

Feb1, 2020 District Meeting

Amidst the clutter of dinner plates being delivered and salads being finished Pres. Moese called the meeting to order around 5:30 PM. The normal order of events on the agenda was modified at the president's request in order to deal with two specific issues prior to handling our normal agenda.

The first issue was a request by the Mercer County West Virginia bridge club making a request to secede from District 11 and join District 6. The requested had been submitted to the ACBL and forwarded to us since we would have to approve the change or provide substantive reasons why it should not be approved. The net effect is that only about six people who are actually members of District 11 would be affected by the move. The bridge club requested the move because they were physically closer and generally better aligned with the unit into which they would be moving. John Van Cleve made a motion that we accept the petition seconded by Georgia Banziger and the motion carried unanimously.

At the Louisville board meeting we had the first reading of a number of relatively minor changes to the bylaws of District 11. The existing bylaws and redline changes had been placed in the dropbox folder's on the districts site. Pres. Moese went through each of those changes and asked for approval on each one. Since the text of those changes is accessible to everyone on the board, the actual text of the changes is not included here. Instead, the section numbers are noted.

Section 1.3.4 changes were approved.

Section 5.5 approved

section 6.2 approved

section 6.5 approved.

Section 6.8 approved.

Section 6.8.1 approved.

New section 6.10 added and approved.

Section 9.1.2 approved.

After that process was completed, the normal agenda was started with Presidents report.

Pres. Moese welcomed three new members to the board: Mike Burns, Hannah Davis and Joyce Dennis.

Pres. Moese read an article from the ABTA magazine about Joyce Penn who has passed away. Joyce was an avid teacher and very active in the ABTA.

Due to Marybeth Ransel's injury the minutes of the last meeting have not been distributed and so were unavailable to be approved.

Pres. Moese reported that Pianola was still working on getting their web-based ordering for emails working (although some members seem to think that it was working). As soon it is working he suggested that the district would purchase a prepaid batch of 50,001 emails from Pianola. Since Pianola is currently having a buy one, get one free promotion, the \$500 that we would spend for this package would actually give us 100,002 emails. He also suggested that any unit who wishes to use Pianola for communicating with their members should purchase their own packages.

A.J. Stephani suggested that the District increase the number of emails they are purchasing in order to do district-wide email promotions of the three STAC tournaments during the year. This engendered more discussion than we really had time for at this meeting and Pres. Moese suggested that the topic be tabled until the Cincinnati meeting in June. Anda Gyor made a motion seconded by Terrell Holt that this discussion be tabled. The motion passed with 10 yeas and 2 nays.

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President Moese suggested that each member of the District board take the time to examine a new website called Trybridge.org. One of the features of this website is “find a teacher” look up. The search function uses only the ACBL’s list of certified teachers. President Moese requested that each unit assemble a list of the teachers within their unit complete with contact information and send it to Pres. Moese. He would then forward this to either Trybridge.org or to the ACBL so that a larger number of the teachers in our District would appear in that search.

President Moese congratulated A.J. Stephani for his work on a committee trying to revise the role of the ACBL board of directors. A.J. then reported to the board the three primary tasks with which this committee was wrestling:

1. They are trying to reduce the size of the Board of Directors from the present 27 to something more manageable.
2. They are trying to change the method of election of board members. Presently a District board member is elected by votes of each Unit board within the District. They would like to change this to a vote of all of the individual members (rather than Units).
3. They are trying to offload from the Board of Directors many of the rather trivial tasks that they now handle at each meeting.

President Moese then asked a rhetorical question to all of the units: what are you doing to promote attendance at the Columbus in a BC? He was not looking for an answer at this moment but hope that this would become a topic of conversation in each of the units.

President Moese asked all units to make sure that they provide him with an updated list of those people who will be representatives to the District board. This information needs to be filed with the ACBL.

President Moese thanked Sirja for his work in promoting a good stakeholders meeting held on Friday night of the Indianapolis regional.

Next was discussion and passage of some changes to the standing rules of the District. Once the bylaws have been adopted by the board, standing rules are need to be developed to administer the bylaws. Item 2 in the standing rules was amended to make it clear that the responsibility for moving District equipment from one regional to the next (bidding boxes, posters, banners and our new round timers) is clearly the responsibility of the unit sponsoring the next regional. On a motion made by Georgia Banziger and seconded by John Van Cleve the motion passed unanimously. A second change to standing rules was adopted just on the basis of discussion. The change clarified our policy of external services used to send emails to our members. While it had before said Pianola, it was changed to Pianola or such other email provider is the board shall determine.

A.J. Stephani (tournament chairman and ACBL rep) described three items that will be influencing our tournaments in the very near future.

1. The ACBL has finalized an agreement with Square Technologies for processing credit cards for entry fees at regionals. This should become effective sometime this spring, probably before the Cincinnati regional. All work of accepting credit cards will be done by ACBL tournament directors. There will be no explicit charge for the credit card processing services to the tournaments however see #2.
2. Tournament sanction fees will in the very near future going up substantially although I don’t recall a firm figure. This increase in fees is designed to reflect the actual charges of running tournaments. It will include the credit card processing fees although those will not be itemized separately.
3. In addition, starting in 2021 the session charges to tournaments for directors will increase something on the order of 20%. This increase is designed to bring the charges made to tournaments for director labor in line with the actual costs.

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Liz Brown reported that the table count for the Indianapolis regional was up about 60 tables over the previous year through Saturday morning. She hoped that the tournament would be able to maintain the increase since the Sunday Swiss would have some competition from an insignificant football game in Miami Florida.

Trish Jones reported that preparation for the Columbus NABC is going well. Next Tuesday will be the 30 day out meeting with a CBL. Both of the hotels initially promoted for the tournament are sold out and a third hotel has been added. She added that they were expecting a particularly good intermediate novice program at the tournament and generally were expecting good turnout. There has been a problem with the flyers produced by ACBL for the Columbus national but A.J. and Trish have gotten better flyers done and A.J. will distribute them throughout the District.

Treas. Potter Orr delivered a brief report on rather uneventful financial statements (available on our dropbox site). He also reported that Adrienne Netherwood (our previous treasurer) had agreed to audit the books for 2019 and that that audit was complete and uneventful. A letter to that effect has been delivered to President Moese.

District recorder Potter Orr reported that there had been no player memos through Saturday afternoon at the Indianapolis regional.

The board was reminded that the GNT finals will be in Dayton this year and that the Dayton Regional, for this year only, has been moved to August from its normal early September time slot.

Since many of the board members were playing in the evening game, the meeting was adjourned at 6:50.

Substitute Secretary – Potter Orr