

DISTRICT 11 BOARD MEETING
March 1, 2025 Indianapolis Regional
Approved Thursday June 12, 2025

In attendance:

Officers – Billie Brown, President; Maribeth Ransel, Vice President; Potter Orr, Treasurer;

Voting Members - Unit 122 Tom Bishel, Daniel Loveland; **Unit 124** Jim Barrett, Bill Brewer; **Unit 130** Marsha Callahan; Susan Spickelmier; **Unit 193** Jeffrey Chapman.

Alternates: Unit 193 Jack McCullagh.

Guest: Unit 130 Jerry Brelage

Absent: Unit 117 Bill Cook; **Unit 136** Robert Zangri; Dallas Moore; **Unit 164** Ken Katen; **Unit 193** Bill Lea; **Secretary** Steve Moese; **GNT/NAP Coordinator** Ryan Schultz;

CALL TO ORDER – by President Billie Brown at 10:00 AM

Potter Orr began a discussion about spam emails. Spammers simply scan our website and choose names of officials then pretend to be those people (many email services allow people to change the NAME associated with their account. Spammers simply rename their own account using the email of the spammed party). We can use our ACBL# in the signature line or a bridge related code like 6NXX in the subject line when emailing each other.

President Billie Brown welcomed Dallas Moore Unit 136 (absent) to the Board of Directors replacing Bob Stitt. We thank Bob for his service. Billie informed the Board that Bill Lea Unit 193 is recovering from a recent stroke. We all wish Bill a speedy recovery. Billie mentioned our sadness as we recognize that Terrell and Sondra Holt are suspended from the ACBL. We will welcome them back with open arms when their suspension is over. Both Terrell and Sondra have been major contributors to bridge in Unit 164 and District 11.

Billie mentioned that all Board documents for the meeting are in the D11 Google Drive (these documents are for Board members only). As always members should have these key links bookmarked in their browser for future reference.

Billie recognized Steve Moese as absent and that Maribeth Ransel will serve as secretary for this meeting.

Maribeth Ransel 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. Two additions were offered to the agenda under New Business: Proposed Changes to the D11 GNT and NAP Finals, and Longest Day Recognition.

MINUTES – The Board approved the November 7, 2024 Louisville Lexington meeting minutes by unanimous consent. Moved: Jim Barrett Unit 124, Seconded: Jeff Chapman Unit 193.

President Billie Brown reminded the Board that our objective is to finish business in a timely manner. All members were asked to view Unit updates on the Google Drive.

Maribeth Ransel asked for Board Member updates.

Billie Brown asked that each Unit get their Treasurer's contact information to Potter Orr as soon as possible. Maribeth Ransel announced that, before the afternoon game, the Evansville Bridge Club and the Indianapolis Bridge Center would be recognized for their outstanding accomplishments in the 2024 Longest Day event.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT –

President Billie Brown discussed D11 Priorities.

Bill Brewer U124 explained the 5/5/5 plan. There is a tool to be used every month. Contact lapsed members every month to get 5% of Unit membership fees, reach retention goals to earn another 5%, and meet Recruitment goals for the final 5%. This is more than the flat 11% given in the past. Takes one member about 45 minutes.

Jeff Chapman Unit 193 asks each club to reach out to the lapsed members and has had success. ACBL does not send an email, but offers a chart with a link online. Have to update the chart with the necessary data to get the rebate. Rebates are quarterly.

Unit 130 Indianapolis has appointed a point person for 5/5/5. There is a video on the ACBL describing how to use the online tools. It's on the tool sheet. We will implement a College Outreach program.

The D11 Website has the data from the ACBL for end of year 2024 – The data from Unit 124 was not correct in the ACBL's summary.

NEW BUSINESS

Jerry Brelage (Unit 130 Unit Board) - Tonight's stakeholder's meeting –

- Invited Board members to attend.
- **Purdue students** (5) started a program on their own. Organized the game, found a location, got financing, recruited students and taught the class.
- **Jump Start** – In planning stages. Matt Cory trained with Patty Tucker attended Gifted and Talented Conference 164 schools in Indiana expressed an interest. Patty Tucker is overwhelmed - Texas had 400 schools. Jump Start attracted 8 more states than expected! The question is, how does the Unit do the whole state? Northern and Southern Indiana, SW Indiana all need thought.
- Indiana's teaching plan.

Billie Brown - How will the schools integrate learning about bridge? That's up to the school. The Gifted and Talented Program in Indiana have no set guidelines. Each school determines how they will handle programs. Big schools have separate classes. Others have special activities. We fit the training to their program choice. Avoid trying to tell teachers how to run their programs. Unit 130 has a program set up with Unit 130, Indianapolis Bridge Club, and The Indiana Bridge Foundation to plan with each interested school. This group will map out the plan to contact interested schools. With Jump Start, the teacher can teach bridge without knowing how to play cards. That teacher is whom we will support.

Jack McCullagh– We have retired teachers who would be interested in teaching bridge.

Jerry Brelage – that's not what we want. We want the gifted program teacher in the school to teach bridge. Teachers can teach bridge without being bridge players. A unit might consider assigning someone to support the gifted program teacher, with the teacher's consent. These teachers learn as they teach. These teachers get materials for duplicate bridge and a stipend.

Looking at doing something similar with the Colleges and Universities in Indiana. Trine University (Angola, IN) started a bridge club and teaches a bridge class for credit. Will bring a Purdue student on the U130 Board. We will have a Board member with College responsibilities. They will work with Purdue and reach out to other colleges and universities.

Recommends D11 host a meeting at every regional to share best practices and idea.

We need to think out of the box. We know we will fail in some things, but we need to make the effort on all good ideas.

Billie Brown – Perhaps one of the Purdue students can be the Youth Bridge Coordinator for District 11.

Marsha Callahan – From the Vegas NABC: Here are the values schools see in teaching bridge: Bridge helps with inductive reasoning, deductive reasoning, probabilities, multiplication, division, algebra, number relationships, value assignment, addition, subtraction, social skill, planning, etc. Many ways bridge can help in a school environment.

Jerry Brelage – Once we get into the schools, how will teachers and parents react? Will it snowball? Patty Tucker counts over 10,000 children taking classes right now. Expect 100,000 by end of the year.

Kentucky has two schools in the program already. Get in touch with Patty Tucker to learn who is doing Jump Start in KY and IN.

Jack McCullagh – can we get kids to play on BBO? Purdue students say they want to enjoy the social aspects of bridge too.

Dotty Losey – KY requires people to be vetted before teaching in schools. Arranged a Saturday game for Lebanon students.

Jerry Brelage – Indiana has the Indiana Bridge Foundation that can support students financially.

Billie Brown – Our new Education Chair is Bill Brewer Unit 124.

Bill Brewer – Needs education chairs emails and phones from each unit.

Jack McCullagh – Nashville Sectional had a free game for Under 50 Masterpoint players.

Maribeth Ransel – Thanked Jerry for restarting our stakeholders' meetings and recalled the past stakeholders' meetings held by the District Board. She will send an email to board members to begin to collect best practices ideas from various units. Steve Moese will publish Unit best practices on the website. We do not want to lose ideas as people change roles. Will coordinate with Education chair to avoid overlap.

Indianapolis Regional – Marsha Callahan and Susan Spickelmier, Regional Co-chairs. Up over 20 tables vs last year. Susan coordinated Pianola this year. Pianola really helped. Northern clubs and Michigan players attended. Marriott and Delta are combined. Delta is lower cost. Hospitality room has been terrific. About 50-70 people attend hospitality. First time we tried a choice pairs. Half wanted to play morning and afternoon, half wanted afternoon and evening. You play any of 3 sessions and the first two sessions played count toward overall ranking. 11 morning 22 afternoon 11 evening (80 total across gold rush). Might move Hospitality on some days to between evening and afternoon games so everyone who plays can participate.

Jeff Chapman – U130 does a great job doing surveys after the tournament to understand what works and what doesn't. Perhaps you can poll people for a midnight fast pairs game. ACBL staffing might be a show stopper.

Goals for 2025

Marsha Callahan U130 – Jump Start and improving our Regional.

Jeff Chapman U193 – maximize 5/5/5 funding. Having more bridge classes. LBIAD in small towns.

Bill Brewer U124 – Unit paid for 1st year guest members (~\$30). We get that money back from 5/5/5 and now you have contact info to induce greater participation.

Report to D11 by Larry Sealy (The slides are on the D11 website and in the D11 Google Drive for this meeting).
Key Topics:

Board of Directors:

- 1) ACBL Finances – 2024 Asset **Gain \$1MM !!** Projected 2025 Budget **gain of \$300K**
- 2) Membership **decrease of 1984** as of Nov 1, 2024 to 128,622.
 - a. 4386 Guest members → 1181 Full members, and 1578 continue as guests. (1627 not members).
 - b. Retention efforts give results; Recruiting lags pre-covid
- 3) ACBL Clubhouse – Larry S. disagreed with putting pigmented points online there.
 - a. Clubs get \$1.25 per player session
- 4) NABC Task Force – Will choose well-attended sites more frequently. Will find geography balance.
- 5) Online Bridge Provider – BBO Contract ends 6/30/25. No more exclusive provider contracts.
- 6) Proportional O/A MP Awards for Swiss teams will continue.
- 7) New Bracketed Pairs event for Regionals. 9 table brackets. Run 1 or 2 days at regionals. Not simple to implement. Requires experienced DIC.
- 8) New Fast Track Discipline Schedule by MP level (see report).

Computer Cheating Detection (EDGAR) –

- 9) 2000 players run between July – October 2024.
- 10) November batch brings total to 14,636 (of more than 80,000). More coming.
- 11) Red Flags 2.7% (305 players)
- 12) 7 cases pending before Institute for Bridge Arbitration. (None of 12 exonerated so far).
- 13) 300+ Yellow Flagged player awaiting further investigation.

OLD BUSINESS

UNIT REPORTS

Unit 136 Dayton - Bob Stitt – 7% increase in tables. \$2000 in the black compared to \$13000 in the red last year.

Unit 130 Indianapolis – Marsha Callahan – We held an I/N Regional with 48 tables this fall. Many are very new players. We had very few people from outside Indy for the I/N Regional We were disappointed. Indy is trying to support other tournaments. Steve Moese suggested using the District Pianola account to publicize the I/N Regional to NLMs. Would cost about \$9 per send to D11 NLM members. Bill Brewer suggested using 200-mile radius. Steve mentioned regional emails can reach 500 miles. Steve asked Marsha to send the I/N Regional email text to him so he can email all NLMs in the District. The Indianapolis Bridge Center has a Mentor Mentee game. The Club gave 6 free plays to mentors – three on defined days and three for any time they could play.

Unit 124 Cincinnati - Bill Brewer – We had a 22% increase in tables for the Cincinnati Spooktacular Sectional. People from Indy, Louisville, Dayton and Columbus attended.

Unit 117 Louisville – Dotty Losey – We are successful in establishing a 501 c3 as the Louisville Bridge Club. Used an accounting firm in Bowling Green KY. Indiana Bridge Foundation is also a 501c3. Lexington Bridge Club is a 501c3 organization. Units are 501c4. Potter Orr discussed the value of charitable contributions from people having to make minimum withdrawals from their IRA accounts.

Secretary's Report – Billie Brown

Steve provided a Pianola Report on usage. Discussion included erroneous cost information. We charge \$0.005 per email and can use the District account for District 11 business only. Units are encouraged to get their own account and use it for their sectionals. Clubs should have their own account for their club games.

Treasurer's Report – Potter Orr

District P&L and Balance sheet are in the Google Drive. No surprises. Discovered that we've missed collection of the District's fees to Units running the Regionals. The Tournament Chairs and Unit Treasurers had been sending the fees in proactively. Bills for 2023 and 2024 have been sent to Units. Fees are \$250 per tournament and \$0.40/table. Split regionals are split \$125 to each but the table fee per person is identical. Can use the ACBL Tournament Calendar results report. Will work with Steve Moese to get the Pianola fees current. Will email treasurers to ensure all funds are collected. In the past District 11 Board dinners were more elaborate. The cost was pro-rated by Unit. The last few meal bills have been much smaller. Typical bill is \$70. Should this be a District expense?

District Recorder duties have been all but eliminated.

Maribeth Ransel – Do we pay this fee for NLM Regionals? Potter will make a proposal for the Cincinnati meeting.

MOTION: Tom Bishel Unit 122 **SECOND:** Jim Barrett
District 11 waives all District fees for NLM Regionals. Passed Unanimously

Grass Roots Reports – Did we table the discussion of the Conditions of Contest? No – Ryan posted the final CoC.

Marsha Callahan– Suggested we consider a consolation Swiss Team game for the second day. Since B& C are one day events perhaps it would be good for those coming from a distance if they have already booked a hotel. Consensus was that people would not stay for a second day.

Tom Bishel – we can consider coinciding the NAP and GNT with a regional tournament. Members were reminded that to do this would cause a drastic change in the number of tables at the regional events since NAP and GNT would be separate.

Bill Brewer – We discussed this and rejected it at the last meeting. Jim Barrett concurred.

Billie Brown – Ryan wants to run online qualification, and to reduce the Board Cap for higher flights.

Bill Brewer – Both were rejected in November.

Tournament Report – Tom Bishel

Bracketed Pairs offered for regionals. DIC has to know how to run the event. District 25 ran the event successfully. Since we need at least 9 pairs in each bracket we probably do not have a need for this event. Our regionals are too small. Discussion on the plusses and minuses resulted.

Billie Brown - What makes it better? If the field cannot support Open and GR, and has a great disparity in strength of pairs, the game can be more like bracketed Swiss. People play against their peers.

Jack McCullagh– I'd rather lose in the A/X than win in the Gold Rush.

Jeff Chapman– Let's not be the first to try this. Let's look at how it works and then decide.

Tom Bishel– the upcoming STaC (March 24-30) is not a Royal STaC. I want to add a Royal STaC with Easter as the last day in the STaC. Bill Brewer did not get an email requesting clubs to sign up. STaCs in August and December. See the calendars:

[**DISTRICT 11 TOURNAMENT CALENDAR**](#)

[**DISTRICT 11 TOURNAMENT LIST**](#)

Advisory Council Report – in Google Drive

Jeff Chapman– ACBL AC looking to eliminate committees from the bylaws.

Billie Brown mentioned the Incentivize Rank Task Force and asked for good ideas from the Board.

Jack McCullagh didn't like the Pairs/BAM Team double format. Seems unfair since I had no access to those games. No consistency in scoring.

Next Board Meeting is Thursday June 12, 2025 ~5:30 PM at the Cincinnati Regional.

There being no more business before the Board, on motion and second, Billie Brown adjourned the meeting at 11:40 AM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Maribeth Ransel, Vice President