

DISTRICT 11 BOARD MEETING
June 11, 2026
2026 Cincinnati Regional
DRAFT

In attendance:

Officers – Billie Brown, President; Maribeth Ransel, Vice President; Steve Moese, Secretary;

Voting Members - **Unit 122** Tom Bishel, Danile Loveland (Alternate); **Unit 124** James Danziger; **Unit 130** Susan Spickelmier; Marsha Callahan; **Unit 136** Ellen Holroyd, Bob Stitt; **Unit 164** Susan Bullard, Kent Mann (Alternate); **Unit 193** Roxi Witt; **Education Coordinator** Bill Brewer, **GNT/NAP Coordinator**. Ryan Schultz.

Absent: **Unit 122** Janelle Courtright; **Unit 124** Jim Barrett; **Unit 164** Ken Katen, **Unit 193** Jeffrey Chapman.

Next Board Meeting is a Zoom Conference on Sunday August 23, 2026 at 7 PM ET, 6PM CT.

CALL TO ORDER – by President Billie Brown at 6:15 PM ET.

President Billie Brown welcomed alternates, visitors and alternates Daniel Loveland (U122) and Kent Mann (U164). 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.

Billie reminded the Board about our priorities.

MINUTES – The Board approved the February 13, 20206 Indianapolis minutes by unanimous consent.

President Billie Brown reminded the Board to review Unit updates on the Google Drive.

NEW BUSINESS

Jerry Brelage (Guest, U130) gave an update on college bridge programs in Indiana. Highlights: Students are motivated, funds are available from the ACBL and the Mitch Dunitz fund, connecting college bridge clubs with local clubs provides support and encourages ACBL membership. U. of Chicago put together a tournament with 18 schools in attendance a few months ago.

Jerry suggested that there is a growing trend to disconnect from electronics. Focus on collaboration and teamwork. Indiana offers free plays and housing (member's homes) for all students. Each program tailored to individual school. Purdue program is student driven but needs a faculty member. Indiana University started with graduate students. The Bloomington Club is working with them. Ball State (August 2026) has an undergrad freshman leading the program (to build his resume) along with a faculty member. The Muncie Bridge club does not have its leaders yet. Next come the 5 schools in Indianapolis: IU, Purdue, Butler, U of Indianapolis and Marian U. College kids love to use modern conventions learned from the internet, whether ACBL legal or not! Call Jerr Brelage 1-850-228-6669 for help getting a program started.

Start with the local bridge club. Identify the student leaders. IU was going to fund students to get the club started. Local grads donate too. Indiana has a 501c3 for bridge education that is involved. Seek undergrads and grad students. Can teach student run a bridge club for extra income. ACBL pays \$350 for every 8 students. Jump Start has a college level bridge teaching program. Teachers do not have to know how to play bridge.

College kids build tournament attendance and become new members. They support bridge for the rest of their lives. Last fall there were 14 students playing in the Indianapolis NLM Regional. Schools are encouraging students to spend time away from electronics. Students see benefits for their resumes. There is a Purdue student playing at the club this summer and attending nearby tournaments.

Split Regional – Zoom Call will be held Sunday August 23, 2026 at 7 PM ET, 6PM CT. Bill Brewer and Helen Holroyd will provide the secretary a link for the call. The secretary will invite all attendees.

Grass Roots Chair – Ryan Schultz has resigned from his role of 9 years after this meeting. The Board thanks Ryan for his many years of service and his accomplishments in support of the District. Bill Brewer will assume the role through the fall (NAP Finals)

Grass Roots Report – Ryan Schults – the GNT completed in April and had the same number of tables as last year. However, the lower flights were smaller and the upper flights were larger. Only Flight A was 2 days. The NAP prework is in motion, with no changes expected from last year. The grass roots funds are determined by ACBL using a complicated formula (see the February 2026 minutes). The funds are dispersed in the spring of the following year. D11 usually gets more money back than it puts in, but the amount we get is strongly dependent on how much we contribute.

Clubs collect grass roots funds and send them to the ACBL (\$4.25 per table). We discussed the District fee for Regionals. Refer to the February 2026 minutes. Daniel Loveland suggested we review the design for the 9 team round robin to make it easy for players and directors. Changes can be done for 2027. Instead of using a pre-registration, we will hold the preliminary day on Saturday, and extend to Sunday only when needed. This will require close coordination with the ACBL for TD staffing.

Tournament Scheduling – Tom Bishel – Working on resolving a sectional conflict with District 8. Should be resolved soon. Second Indianapolis IN Regional in March? There is little risk of diluting attendance to other regionals because of the March timing. The ACBL allows an IN Regional to be run during an NABC Tournament week.

MOTION: Bob Stitt Unit 136 **SECOND:** Roxi Witt Unit 193

Allocate a second IN Regional to be run in March to Indianapolis. Passed Unanimously.

We discussed the 2027 Tournament Schedule status. 2 Units need to confirm timing but we are in good shape. Units are following best practices. We discussed the D11 Regional Pricing guideline as a way to avoid price competition among the major regionals. Entry fees are not mandated by the District.

Flying Pig Tournament Report – James Danziger – Tables are down a bit from last year – about -14%. Will look into why last year jumped up. People here are very happy with the schedule. A new hospitality plan and the 10 and 3 start allowed more than 24 boards per session are plusses. Disappointed that U300 players are not attending. Many 0-200 game players are playing gold rush instead of the 199'er game (!!). No major issues to report. As always people are split on the start times. We do not have clocks. Steve Moese mentioned the district did have several timers. Checking with Terrell Holt, Terrell suspects they might be in the trailer in Louisville. Terrell will check later in the year. Bill Cook will also follow up. U117 and U193 TD's bring clocks to the tournaments as part of their service. We discussed 9:30 and 2:30 instead of 10 and 3. This makes travel the day of difficult (increasing cost of attending – hotel stays) and doesn't match club game start times. Our opinion on the best start times is also split. Lunch time lectures run more smoothly as a result of 10 and 3.

Election Committee Report – Bob Stitt – Bille recommended the committee read the bylaws and understand what needs to be done. We vote in November, but there is no deadline for the slate to be identified. If any board member wants to run, please contact the committee. James Barrett Unit 124, Roxi Witt Unit 193, and Susan Spickelmier Unit 130 are the committee.

Unit Reports – Billie asked for quick highlights. Roxi Witt called out the U122 report discussing the new scoring service called RSVPBridge. This technology uses smart phones and websites to plan games, run games, and record scores at the table as they occur. Simplifies directors work (stratification, movement design, etc.) and helps players to find partners. RSVPBRidge can work with bridge mates. Not proven for large tournaments yet. See <https://www.rsvpbridge.com> See www.acbl.org for a link to a video conference on Tuesday June 16, 2026 to learn more. They charge \$1.60 per table for the service. Early adopters get limited free usage for a trial period.

District 11 Award Certificates and Recognition – Maribeth Ransel, Vice President

Steve Moese commented that players were paying attention and appreciated the new trifold poster created by Maribeth Ransel. The Board thanked Maribeth for creating this display. Maribeth also emailed the certificates to the winners in advance, saving substantial cost and effort. Steve mentioned that there were only 3 winners present at the regional for recognition on Thursday. Free plays reduce the profits for the regional. Maribeth asked for a picture of the Board to add to the display. Tournament Chairs should plan to display the poster prominently at their regionals.

Treasurer Report – Steve Moese – With Potter absent Steve read the topline from Potter’s report posted to the meeting folder. The Pianola account purchased 100K emails in advance at \$0.005 each (lowest possible cost). Each regional is charged for their usage. The Tournament banners are listed under posters and are complete. If your Unit has not received their banner, please call Potter. Every Unit gets crosscharged for the cost of the Board dinner.

Secretary’s Report – Steve Moese – please review the documents in today’s meeting file.

Webmaster’s Report – Steve Moese – please send me any information you want posted on the website.

Advisory Council Report – Steve Moese – the new motion to change the ACBL bylaws to give the Advisory Council more flexibility toward what committees it forms will be voted on in July. Steve favors the change. Current committees overlap and are having trouble retaining volunteers. Steve highlighted two items from Larry Sealy’s report to our District Board Meeting – 1) The ACBL is solvent, but income from face-to-face club games is down substantially; 2) Online cheating reviews through 51,000 players, 3.54% have been charged with cheating. All 80,000 players who played online since 2020 will have been completed in May 2026. Since no recorder memos are included in the remaining 30,000 players, they expect the total % cheating to reduce toward 3%. D11 has 3 representatives to the Advisory Council. Jeff Chapman, Vangie Smith and Steve Moese represent D11. Steve is considering whether to run for the Advisory Council Chair in November. Fall 2028 the ACBL will experiment with a new NABC design that eliminates all I/N and Regional events in favor of Flighted NABC Events (NABC+ events are not affected). The new schedule means everyone will play for Platinum points every day, with no gaps in the schedule. There will be U750, U3000, U6000, and Open Flights. They will also award “Titanium” points (they function as Gold points do). The I/N and Regional event attendance has declined, while NABC/NABC+ events have grown attendance. The new design might allow a smaller footprint (e.g. everyone playing in the same room) and is expected to open new lower cost venues for consideration. There are no details yet about the finances and how sponsoring organizations would be affected. The ACBL will try this in the Fall and Spring. Summer NABC tournaments will not be affected.

There being no additional business before the board, adjournment was moved, seconded, and approved by unanimous consent at 7:18 PM.

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Respectfully Submitted,
Steve Moese, Secretary