we have an issue with people discouraging new people from playing in tournaments. We have to stop telling people that they aren't ready.

Unit 120 Maribeth Ransel - We used to have the GNT incentive game – not a qualifier but we explained what the game was and how it worked then offered cash awards for the top 3-4 finishers. They understood they could go without commitment to playing in the NABC. We did not do this for NAP.

Please send Ryan thoughts and ideas before the next Board Meeting.

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

[HOTELS](#) for the Cincinnati D11 NAP/GNT Finals.

Unit 136 Bob Stitt thanked the Board and offered us a fond farewell. The Board thanked him for his work on behalf of bridge.

Tournament Chair Report – Tom Bishel

There is an email from the ACBL outlining the new labor rules for any tournaments run by **ACBL TD's**.

- To play more than 24 boards per session the start times must be 5 hours or more apart. Less time limits the game to 24 boards. No sessions with less than 4 hours without permission from headquarters.
- No director will work three sessions in one day. Add staff.
- If you have a playthrough Swiss event. There must be food available on the premises. Available does not mean free.

There is a Royal STaC in December with D7 and D10. Royal STaCs will happen next year (2). One in Spring 2025 and December 2025. See the report in the Google Drive for details. We have a regular STaC in October. The ACBL now runs STaCs like any other special game. The STaC Sponsor gets reimbursed directly.

The District Tournament Calendar Page is updated.

[DISTRICT 11 TOURNAMENT CALENDAR](#)

[DISTRICT 11 TOURNAMENT LIST](#)

Steve Moese suggested that Board Members should share important policy emails on the District Google Drive.

Next Board Meeting is Friday November 8, 2024 ~5:30 PM at the Louisville-Lexington Regional.

There being no more business before the Board, Billie Brown adjourned the meeting at 9:19 AM. So moved: All.

Respectfully Submitted,
Steve Moese, Secretary