

MINUTES
District 6 Meeting
Hunt Valley, Maryland

August 18, 2012

Those Present:

Officers	President	Bill Cole
	Vice President	Tom Dow
	Secretary	Judy Passerini
	Treasurer	Ron Spieker

Unit Presidents Melinda Dow (Unit 110), Mike Cappelletti (Unit 218 and ACBL 2nd Alternate to District 6 Rep), Ellen Mendelson, Lee Nettles (Proxy for Unit 139), Richard Ferrin (Unit 147)

Voting Members Margot Hennings (ACBL District 6 Rep), Steve Robinson (ACBL 1st Alternate to District 6 Rep), Will Williams (ACBL Board of Governors), Barbara Doran (ACBL Board of Governors), Fred King (ACBL Board of Governors)

**Non-Voting Members/
MABC Reps** Will Williams, Don Berman, Doug Grove, Amanda Carter, Harry Gellis, Zeke Letellier, Bill Peters, Barbara Doran, Lynn Jones, Jennifer Koonce, Pat Wilson, Gloria Halstead, Ron Kral, Susan Bowles, Lee Nettles

Opening Remarks: Bill Cole reported a Regional Committee had been formed by Past-President Jim Hooven to analyze future Regional requests from units, to collect information to present to District Board on location of Regionals and also to recommend tournament chairs for District President to approve. Committee is comprised of past and current presidents/vice presidents of the Mid-Atlantic from District 6, Chief Director of Mid-Atlantic if District 6 member, District President, ACBL Representative and others appointed as needed. In 2013, as approved at a previous meeting, we will decide whether or not to continue with 3 years at Virginia Beach and one year at another location, or 2 years at Virginia Beach and one year at another location (Cambridge in 2013). Charlottesville is another possibility and they're having a regional in 2013 so attendance at Cambridge and Charlottesville will be one factor. Information will be gathered by the committee and distributed to the Board. The District 6 Board, after receiving accurate information from Regional Committee will make a determination late next year or early 2014.

Most of the committees are set up now so that more than one person is overseeing everything so the committees are in good shape.

By ACBL rules, every district must have a Tournament Coordinator to schedule sectionals and oversee the entire schedule to ensure no conflicts occur and that ACBL rules are followed.

Millard handled this for many years. We decided that we would use a volunteer format and we set up a committee just as we have with every other District 6 decision making process. Lucy McCoy is the new Tournament Coordinator. The Tournament Coordinator committee will include Doug Grove, Tom Dow (chairman) and Don Berman, to assist in interpreting scheduling rules and assist with publication of the schedule. More than one person will be involved in the process, but Lucy McCoy will be the primary contact person. We want someone who is cell phone accessible within 24 hours. Table Talk is the primary source of advertising for our sectionals and Lucy McCoy is doing the editing work so she will have the calendar and she will have everything in one place.

The Finance Committee budgeted (as approved by District Board) and spent over a two year period \$1000 for NLM booklets which were distributed at all NLM sectionals all over the District and were well received. We spent \$100 for gift for Pat Wilson and the MABC contributed, which was well deserved. We also authorized \$100 for Sharon Anderson at the Bethesda Regional.

The amount of money allocated to Districts 6 and 7 by the MABC is based on the district membership and tournament attendance (table count). The formula for distributing MABC regional profits to the districts has recently changed, with about \$4800 more per year going to District 6 than in the past. Bill said he wanted everyone to understand that the MABC reimbursement policy is giving a lot more money to District 7 than to District 6—literally \$200,000 to \$225,000 every ten years—but that is because their Regionals are better attended than those in District 6 and therefore more profitable.

Bill recognized new members Ellen Mendelson, President of the MBA, Mike Cappelletti, President of the NVBA, and Gloria Halstead, who is writing committee guidelines. These guidelines will be posted on the website so that everyone will understand the role of each committee and the relationship among the MABC, District and Units. Bill Peters was also recognized as the new Hunt Valley Tournament Chairman and Amanda Carter as Tournament Chairman for Reston.

Secretary: Judy Passerini said minutes from the Williamsburg meeting have been distributed. On motion by Barbara Doran, minutes were approved unanimously.

Judy Passerini said minutes from the last Virginia Beach meeting have been distributed and there are actually two sets—the original minutes that needed final corrections and a new set that had to be reconstructed after her computer crashed. Judy asked that the minutes be approved pending final corrections. On motion by Fred King, the minutes were approved pending final corrections.

Judy said she has enjoyed serving as Secretary but was resigning today due to personal conflicts.

Treasurer: Ron Spieker presented the Treasurer's report and estimated budget for the coming year. On motion by Margot Hennings and second by Tom Dow, the report was unanimously approved.

Vice-president Report: Tom Dow gave a report on the Regional Committee and advised that any unit wanting a regional should let him know.

MABC Report: Fred King said everything is going well and 5 of our last 8 tournaments have set attendance records. Efforts are being made to get tournament results posted as quickly as possible and a committee has been appointed to re-examine tournament operating costs. For the last 2 tournaments and including this tournament, we've used pre-duplicated boards in the A/X Swiss so that hand records are available.

District Director Report: Margot Hennings requested that a \$1000 grant from the ACBL Charity Foundation to each of the 25 districts to be used for a non-bridge charity be made to the Fisher House. Fisher House is an organization established to offer a "home away from home" for military families to be close to a loved one during hospitalization for an illness, disease or injury. Approved unanimously on motion by Barbara Doran and second by Lee Nettles.

Unit presidents should have received e-mail asking for their nominations for Nadine Wood Volunteer of the Year and Margot asked that a recommendation be carefully considered at their next board meeting with a deadline of mid-September. Selection of the Nadine Wood Volunteer of the Year is made by the ACBL President who will choose from among the nominees received from each district. Presentation is made nationally and it is a very nice event.

Margot said it is her responsibility to nominate persons to the National Goodwill and National Charity Committee and would like to hear from others anyone they feel worthy of recognition.

ACBL CEO Robert Hartman will be at the Northern Virginia sectional September 7-10 if any would like to attend and have an opportunity to meet him.

Margot said the strength of field motion that had been considered for the past year by the ACBL Board was voted down and it will not be implemented as currently proposed. Margot asked for feedback on those who played in the Philadelphia Nationals and comments were made regarding scheduling, length of time between games, etc. Careful analysis is being made of schedule in an attempt to alleviate some of the same problems in Atlanta. Traditional start times are afternoon and evening. If the local host committee for an NABC wishes to change those times they can petition the ACBL.

Margot said she is Chairperson for the GNT/NAP Special Events Task Force. At the last ACBL Board meeting, a motion was approved designating December as a special month for events that benefit Grass Roots. An additional \$1 table fee can be charged and submitted to the ACBL by the club holding a Grass Roots fund game along with its regular sanction fees, and that money will be returned to the District. Charity games as holiday parties are no longer officially permitted because additional funds raised during December are now solely for Grass Roots events. *Note: In the week following Hunt Valley, there were a number of discussions held among ACBL staff and the Task Force to figure out how traditional charity games at clubs in December can still be accommodated. There will be articles in the ACBL Bulletin and the Club Liaison at ACBL will be sending out an e-newsletter that explains how clubs may still support their charities as well as their district's Grass Roots events during this coming December.*

Grand National Teams: Lynn Jones said GNTs were very successful this year, money-wise. For those interested, our 0-5000 games are February 23- 24 and March 9- 10; the Open dates are April 13-14 and April 27-28.

North American Pairs: Barbara Doran reported the NAP games will not have a split site this year and all games will be in Kensington, Md. Dates for qualifying at the club level should be sent to Don Berman so they can be posted on the website. Barbara said at this point she has had 4 pairs to register and 2 are from the south.

Policies and Procedures: Gloria Halstead read the following policy regarding tournaments:

“Units run sectionals and are the profit center. Districts run regional’s and are the profit center. However, District 6 has given the Mid-Atlantic Bridge Conference (MABC) authority to administer its regional tournaments (regional’s) as has District 7. This means that the MABC bears all financial and staffing responsibility for the regional’s. District 6, however, maintains some responsibilities. Those responsibilities are as follows:

1. District 6 chooses how many regionals it will host within the allowable limit of the number of regionals set by the ACBL. Currently, the ACBL allows District 6 to host four regionals annually. In years when a North American Bridge Championship (NABC) is held in District 6 and a regional is NOT held because of it, a replacement regional may be held in one or two years in advance of or after the year of the NABC.
2. District 6 proposes where its regionals will be held. The MABC approves locations. This is usually a rubber-stamp approval as long as adequate facilities are available.
3. District 6 President proposes who the tournament chair(s) will be in consultation with the tournament host organization (often one of the eight units within District Six) and with the approval of the MABC.
4. In appreciation of hosting an MABC Regional and upon receipt of all required financial accounting forms, the host organization receives a host allocation, currently a minimum of \$1250 (plus 25 cents a table for a table count over 3000).

After tournament chairs have been appointed by District President and approved by the MABC, the tournament chair sets up a tournament committee who host the Regional.

New Business:

Nominations/Elections: Barbara Doran presented the following slate of officers for the upcoming term. With no nominations from the floor, the officers were approved by acclamation,

Tom Dow, President
Don Berman, Vice-President
Ron Spieker, Treasurer
Melinda Dow, Secretary

With no nominations from the floor, Harry Gellis, Lynn Jones, Lee Nettles, Shawn Stringer and Zeke Letellier were approved as District 6 representatives to the MABC Board for the upcoming 2 year terms ending in 2014.

Finance: On recommendation of Ron Spieker, approved that Ron Spieker, Don Berman, Bill Cole and Steve Robinson be approved as signators on the Wells Fargo checking account and NABC savings account.

On recommendation of Ron Spieker, approved that Ron Spieker, Bill Cole, Margot Hennings and Don Berman be approved as signators for the Nationals NABC Certificate of Deposit at Northwestern Federal Credit Union.

Closing remarks: Bill Cole closed by thanking Patricia Wilson for putting Hunt Valley on the map as one of the best run regionals in the country. Special thanks to Bill Peters for the wonderful tournament he has run this year.

On behalf of District 6, Tom Dow presented a plaque to Bill Cole, in appreciation of his hard work and accomplishments.

Lynn Jones reported that Judith Bloomer fell while entering the hotel and had to return home. The incident was reported but the hotel was “disdainful and unapologetic”. Doug Grove said that incidents such as this should be reported immediately because there are procedures to be followed and the Chief Director’s tournament report must include a filing of the details of all such incidents to ACBL. Patricia Wilson also stressed that it’s very important to report these incidents to your regional chair and DIC.

Next meeting at Virginia Beach, November 2012.

With no further business, meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Melinda Dow, Secretary

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