

DISTRICT 11 BOARD MEETING
August 23, 2026
2026 Dayton Columbus Regional – Zoom Video conference
DRAFT

In attendance:

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

Voting Members - **Unit 122** Tom Bishel, Janelle Courtright; **Unit 124** James Danziger, Jim Barrett; **Unit 130** Susan Spickelmier; Peter Lach; **Unit 136** Ellen Holroyd, Bob Stitt; **Unit 164** Cindy Goldstein, Linda Gorman (Alternate); **Unit 193** Roxi Witt, Jeff Chapman; **Education Coordinator & GNT/NAP Coordinator**. Bill Brewer.

Guest: Larry Sealy Region 7 ACBL Board of Directors.

Absent: Billie Brown, **President**; Potter Orr, **Treasurer**; **Unit 117** Bill Cook; **Unit 164** Susan Bullard

Next Board Meeting is Friday November 6, 2026 after the second session ~ 6 PM ET.

CALL TO ORDER – by Vice President Maribeth Ransel at 7:30 PM ET.

Vice President Maribeth Ransel chaired this meeting in President Billie Brown's absence. We wish her husband well. **Maribeth** welcomed two new Board members: Peter Lach (Unit 130) who replaces Marsha Callahan, and Cindy Goldstein who replaces Ken Katen and Kent Mann (Unit 164). The Board thanked Ken, Kent, and Marsha for their service. Bill Brewer is our new Grass Roots Chair. Maribeth welcomed Linda Gorman (Unit 164) as alternate for Susan Bullard. Maribeth also welcomed Larry Sealy our Region 7 Representative to the ACBL Board of Directors.

Maribeth 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.

Vice President Maribeth Ransel 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. Maribeth also reminded those present about the best way to address the Board and to make and second a motion.

Agenda: Maribeth added a discussion on the District 11 charges for D11 NLM Regional tournaments. There were no other additions.

MINUTES – The Board approved the June 11, 2026 Indianapolis minutes by unanimous consent.

New Board Members Peter Lach and Cindy Goldstein and alternate Linda Gorman introduced themselves.

Maribeth Asked all attendees to turn off their cell phones.

NEW BUSINESS

Dayton / Columbus Flying Buckeye Pig Tournament Report – Bob Stitt Unit 136. On Thursday prior to the tournament, Sinclair Community College canceled Tuesday and Wednesday, causing us to move the tournament to the Dayton Bridge Center in Kettering. We had 300 tables. Whether the bridge center or a new site will be used next year depends on upcoming negotiations. We need to choose a week when Sinclair does not have classes. We might have to move dates.

Evansville – Split Regional – **Roxi Witt and Jeff Chapman** – 265.5 tables. Most all players who played would not have travelled to Dayton to play there. Because of the geographical spread of our District, it is beneficial for our players and the District to continue supporting the split regional. Evansville had good novice and Gold Rush participation. **James Danziger** – did you try anything new that worked well? **Jeff Chapman** – We simplified the schedule. We are not big enough for both pairs and teams. 2 days of pairs and a day of Swiss (twice). The people coming to play Swiss came the day before to play pairs. That format helped table count.

Grass Roots Chair Report – Bill Brewer – Cincinnati is ready for the weekend. They will be managing hospitality for the two days. Bill worked with Ryan Schultz to update the Conditions of Contest with the ACBL. Clubs can run NAP Qualifiers until the last day of August. Qualifiers can play in the District finals even if they do not want to play in the NABC in the Spring. Bill reminded the Board that he will work with his replacement in January 2027. Bill will send a Pianola email blast to the District members as we get closer to the NAP Finals dates. Steve Moese recommended advertising the NAP Finals to the Flight C players as the only way they can earn Gold Points without playing against Life Masters. Bill Brewer added that the District members vast majority are NLMs.

Larry Sealy – Region 7 ACBL Board Member - Larry shared his report to the Board (available on the D11 home page). He reviewed the Board Meeting in July, the status of EDGAR and CBCD, and mentioned the details of the New Spring/Fall NABC Format that will start in 2028. The details of the finances are in the National Board Report. These reports are also on the D11 website.

- ACBL has **total assets** of over \$13MM, but **membership is down 6%** year over year. New members were **down 50%** from last year, while guest members grew at a healthy rate.
- **Local sectionals** will pay 100% Silver Points and use a certified local director. Table count limits are 25 per session, with a duration of no more than three days. Only one event type per session is allowed, and only Swiss teams may be a two-session event. No mixing pairs and teams in the same session.
- **U10K KO** at NABC will now start with a Swiss qualifying first day. Everyone will play a full day in this event.
- **Masterpoint formulas** were overhauled effective January 1, 2027. Overall awards will be based on **strength of field** and not on table counts. Top flight awards are expected to increase 20-30%, Gold Rush by 100%, and mid-flight will stay the same. **One-day Bracketed Swiss events** will favor even-size brackets (6, 8, 12) instead of 7, 9, and 11, eliminating the need for round robins.
- Effective July 1, 2026, **NLM Regionals now pay 50%** Gold instead of 33%. In team events the awards will be similar to Pair events with a similar number of tables.
- **GNT fees** – Districts will now be charged the full amount for entry fees after the first two days. That amount will be withheld from the Grass Roots funds. No District will be charged in 2026. Suggested calling something free then charging Districts for it was less than appropriate.
- **New NABC Sites:** Spring 2029 San Francisco; Spring 2030 Montreal (first time in 45 years); Fall 2030 Los Angeles (first time since 1969), Names of facilities TBA after contracts are signed.
- **CBCD** – began using EDGAR and it took 28-29 months to survey all members who played online since Jan 1, 2020. Found close to 2000 “reds” (EDGAR considers reds as cheaters). 2.6% of members were charged. See the chart for details.
- **Steve Moese** congratulated Larry on his reelection to the Board. He also asked how the EDGAR data matched Managements expectations, and what people can expect now going forward.
 - ✓ Larry mentioned that the results matched expectations (and what Nicolas Hammond predicted about 5 years ago). The “reds” were dominated by people receiving player memos. About 30% of player memo members came up red. So, if you think someone is doing something funny, file a player memo.
 - ✓ 4 arbitration cases were finalized after the St Louis NABC – one not responsible.
 - ✓ The Appeals and Charges Committee will define the protocols and priorities going forward. We need to check people who played after February 1, 2024 because they haven’t been run yet unless they were

swept up as a partner to a cheater. We need to follow up on players who had yellow and/or red ratings in the past, and we need to run people who are running for ACBL offices or other national honors or positions of trust.

- **Steve Moese** asked about the new BBO “membership fee” and whether this will conflict with ACBL members access to open games. Larry mentioned that this fee is for the use of their free facilities. BBO will not charge players for paid games. People who set up free games can invite anyone who they want without triggering the BBO membership fee. **Bill Brewer** confirmed this answer.
- **Linda Gorman** recruited several sapphire members. The In/Out Report does not show the new sapphire members. Larry asked Linda for an email outlining the details. He will get an answer from Bronia Jenkins (ACBL Executive Director).

OLD BUSINESS

5/5/5 Report – Steve Moese mentioned that the latest quarterly report is available on the D11 Website. He mentioned that all units except Indianapolis are below expectation. He congratulated Indianapolis for their success.

Election Committee Report – Susan Spickelmier (along with Roxy Witt and Jim Barrett) shared the slate for 2027-28: Maribeth Ransel (President), Bill Brewer (Vice-President) and Steve Moese (Secretary). The committee will confirm whether Potter Orr will continue as Treasurer. If anyone else wants to run they should contact the Search Committee. Steve mentioned that he is nominated for the chair of the Advisory Council. Those elections will be in December 2026. Steve is willing to serve as Secretary as long as there is no conflict.

Non-Lifemaster District charges for NLM Regional Tournaments (fee per table). In the past we had not charged for these tournaments. Should we change this practice and charge them? Steve Moese mentioned that NLM Regionals are typically 100-150 tables. Fees would be a small benefit for the District and perhaps a meaningful cost for the Unit running the tournament. A motion was proposed, and a friendly amendment was offered to improve the language of the motion.

MOTION: by Jim Barrett Unit 124, seconded by Jeff Chapman Unit 193
That District 11 exempt Non-Lifemaster regionals from District charges.
Carried Unanimously.

Treasurer Report – with Potter Orr absent, none was given.

Tournament Chair Report – Tom Bishel – Reported that 10 participants went to Evansville that played in Dayton in 2025. Some would have come to Dayton but not many. Steve Moese added that a split regional delivers a total number of tables to the District is substantially larger than either regional alone. This year’s total was 565.5 tables, more than either alone, even in the recent past. Maribeth asked about the missing time clocks owned by the District. Steve Moese reminded the Board that Terrell Holt believes they might be in storage in Louisville. Terrell will report at the Louisville Regional.

Secretary’s Report – Steve Moese – Potter Orr will invoice Unit 193 for \$48.53 for the Evansville Split Regional (~9700 people in 200 miles around Evansville) and Unit 136 for \$16.93 for the one email about the change in venue for the Flying Buckeye Regional.

- Recall the Board agreement to manage entry fees in the **\$17-19** range for District 11 Regionals. The *force majeure* situation led to a change in venue for the Dayton/Columbus Regional and a reduction in table fee to \$12 per person, competing with Evansville at \$17 in the same week. No action was requested.

- Steve will update meeting attendance for the Board at our next meeting. Our attendance has been good for the year.

Webmaster's Report – Steve Moese – Reminded the Board that all ACBL reports from the Advisory Council and from Larry Sealy are posted publicly on our D11 Website

Homepage: <https://www.district11bridge.com>

ACBL Reports Library: https://www.district11bridge.com/ACBL_board_reports.html

Steve urged all Board members to check the D11 website frequently.

Advisory Council Report – Steve Moese – mentioned that the Advisory Council update is posted to the Google Drive meeting folder and mirrors closely what Larry Sealy shared. In addition,

- There is a Unit Task force underway studying the work division among Units, District, and the ACBL. If you have any ideas, please contact either Steve Moese or Larry Sealy.
- The Advisory Council changed the ACBL bylaws to improve flexibility for Advisory Council Committees.
- The three candidates for Advisory Council Chair are David Sizemore (District 11), Doug Couchman (District 17) and Steve Moese (District 11). Doug served two terms previously. Any of these three will be good leaders for the Advisory Council.

Education Chair Report – Bill Brewer – There are a number of great Education Programs available.

90-minute bridge lessons – simple start to playing bridge.

Bridge Battle – ACBL Game available online (FREE) and in a box (from Baron Barclay or Etsy \$29 each including shipment). Gets people introduced to trick taking and bidding. Useful for first lessons for new people. <https://www.acbl.org/bridgebattle-play/>

These tools will help get new players playing sooner, emphasizing the fun and not the rigor of mastering this game. Bill mentioned these will help recruit new members and get them playing faster.

Maribeth thanked all who turned in their Unit Reports and urged the Board to read them.

Bill Brewer will send Steve Moese the Summary and Audio Record for the meeting.

There being no additional business before the board, adjournment was moved, seconded, and approved by unanimous consent at 8:47 PM.

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Respectfully Submitted,
Steve Moese, Secretary