

**ACBL DISTRICT 11
BOARD MEETING
September 9, 2017 – Dayton Regional
Approved**

In attendance:

Officers - Terrell Holt, Cheryl Schneider, Potter Orr, Maribeth Ransel

Voting Members - Unit 117 Vangie Smith, Kit Overpeck (alternate for Van Cleve); Unit 122 Judithy Auer (alternate for Jiobu); Janelle Courtright; Unit 124 Steve Moese, Michael Lipp; Unit 130 Liz Brown, Maribeth Ransel; Unit 136 Georgia Banziger, Joyce Dennis (alternate for Kennedy); Unit 164 Andra Gyor, Sondra Holt; Unit 193 Richard Sarles (alternate for Lea); Unit 227 n/a.

Members – AJ Stephani (District Director), Isaac Stephani (Youth Coordinator); Ryan Schultz (NAP/GNT Coordinator); Potter Orr (Recorder), Joyce Penn (Education Chair).

Special Guest – Nancy Boyd, Field Service Rep. ACBL

Call to order – Terrell Holt

The President thanked everyone for preparation of the meeting. He gave special recognition to Steve Moese for his work on the website, Board of Governors' reports and the membership committee; and AJ Stephani for tournament scheduling as well as district director duties; and all the board and their clubs for all the work done to keep our game possible and growing. He welcomed Richard Sarles who is the alternate for Bill Lea, as well as Ryan Schultz our new GNT/NAP coordinator.

Field Service Rep. ACBL – Nancy Boyd

- Her job is to look after tournament play in the southern United States, which District 11 is part of;
- Trains tournament directors;
- Spends times talking and listening to volunteers in districts;
- Tries to make ACBL more visible to each of us.

AJ added that Nancy is one of two ACBL reps who oversee the large body of tournament directors.

Secretary's Report – Maribeth Ransel

- Asked for a round of applause for President Holt who works hard for us all the time;
- Asked each member to complete a card with contact information for the roster;
- Georgia asked for several typo corrections which were noted;
- Minutes accepted as corrected.

Treasurer's Report – Potter Orr

- Check recently received from ACBL for Grassroots; amount is similar to last year;
- Current checking/savings account \$27,938.33 which is normal for this point in the year.
- Report accepted for audit.
- Question as to whether treasurer's report should be on website and whether our financial statements should be sent to ACBL. Members agreed that we should put information on website and that Potter should send the financial statements to ACBL.

District Director's Report – AJ Stephani

- ACBL Board excited about new CEO Bajar Gidwani and some of the creative ideas he is bringing up for discussion;
- President and CEO are two different positions. President is elected from the Board. Bob Heller holds that office this year and will be with the District 11 Board in November at the Louisville/Lexington Regional;

- Stop Card will be gone as of January 1st; optional for clubs but will not be used at our sectionals and regionals after the end of 2017; audible alert (“I am going to make a skip bid”) has also been eliminated;
- Significant changes being made to other ACBL rules; everyone should talk to local directors about these changes and encourage these directors to become acquainted with new rules.

Tournament Coordinator Report – AJ Stephani

- Cash counting machine. which had been stolen, has been replaced; good feedback on its use from tournament directors who have used it; will move with directors to next tournament;
- Online games at regionals - - experiment has been cancelled due to lack of interest from clubs;
- Two units have submitted proposals to host NLM regionals; Cincinnati wants to host Sept 21st to 23rd in 2018 (Kaleidoscope weekend with NLM regional sanction/NLMsectional sanction, with the possibility of running the NAP “C” flight on Sunday); Louisville wants to host in July, 2019 with a similar format, minus the NAP component
 - ⇒ **Moved that** the Board approve proposals for Cincinnati to host the NLM Regional in 2018 and Louisville to host the NLM Regional in 2019. (Lipp/Banziger – approved unanimously);
- Indianapolis has expressed an interest in submitting a proposal for 2020;
- Question about whether dates could be presented in a different format on tournament schedule ---AJ indicated there is not enough room to present the dates as the member requested.

NAP and GNT Coordinator Report – Ryan Schultz

- Flyers available for NAP for each unit to take back;
- Ryan would like to gather information and encourages your input; he is considering a survey to find out why people do/do not attend district finals;
- Cheryl questioned fees for GNT finals at NABC; AJ stated that during the first two days for the Swiss and the first round of KOs, Flights A/B/C are free, but championship flight must pay; after day 2, all flights must pay. Cheryl asked that consideration be given to the board helping to pay for those fees. No action was taken other than noting the concern.
- Terrell thanked Kit for all he has done and for making a smooth transition for Ryan. Good wishes sent to Kit in taking care of his health issues.

Webmaster Report– Steve Moese

- Website is up-to-date; district roundtable discussion is now on the site as an audio file;
- Steve asked if there was still an interest in getting a count on users on the website; Terrell said we need to know about our communication to determine where our membership gets the most value for our dollar; there is some cost to gathering the counts on the site; Potter and Steve will find out before the next meeting what the cost would be; if a click counter is added, it would be for the entire website and not just to collect info about The Midwest Monitor; however it would give us information to help us know how many times there is a hit on the MWM online;
 - ⇒ **Moved that Potter/Steve retrieve the password from Adrienne so that a click counter can be started on the website to determine the number of hits, not to exceed \$200.** (Lipp/Sarles - - - approved unanimously).

ACBL Board of Governors Report – Steve Moese

- BOG is having increased discussion with BOD on survey from teachers and club owners;
- There has been a change in formula for dues to the International Bridge Federation which should benefit ACBL over the next five years and possibly beyond;
- Many people are teaching bridge but are not receiving all the helpful information available to them because there is no registry of all bridge instructors; all units are asked to provide list of contact information for everyone teaching bridge in your unit- - - names, addresses, contact information and player number for each teacher needed; please provide to Steve asap;

- At last D11 meeting a straw poll was taken regarding ACBL board meeting scheduled for Hawaii; there was a vote by the BOD and the original decision was reaffirmed that the board meeting should take place in Hawaii as scheduled.

Recorder Report - Potter Orr

- No complaints currently pending; most of questions that have occurred have concerned zero tolerance and nothing has risen to the level of needing further action.

Education Chair Report – Joyce Penn

Last night’s educational roundtable included several topics:

- Discussed future roundtables; tentative Louisville topic will be Pianola and how it can be used by clubs, units, districts; tentative agenda for Indianapolis will be for tournament personnel to have a general discussion about tournament issues; when possible we could include the information about the roundtable on the tournament schedule at each regional.
- Discussion of ways to increase number of people coming into bridge; talked about the role of teachers; also talked about ideas that are in use in some clubs such as teaching Homestyle Bridge for Social Players; supervised play which provides a non-threatening environment where people can play and ask questions during the supervised time; some have had great success with Lifelong Learning Institute at local universities others have not had as much success with retention after this program.

Youth Coordinator – Isaac Stephani

- Isaac was recently asked to be part of ACBL Education Foundation.

Dayton Tournament Report – Cheryl Schneider/Georgia Banziger

- As of today, the tournament is down ten tables; evening KO’s have not been successful and may be discontinued in the future; good turnout at last night’s NLM game.

OLD BUSINESS:

2020 Columbus NABC – Cheryl Schneider

- Judy Auer asks that we all make a special point to let tournament chairs know about the surcharge for Columbus NABC and how the payments are to be made; Judy has called some individuals for payment and they did not know the charge existed; Terrell reminded everyone that each sectional and regional from now through March 2020 is taxed \$1 per table, with the exclusion of NLM events and STACs.
- Cheryl distributed NABC buttons and asks that everyone wear them at ACBL events.

Membership: Steve Moese

- Board of Governors is looking for actionable proposals for increasing membership; if you have ideas, please send them to Steve so they can be heard.

GNT Proposal Template; Conditions of Contest – Georgia Banziger/Ryan Schultz

- The proposal template has not been completed yet. Ryan will work with Georgia and develop a template soon;
- Ryan gave kudos to Kit for all his help in preparing Ryan for his new position;
- Ryan had submitted a redline copy of old COC to show changes he has suggested, along with the new COC document for next cycle; Steve suggested that the document in hand be modified where it has the specific date of May 31st, and that it say instead, “May 31st or two weeks prior to when ACBL needs the information.” Ryan will make corrections
 ⇒ **Moved that the proposal for the new Conditions of Contest for the GNT be approved with the suggested correction.** (Brown/Moese - - - approved unanimously)

NEW BUSINESS:

New ACBL Rules – Terrell Holt

- Terrell strongly suggested that members of our Board encourage their local directors to have local meetings to help players with their questions about the new rules which are about to go into effect;

- Stop cards will be removed from district bidding boxes AFTER the Louisville/Lexington Regional.

Communication in the District – Terrell Holt

- Discussion held about what this Board wants our communication to be in the future; no decision to be made today; the contract for The Midwest Monitor will end in June, 2018, and we must talk about where we are headed with communication so that we are prepared to know what we will do in June;
- We are appreciative of all that has been done with The Monitor over time and the efforts involved in putting it together;
- This is not a request to recruit a new editor but a request to review **our vision of communication**;
- We must take our fiduciary responsibility to our members seriously, and we must choose to spend our limited dollars in ways that best meet their needs;
- Several Board members have spoken to Terrell and suggested that their unit members no longer read The Monitor, and if they do, they mostly read just the news about their own unit;
- Members no longer need The Monitor to get tournament schedules; schedules are on the ACBL website, the District website and on unit websites throughout the District;
- Even though we greatly reduced the cost of The Monitor by putting it online, there is still a significant cost to the District and we must weigh the benefits of the expenditure of about \$6,000 per year when people say they are not inclined to read it online;
- What is our vision:
 - Do we want to use our communication dollars to sponsor a recruitment tool for new players?
 - Do we want to use funds as a beacon for bringing people into the game?
 - Do we want to use the publication to help NLMs learn more about tournament play and get them more involved?
 - What other ideas do members have?
- Some options:
 - Continue as we are with The Midwest Monitor;
 - Ziggy Marketing (marketing proposal distributed to the board); their option 4C would be the one that would might be appropriate for us;
 - Revise our website and have our members just send their quarterly reports into our current District 11 website to be posted as reports from individual units.
- Questions/comments:
 - (Q) How many of our members really need to have the news from each unit? If your unit has a website, do you really need to have the news from other units posted on your site? If your answer is that you don't need the news of other units, then The Monitor is effective only for tournament information, and that information is readily available in many other places. We currently have a lot of redundancy;
 - (Q) If we decide to move away from the MWM, how would the profit for the Holiday STAC be used? (A) When the new contract was drawn for an online publication, the STAC profits returned to West Virginia which already had the sanction for the holiday STAC;
 - Some would like to see funds used to get additional copies of ACBL bulletin to use in recruitment;
 - Some would like to use their share of Monitor fees for work in their own unit such as development of unit websites and recruitment materials;
 - What is being asked is to go back to unit and seek input so that we can continue discussion at next meeting.

Discussion will continue in Louisville and in Indianapolis.

Adjournment

⇒ **Moved that the meeting be adjourned.** (Overpeck/Lipp --- approved unanimously).

Next Meeting: Saturday, November 12th, 2017 between the afternoon and evening games at the Louisville/Lexington Regional