

DISTRICT 11 BOARD MEETING
September 13, 2025, 2025 Cincinnati Regional
DRAFT

In attendance:

Officers – Billie Brown, President; Maribeth Ransel, Vice President; Steve Moese, Secretary. Ryan Schultz, GNT/NAP Coordinator;

Voting Members - **Unit 117** Bill Cook; **Unit 122** Tom Bishel, Janelle Courtright; **Unit 124** Jim Barrett, **Unit 130** Susan Spickelmier; Marsha Callahan; **Unit 136** Bob Zangri, Bob Stitt; Unit 193 Jeffrey Chapman;

Alternates: **Unit 124** Monica Ibarra; **Unit 164** Jim and Laurie Herchenroeder; **Unit 193** Jack McCullagh.

Guests: **Unit 130** Jerry Brelage

Absent: Potter Orr, Treasurer; Bill Brewer, Education Coordinator; **Unit 117** Dotty Losey; **Unit 124** James Danziger; **Unit 164** Ken Katen, Susan Bullard; **Unit 193** Bill Lea;

CALL TO ORDER – by President Billie Brown at 8:14 AM EDT.

President Billie Brown welcomed alternates, visitors and new board member Janelle Courtright Unit 122. The Board thanks Daniel Loveland for his years of service. 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.

Secretary Steve Moese, confirmed 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 12, 2025 Cincinnati meeting minutes by unanimous consent.

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.

Billie Brown mentioned that Units 124 Cincinnati, 136 Dayton, and 117 Louisville did not submit reports for this meeting. She asked for attention to these reports in the future.

President Billie Brown reported her experiences at several regional tournaments. She admired the creativity in the different tournaments and how they used different venues for each. She praised the Sinclair University for this tournament, and complimented the tournament chairs. She wants to see more young people playing in our tournaments.

DAYTON COLUMBUS FLYING BUCKEYE TOURNAMENT REPORT

Tom Bishel and Bob Stitt - Tournament Chairs – Regional attendance tracks with last year. District 11 bidding boxes need to be cleaned (Bob Stitt will update the boxes and deliver them to Cincinnati).

ACBL Disciplinary Code:

Secretary Steve Moese shared the two major changes:

- 1) Players convicted of cheating online may petition club managers for permission to play at a face-to-face club. They cannot earn masterpoints until the suspension is over. They cannot play with a partner convicted of

cheating online. They can only play in regular club games – no special games of any kind, no STaCs, and no ACBL Tournaments – until their suspension ends.

- 2) People caught cheating online by Computer Based Cheating Detection in or after February 2024 who had stopped cheating by end December 2021 and are under 5000 masterpoints have their conviction reduced to a warning with the penalty eliminated. However, this warning counts as the first strike. A second conviction leads to automatic expulsion.

Bill Cook Unit 117 – Is there a masterpoint limit for the permission to play at a club?

Steve Moese – No there is no limit.

Bob Stitt Unit 136 – What about people who dropped their membership?

Steve Moese – There is no change for them. They have to reapply through the normal process and their conviction will still be adjudicated.

See the ACBL Website [Ethics and Discipline Page](#).

5/5/5 Reports

Steve Moese mentioned that this is no quarterly update from the ACBL yet.

Marsha Callahan Unit 130 mentioned that the Indianapolis Unit is benefitting greatly from the 5/5/5 plan. She mentioned Unit 130 earns about \$1500 per quarter at 160% of target.

Steve Moese mentioned the use of 5/5/5 funds – pay for the 1st year ACBL membership fee (\$29) for guest members. Marsha confirmed that Indianapolis does that.

BOOST Program

Bob Stitt Unit 136 – 45 people signed up with 42 continuing on. All who continued got guest membership. Some played this week in the Regional. ACBL requires we charge for the classes. We give the new students a free book (paid by the Unit).

Bill Cook Unit 117 mentioned that Louisville has had up to 150 students take Bridge I and Bridge II. BOOST gives a large list of contacts. 15% come to classes. U500 games grew from <4 tables to >8 tables. They get Guest membership. We contact those whose guest membership to ask them to join.

Bob Stitt – added that they are considering paying for the first year for all who complete their learn to play bridge course.

Steve Moese mentioned the recent change to guest membership. Guest membership is now permanent – people retain their ACBL number for life. They can still only earn up to 20 masterpoints before becoming a full member. They have online access to the Bulletin. This allows the ACBL to keep track of prospects over time and provide incentives to engage where needed.

Marsha Callahan asked Jerry Brelage to discuss BOOST in Indianapolis Unit 130. Jerry Brelage mentioned the class of 55 that just finished. About 15% were BOOST candidates. Had 7 tables from the 55 playing in their first game last Sunday. BOOST is really working for us. Class on Sunday afternoon led to a game on Sunday Afternoon starting with a chat-game. Bob Stitt mentioned that they use a supervised play format for new players. Jerry confirmed that the investment in year one dues pays out over time from the increase in new members. Bob Stitt mentioned that Dayton allows people to repeat beginning classes.

Steve Moese asked if anyone had applied for BOOST and found barriers. While none were found, Steve asked the Board to contact Billie Brown or himself so we can bring a case to Larry Sealy.

NEW BUSINESS

GNT/NAP COORDINATOR REPORT

Ryan Schultz - NAP happens next month. There are four flights just like the GNT. B(<3000) and Open run on Saturday and A(<6000) and C(<750/NLM) run on Sunday. Remind players that this is an inexpensive way to earn Gold points, and no one is obligated to play in the NABC (St Louis) in March 2026.

Jim Herchenroeder Unit 164 asked about the fees and if there were plans to offer a discount for the second day. Ryan mentioned the table fee is \$15 per person per session and no discount will be offered.

Steve Moese reminded the Board that the NAP is a regionally rated event and our Regionals charge \$17 per person per session. If anything, we should consider raising the price.

Jim Herchenroeder mentioned that they like playing the NAPs but the attendance has been lower than desired. Can there be a price incentive to bring out more players.

Steve mentioned that this event pays the qualifiers who compete in the NABC finals. Since the fee is less than the current Regional fee, it remains a bargain.

Marsha Callahan mentioned that Unit 130 offered a pre-qualifying game.

Ryan summarized the proposed changes to the GNT Conditions of contest:

- Flights B&C will remain as a one-day Swiss-type qualifier.
- Flights Open and A will require pre-registration two weeks in advance of the date. Team captains will preregister by email to Ryan with names of all players. Later changes are possible.
 - i. If 4 or fewer teams preregister, the finals will be a one day round robin on the same day as B&C flights.
 - ii. If 5+ teams register then there will be a qualifying event the day before for that flight. Additional teams may add to that flight after the deadline once 5 teams have preregistered. 4 teams cannot grow to 5 after the preregistration deadline.
- There will be no online GNT D11 Final games.
- We will match the number of boards used by the NABC Finals, with the exception that 7x7 will be used instead of 8x7 Swiss.

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| <p>MOTION: Bob Stitt Unit 136 SECOND: Tom Bishel Unit 122 Accept the changes to the D11 GNT Finals as Proposed. Passed Unanimously.</p> |
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(The [D11 GNT Finals CoC](#) will be posted on the ACBL website when approved.)

Billie thanked Ryan for all the work he did on this new plan.

Steve Moese mentioned the 2025 Grass Fund Report from the ACBL that shows District 11 receiving only \$1260 this year. That challenges our ability to fund the stipends. Do we need to raise fees?

Ryan mentioned that we have a substantial balance in the District Grass Roots Fund Account. We will draw that down somewhat more but will need to discuss changes soon.

Steve Mentioned that the Grass Roots income depends directly on clubs running the grass roots games. We need to encourage our clubs to run more Grass Roots games.

Jim Herchenroeder Unit 164 – What is the breakeven number of teams for the GNT?

Ryan Schultz – we pay Unit 124 \$1000, and the ACBL \$2000 (DIC). We charge \$60 a table says we need 50 tables or 12-13 tables a session. We are meeting the overhead costs but not covering the stipends.

Bob Stitt – Can you use a local director for a GNT?

Steve Moese – You cannot use a local director for any Gold point tournament.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Potter Orr was absent and will report in Louisville.

UNIT REPORTS

Billie asked that everyone read the reports in the Google Drive.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Steve Moese thanked the Board members who get their information in on time, including regrets and naming alternates. Recently late attendance changes have cropped up. Late notices mean alternates will not have the chance to do prework. If not informed, the meeting will grow longer or the decision will be made with less than best information. Steve proposed two changes to the Board Standing Rules to get the right discipline in place to ensure good meetings.

MOTION: Jim Barrett Unit 124 Cincinnati **SECOND:** Jeff Chapman Unit 193

Add the following D11 Board Standing Rules:

- 1) All Board members will send regrets at least one week prior to the meeting by the method defined by the Secretary of the Board. This includes nominating alternates. Changes to attendance will be accepted after that date at the discretion of the Board President.
- 2) All Board Members will share their reports, updates, discussion items, or written motions at least one week prior to the meeting by the method defined by the Secretary of the Board.

Passed Unanimously.

Steve mentioned that standing rules can always be changes at any meeting of the Board of Directors.

Steve introduced a discussion item regarding Maribeth Ransell's proposal to make the District Vice President responsible for running the District 11 Mini-McKenney/Ace of Clubs award program in the summer Regional. Maribeth Ransell – I want to increase the recognition for our members. We should include the qualifiers for the NAP and GNT as well to create awareness and promote those two events. I also want the posters/trifolds to be shared at future Regionals. Maribeth will prepare a detailed proposal for consideration at the Louisville Board Meeting in November 2025.

Steve asked Ryan Schultz if we should use the Fast Results eBulletin for the NAP and GNT. The Benefit would be greater exposure if we can get it sent to the entire District? Ryan could send out emails instead. We will continue discussing this idea.

WEBMASTER REPORT

Steve confirmed the recent updates. He asked that all present promote the website to their members. Maribeth Ransel mentioned that the ACBL Board members should promote the District Website to their members.

TOURNAMENT COORDINATOR

Tom Bishel – Tournament Coordinator - There are 38 events in D11 this year. If you include 6 weeks for NABCs, and 4-5 weeks with holidays leaves little time. We should not run the GNT during Passover/Easter. Ryan will look into the first week of May for the GNT.

Marsha Callahan Unit 130 asked to keep the I/N Regional. Tom mentioned that we have the ability to run 4 I/N regionals per year, and confirmed that Unit 130 can continue. Jerry Brelage mentioned that Michigan City has an I/N Regional on the same dates. Tom will work to avoid that next year.

Billie Brown mentioned that the Split Regional with Dayton Ohio will need a firm date soon for planning purposes.

Steve Moese asked about the overlay for the I/N regional and the Louisville Swiss Sectional on the same weekend. Tome found that only about 20 people would be affected bast on past play. As long as Units are sufficiently apart, there is no problem. Sectionals tend to be more local than district wide.

Billie Brown mentioned a conflict between the Indianapolis Regional and the Owensboro Sweetheart Swiss (Valentine's Day weekend). Tom mentioned that Regionals take precedence. and he will work to get an alternate date for the Owensboro Sectional.

EDUCATION COORDINATOR

Bill Brewer was unable to attend. Bill posted his report to the Board on the District Google Drive Meeting Folder. Marsha Callahan U130 asked that Jerry Brelage U130 be included in future education meetings. Steve recommended people contact Bill Brewer for future participation.

ADVISORY COUNCIL REPORT –

Jeff Chapman – Mentioned the changes to the disciplinary code resulting in a good compromise. The decision was split about 50/50.

Steve Moese reviewed the August 2025 membership statistics. Membership is down **-6.15%** to 120,894 members and we continue declining. The new member recruitment rate is 4431 down **(101)** from 4532 at this time last year. On the positive side the ACBL has more than 5000 new guest members compared to only some 2000 last year. We need to continue supporting all the growth efforts.

Larry Sealy provided his [report to the District 11 Board of Directors](#). See the discussion about Titanium Points for NABC's. Sapphire Points for new players (redeemable for marketing incentives) to keep them engaged early, and the proposal (discussion stage) to restructure the NABCs.

The new plan for NABCs (not yet approved) will stratify all events (0-750, 0-3000, 0-6000, and Open) and eliminate all regional and I/N events. All events will be NABC or NABC+. Any events that require qualification will allow those who do not qualify to play in a consolation round or a new NABC event. N information is available about pricing. Everyone will play in NABC/NABC+ events every day. No date for implementation is available but this change is unlikely before 2028.

Management is reviewing local sectionals in order to improve them. No specifics are available. U164 Ken Katen wants local sectionals to offer full silverpoint awards instead of the current 80%. Online events for face-to-face regionals are ending – too expensive. Management is exploring a staff-lite approach to regionals. ACBL will encourage preregistration vis entry express in the future. Timing TBD.

We offer the Board views to the future so that we can weigh in on decisions yet to be made.

Billie Brown asked of the new smaller Board of Directors are working well together. Steve offered his personal opinion that the current leadership is working better together on right priorities than any in his personal experience (since 2015).

Jack McCullagh – Philadelphia was up about 10% this year.

Steve Mentioned that Larry's Report contains the most recent CBCD data summary and there was a 10,000 people run in late August. We are awaiting those results.

Jack McCullagh mentioned that the ACBL Bulletin is no longer printing the over 75% games. He and Billie missed out from their recent 77% game.

Steve Moese mentioned U130's used of Pianola for 3789 emails amounting to \$18.70 charge to be invoiced by our Treasurer. Marsha said this was a great investment.

Marsha Callahan Unit 130 will provide hosts (for housing overnight) and free plays for their tournaments for college students. Billie mentioned that several students from the Indianapolis program to their sectional.

Marsha asked about how to get better attendance for speakers. Tom mentioned several ideas – signage, daily announcements, eBulletins, emails and flyer notices help. Catchy titles help too.

Next Board Meeting is Friday November 7, 2025 ~5:30 PM at the Louisville Regional.

There being no more business before the Board, on motion and second, Billie Brown adjourned the meeting at 9:30 AM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Steve Moese, Secretary