

ACBL District 6

DISTRICT 6 BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

29 MAY 1999

The District 6 Board of Directors meeting was called to order by the President at 9:45 AM at Richmond, VA.

Present: President: Andre L'Heureux

Vice President: Jim Hooven

Treasurer: Steve Robinson

Secretary: Bette Dudka

Presidents: Jim Callas (135), Geoff Mallette (231), Jim Allen (147), Barry Connors (218), Stu Kleiman (109)

Representatives: Pat Wilson, Jerry Keller (135), Marge Wilson, Michael Carroad, Jim Wood, Rae Dethlefsen, Barbara Doran (147), Edith Dovell (110), Kay & Dar Afdahl, Gloria Brown (146), Margot Hennings (218), Art Schwartz (139), Nancy Witschey, Marvin Weger (109), Donna Bowser (135)

District 6 Representative: Nadine Wood

District 6 Coordinator: Millard Nachtwey

1. Minutes: The minutes of 17 October 1998 were approved as presented.

2. Treasurer's Report: Mr. Robinson submitted a written report as of 22 May 1999 indicating a balance of \$9758.50. However, since that time he has written checks amounting to \$2300.00. leaving a current balance of \$7458.00. A large amount of money is committed to the GNTeams, which leaves a little over \$5,000 in the Treasury. Revenue sharing money from MABC is expected for our Regionals (\$1 per table). The Nationals Fund (showing over \$16,000 on the report) -- Mr. Robinson stated we really didn't have that money. We had committed \$.50 from our revenue-sharing to our Nationals Fund. Bette Dudka asked what had happened to the money we were reserving for the Nationals Fund? Mr. Robinson stated we had spent it on Easy Bridge and other things. Ms. Dudka asked why we spent the money when it was earmarked for the Nationals? Mr. Robinson answered that the Finance Committee had to decide what was more important -- and they would report later. Ms. Dudka said she thought the money was committed. Mr. Robinson replied, no, that we had thought it was a good idea, but it turned out it wasn't a good idea.

3. District Coordinator's Report: Millard Nachtwey stated we were in good shape for 2000.

4. Finance Committee Report: Jim Hooven recommended 3 items for Board consideration. (1) Easy Bridge: ACBL is donating 40% to the program and the ACBL Education Fund 20%. Mr. Hooven made a motion that District 6 contribute 20% of the cost of the Easy Bridge program. Kay Afdahl seconded the motion. Motion carried. (2) Jim Hooven recommended that the GNTeams be allotted up to \$500 per person -- 2 hotel nights and airfare. Rae Dethlefsen seconded the motion. Motion carried. (3) Nationals Fund: The Finance Committee recommended and Mr. Hooven moved that District 6 sponsor a District-wide STAC with the proceeds of up to \$25,000 earmarked for the Washington Nationals. The President stated he had discussed this with members of District 7 and they seemed interested in participating and co-sponsoring this event. A lot of details will have to be worked out. MABC, itself, will not participate since the revenue sharing takes the place of their former donations to Nationals.. The STAC would be a yearly on-going event, proceeds going to future MABC Nationals (Atlanta). The Board approved having a District 6-wide STAC, with the possibility of District 7 participating as a co-sponsor.

5. GNTeams Coordinator's Report: Rae Dethlefsen read a letter from members of the Planning Committee (Bill Cole, Rae Dethlefsen, Barbara Doran) apologizing for scheduling the second weekend of GNT competition against a Va Beach Sectional, stating the Committee was unaware of the conflict. The Planning Committee invited a volunteer from the Va Beach/Norfolk area to join the Planning Committee to avoid future conflicts.

Ms. Dethlefsen advised the Board that the Committee was considering eliminating the Unit qualifying stage for all flights of the GNT. At the present time, only Flt A goes directly from the club stage to the District finals. Having the Unit qualifying stage is a money-loser --Units have to rent space and hire directors with little return for their money. This doesn't have to be decided today, but Ms. Dethlefsen asked Unit Presidents to discuss this and it will be on the agenda for the July Regional.

6. NAPs Coordinator's Report: Barbara Doran stated that the Planning Committee had decided to eliminate the Unit level qualifying for the NAPs on a one-year experimental basis. Like the GNT, it is a money loser. Plus, this year the District Finals are being held in Richmond and it is felt more people will participate, thereby filling our room commitment at the hotel. Ms. Doran stated this is a done-deal for the 1999-2000 NAPs and is stated in Conditions of Contest, but she asked Unit Presidents to discuss this since this year is being done only on a one-year experimental basis. Consider whether the Unit level of NAPs and GNTs should be eliminated in future years for discussion and possible policy change at the July Regional.

7. District 6 Director's Report: Nadine Wood said everyone had received her written report and the only other item she had was that Rich Colker was officially employed as the ACBL National Recorder and the Appeals Case-Book Editor.

8. Education: Kay Afdahl stated that she realized that the Board had already approved market-ing for Easy Bridge, but asked what if a request was received for marketing funding that does not specifically identify an education program, She made a motion that we do not fund any cooperative advertising that is not identified specifically as a recognized program without prior Board approval Jerry Keller seconded. Motion carried. Ms. Afdahl asked all Unit Presidents to advise their clubs of the District policy since most of them seem to be unaware.

9. District 6 Supplement: A "Proposed MABC Additional 'Supplement' Policies" report was distributed to all Board members which Nadine Wood asked them to take home and read. We are not doing anything different than we did in the past, but we are now in charge of our own supplement with MABC funding (\$24,000 per year). We will still have the 5 mandated pages from MABC, and 10 16-page issues and 2 8-page issues. Sectionals will still have ads in two issues. We are going to put Marge Wilson's name and E-Mail address, plus the advertising deadline on the bottom of the first page. The President asked that the Board accept the Supplement Committee's Report. Accepted.

10. Novice Report: Donna Bowser stated that Easy Bridge was preparing for the September start. Any club planning to start in September should notify them now because they need lead time. Most of the material will be sent from ACBL by the ACBL Easy Bridge Coordinator who will be generating the paperwork every club will need to start-up their Easy Bridge program.

11. Old Business:

District Hall of Fame: The President asked for comments on the District Hall of Fame. Jim Allen stated he was very interested in doing it, but he thought everyone had lost interest. He will continue to explore this idea.

Replacement Regional for July 4, 2000 NABC: The President stated that after a lot of communications and negotiations with the Doubletree Hotel in Charlottesville, VA, negotiations broke down and Charlottesville is no longer being considered. We still have an opportunity to fill this spot either 3 years before our Nationals or three years after. Nadine Wood reminded everyone that the July 4, 2000 Regional has been assigned to South Carolina. The President asked that we address this matter seriously at the July 4th Regional. <

12. New Business:

Annual Elections: The President appointed Nancy Witschey as Chairman of the Elections Committee (Members: Jim Allen and Harry Yockey) and also asked her to nominate members to serve as MABC representatives. Nancy Witschey presented a slate of officers for District 6: Andre L'Heureux - President, Jim Hooven - Vice President, Steve Robinson - Treasurer, Bette Dudka - Secretary. For MABC representatives: Kay Afdahl, Jim Allen, Margot Hennings, Jim Hooven, Jerry Keller, Mickey Kivel, Wyatt Mapp, Geoff Mallette, Ed Tomlinson, Katherine Rossman, Marge Wilson, and Pat Wilson. Elections will be held at the 4th of July Regional and nominations from the floor will be open at that time. We need someone who will attend both District 6 and District 7 Regionals.

District 6 History: The President stated Darwin Afdahl had sent him an E-mail re this subject. Mr. Afdahl said he had seen a brochure in Vancouver that summarized what their District had done, going back as far as they could. He stated that if someone asked him what we had done and what our objectives are -- the District doesn't have anything in writing. Some time in the near future, we should start thinking about putting together a brochure stating our objective, purpose, who we are, what we are, and what we have done. Mr. L'Heureux said Mr. Afdahl's point was well-taken and anyone who wanted to volunteer to contact him. Bette Dudka asked if we had not learned a lesson from the MABC 50th Anniversary brochure -- we had hundreds of brochures left over -- no one picked them up, players just aren't interested. Nadine Wood suggested we didn't have to have a booklet, we could just print highlights every now and then in the Supplement or on our website.

Free Plays for 0-49 NAP finalists: Jim Allen proposed that District 6 give one or two free plays to 0-49 NAP finalists to entice them to be more active in this event. He is bringing this up at the July 4th Regional and asked that everyone think about it. The President stated this should be discussed with the Finance Committee before any action was taken.

Policy and Procedures Manual: The President asked for volunteers to put together a non-bureaucratic policies and procedures manual for District 6.

13. President's Comments: The President stated he was putting the minutes of our meetings on our website so the MABC and anyone else interested could have access. He spoke about fair representation on committees. It's a very difficult situation when there are no volunteers, but he will continue to push for fair representation.

The President thanked Jan Mirmelstein, Stu Kleiman, and their staff for hosting another enjoyable Richmond Regional.

14. Date of Next District 6 Meeting: The next meeting will be held on Saturday, July 3, 1999, at 10:00 AM, at the July 4 Regional. Please notify the Secretary if you plan to attend.

There being no further business, Nancy Witschey moved that the meeting be adjourned. Steve Robinson seconded. The meeting stood adjourned at 12:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

BETTE DUDKA, District 6 Secretary

Jim Hooven's new E-Mail address: acblbridge@email.msn.com