

**ACBL DISTRICT 11
BOARD MEETING
February 3, 2019
Indianapolis Regional**

In attendance:

Officers – Steve Moese, President; Ryan Schultz, Vice president; Potter Orr, Treasurer; Maribeth Ransel, Secretary

Voting Members – Unit 117: Kit Overpeck (alt.), Candi Conway (alt.) ; Unit 122 Dan Loveland (alt.); Unit 124: Mike Lipp; Unit 130: Liz Brown, Maribeth Ransel; Unit 136: Georgia Banziger, Sandy Forsythe (alt.); Unit 193: Jeff Chapman; Billie Brown.

Members – AJ Stephani, District Director; Siraj Haji, Education Chair; Isaac Stephani, District Youth Coordinator.

Call to order –The meeting was called to order by President Steve Moese who recognized all the board members and alternates in attendance. He gave a special introduction to Siraj Haji, our new District Education Coordinator, and pointed out that to reach our goals this term, education will become a major focus and asked that we all cooperate with requests Siraj may have for us.

Board priorities – Steve requested ideas for Board priorities and received a few responses from a small number of respondents. He asked for additional information from the attendees and the following is a list of combined suggestions. These are suggestions for future discussion and no other decision was reached.

- Grow membership.
- Help clubs to start rubber bridge programs.
- Better communication across the District.
- Membership/teaching; membership/teaching; membership/teaching!
- Raise regional table fees and institute small District membership fee so money is available to run district-wide initiatives.
- Restructure Board to require unit by unit reports.
- Discuss number of tournaments in District.
- Is there a program to evaluate teachers? Steve stated that ACBL treats teachers as separate businesses, and ACBL has no authority over them nor does ACBL make any attempt to keep them from earning a living. Siraj asked to begin addressing some of these issues for future discussion.
- Would like District Board to be more involved in making decisions in the future about NABCs in the District.
- Would like discussion of ending tournaments on Saturday instead of on Sunday to see if there is merit in ending earlier and not having low-attendance weekend games.
- Currently ACBL gives each District four regionals per year. ACBL has discussed having process of allotting DAYS to districts for tournaments rather than allotting a NUMBER of REGIONALS. It might offer a little more flexibility for district to have a different schedule of days for their events.
- Steve offered three thoughts
 - Tournaments – continued discussion for accurate and reasonable scheduling.
 - Grow bridge to engage teachers and clubs in a process to find and keep new bridge players.
 - Share best practices not only at District level but at our unit and club levels.

PRESIDENT’S THREE ASKS - - -

1. Focus on tournaments by creating a Tournament Committee with AJ as chair hoping to improve regionals. Steve requested this committee to ask themselves, “What would be the most important improvements to regionals in D11? How can we do things better?”
2. In terms of growing bridge, Steve suggested he would put a lot on Siraj’s shoulders. He asked that Siraj work with Kit who has already done a lot of work on the topic. Siraj was asked to create a committee. Members do not have to be members of the D11 Board, but they should be people who are knowledgeable about teaching.

3. Would like one or two opportunities at each regional to meet with stakeholders to discuss topics of common interest. Yesterday's meeting is posted on our website and board members can go there to hear the discussion.

OTHER BOARD IDEAS:

- Kit asked that stakeholders' meetings between sessions have food available to encourage attendance.
- Cincinnati will have a *Best Practices Teacher Workshop* on Monday/Tuesday during the Flying Pig. The workshop will take the place of our usual roundtable stakeholders' discussion. The focus will be on how to teach adults. Cost is \$100 and there will be 32 slots open. Will have screening test to assure some level of competence. Certification will require an extra \$25 to ACBL after you have passed the oral test.
- By Cincinnati, Dayton and Louisville/Lexington should generate ideas for stakeholders' meetings at their regionals.
- Kit stated that at Dayton meeting, we agreed all units should try stakeholder meetings at home. Louisville has a local meeting scheduled. We should report on these efforts and post the results to our website.
- Jeff would like for us to encourage teachers to make extra efforts to advocate for and participate in events that are available in their units.
- If funding becomes an issue, bring motions to the meeting so we can vote on whether or not to spend money on these important areas.
- Meeting effectiveness – move away from merely sharing information to actually making decisions. We will have to spend more time on email with updates, questions and discussions between meetings.
- Motion form distributed; should be completed two weeks before meeting. Send to President and Secretary. Make sure that items such as financial impact are clearly stated.
- **WE** must take responsibility to take things back to our units. Steve would like each unit to provide status update prior to the board meeting and send to all board members.
- The president wants unit presidents to be members of the board when possible. If you represent a unit president, make sure you engage with him/her to make certain he/she knows the issues being addressed.
- By the time we get to Louisville/Lexington, Steve would like our board meetings to be completely paperless. We will have a meeting folder on Google Drive where we can preserve and access all documents we want to talk about.
- Meeting reports should be submitted two weeks before meeting; agenda items one week before meeting.

Secretary's Report: Maribeth Ransel

- A few typos have been corrected in the minutes distributed tonight.
- **Correction:** The minutes stated Mike Roberts bought a new cash counting machine to replace the one that was stolen. Actually, AJ bought the machine not Mike Roberts.
- Minutes accepted as corrected.

Treasurer's Report: Potter Orr

- Very little difference between 2017 and 2018 profit and loss statement. Some differences are because of discontinuation of *Midwest Monitor*.
- Total checking and savings as of 12/31/2018 = \$32,920.66. When accounts receivable are included, the total is \$34,363.68
- Report is accepted and will be posted to the website.

Q. Billie Brown asked why the table fees from Evansville's split regional have not been recorded. Potter will check with the Evansville treasurer to clarify.

Q. When units have a split regional, is the \$250 surcharge split in half, or do both units pay \$250. AJ said the \$250 fee is collected from each unit and is not split between them.

Tournament Coordinator Report – AJ Stephani

- 2019 calendar is in good shape Tournament chairs should be working into years 2022 and 2023 to confirm dates. AJ's communication goes primarily to Unit Tournament Coordinators. It is the unit coordinator's job to relay information to others in the unit who have a need to know.
 - Use our website for tournament information as the information there is most current.
 - District strat policy – AJ distributed a copy of a new recommendation for district strats. (These cover regionals and not NAP/GNT events.)
 - Open events w/o Gold Rush: 2500+/750-2500/0-750
 - Gold Rush/Open Pairs and Gold Rush/Open Swiss GR: 400-750; 150-400; 0-150
 - Open: 4000+/1500-4000/0-1500
 - Stratflighted Swiss: 750/1500; 300-750; 0-300 A/X/Y 5000+/2000-5000/0-2000
- ***All events stratified by average MPs of pair or team

⇒ **Moved/Seconded (Banziger/Overpeck):** *Accept the strats as presented and accept that strats are recommendations and not mandates. If strats are set beforehand and are different from these, chair should consult with District Tournament Coordinator before publishing. If strats must be changed at the event, they may be changed with consent of local tournament chair and DIC. (Passed with one abstention.)*

District Director's Report: AJ Stephani

- New permanent ACBL Executive Director is Joe Jones, He is the former CFO and seems to be a perfect fit for the job.
- Russ Jones of Arkansas is the new ACBL President.
- Overview of financials is very bad. ACBL lost 1M on NABC in Hawaii.
- Goal is to balance budget in 2020.
- NABC fees, which haven't changed for several years, will be going up.
- GNT conditions of contest have been changed. Districts are now allowed to send two teams in Flights B and C if at least 8 teams participate in each flight at district finals.
- A lot of additional cost cutting is being done at ACBL board level.
- A task force is looking at restructuring ACBL at top levels.
- Steve noted that AJ is a point person on some of these important management changes and that we should look forward to hearing about the work of the committee as they are able to report.

GNT/NAP Coordinator Report: Ryan Schultz

- New awards charts for GNT/NAP were distributed.
- To grant awards to the additional second place teams in Flight B/C in GNT, an additional \$1,000 will need to be added to the distribution pot. The treasurer stated the funds are available. This will enable two second-place teams to be sent from Flight B and two from Flight C.

⇒ **Moved/Seconded (Overpeck/Brown)** *That the awards distribution for the GNT should be increased by \$1,000 to allow 2 second place teams from Flights B/C to receive a \$500 stipend. Open and Flight A awards will remain at \$1,000 each. (Passed.)*

- Ryan will update the handout and post to the website.
- Three proposals for GNT in 2021 have been received. A decision will be made in Cincinnati.
 - Georgia submitted a proposal from Dayton to the board and asked that they bring this proposal to the Cincinnati meeting so she won't have to re-copy.
- Steve asked Ryan to find the facts of the last 8/9 year history of the finals to see if rotating the event is a plus or minus for attendance/income. Further discussion on the benefits of rotating venues can take place when this information is at hand. Also asked Ryan to come up with point of view as to whether a distributed finals/semi-finals approach would encourage more participation for Flights B/C.
- Conditions of Contest: Ryan distributed the first page of the GNT COC with a change listed at the bottom of the page. The new language says: *When the conditions are satisfied that permit two teams to qualify for the National Finals, Day 2 shall consist of a four team RR played over two sessions. Flight C shall play a*

total of 48 boards (16 board RR), and Flight B will play 54 (18 board RR). Under these conditions, the top two teams will proceed to the National Finals.

⇒ **Moved/Seconded (Overpeck/Banziger) to accept the language of the revised COC as presented. (Motion carried.)**

Webmaster Report: Steve Moese

No report.

ACBL Board of Governors Report: Steve Moese

- Steve reported that two slots are open from D11 to the Board of Governors (BOG). The two individuals who take the positions must be able to attend two or three NABCs a year, and find alternates if they are not able to attend. The President appointed Kit Overpeck and Vangie Smith to fill three year terms on the BOG

Recorder Report: Potter Orr

- No issues so far at the Indianapolis tournament.
 - All issues from Dayton have been resolved.
- Q.** Kit asked if there is a policy we follow when we see that a player is ill (and possibly contagious) during play.
- A.** Because we do not have a doctor assigned to tournaments, we do not have the medical expertise to determine whether a player should be excluded from play.

Education Coordinator Report: Siraj Haji

- No report till next meeting.

Youth Coordinator Report – Isaac Stephani

- No report.

Indianapolis Regional Report: Liz Brown, Maribeth Ransel co-chairs

- The weather (including snow, ice and 10 below zero temps) has taken a toll on the table count of the regional. Liz reported that Indy usually averages around 800 tables, but because of the weather, they may not reach 675. (After an upturn on Sunday, the final count was 692.) Liz thanked everyone for their support under difficult weather conditions, and she promises 70 degree temps for future tournaments!

2020 NABC: Steve Moese

- Steve received word from Cheryl Schneider that a planned meeting with their ACBL representative had to be re-scheduled. Therefore, an update on the plans and financial arrangements with ACBL can't be reported at this time.
- Columbus has finalized a schedule of prices for naming rights and a copy will be mailed to unit presidents and posted on the District website.
- Judy Williamson is the volunteer chairperson for the event. She would like to have the name of a contact who will be the local volunteer recruiter from each unit.
- Jim Bachelder is ordering shirts with approved ACBL logo.
- Steve plans to be in contact with Cheryl once a month for updates.

Adjournment

⇒ **Moved and seconded (Lipp/Brown) To adjourn the D 11 Board meeting. (Unanimous approval.)**

NEXT REGIONALS: Cincinnati

Dayton

Louisville/Lexington

June 3-9

Sept. 9-15

Nov. 4-10

District Board Meeting June 8

District Board Meeting Sept. 14

District Board Meeting Nov. 9