

MINUTES
District 6 Board of Directors Meeting
Reston, VA

July 7, 2013

Those Present:

Officers	President	Don Berman
	Vice President	Richard Deyerle
	Secretary	Melinda Dow
	Treasurer	Ron Spieker

Unit Presidents Melinda Dow (Unit 110), Ron Kral (Unit 218), Richard Ferrin (Unit 147), Susan Bowles (Unit 146 Proxy), Lynn Jones (Unit 135 Proxy), Harry Gellis (Unit 109 Proxy), Units 139 and 231 not represented

Other Voting Members

Steve Robinson (ACBL 2nd Alternate to District 6 Rep), Fred King (ACBL Board of Governors), Tom Dow (Past-President) and Margot Hennings, (ACBL District 6 Rep), Barbara Doran (ACBL Board of Governors)

Non-Voting Members & MABC Reps

Bob White, Scott Tumperi, David Rodney, Lucy McCoy, Zeke Letellier, Barbara Doran, Shawn Stringer, Bill Cole

Opening Remarks: Don Berman welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m.

Secretary: Minutes from the March 5, 2013 meeting in Charlottesville were approved as submitted.

Treasurer: Ron Spieker presented the Treasurer's report, which was approved as submitted.

MABC Report: Bob White reported that contracts for the Chattanooga Regional have been signed for next year. Because Macon was unable to get a contract for its 2015 regional by June, it will not take place. District 7 voted to allow D6 to use the D7 Macon sanction, presumably for another tournament in Charlottesville during the 2015 March timeframe when Macon would have been held. Following discussion about the additional tournament sanction available to D6 from D7, Steve Robinson made a motion that the D6 regional committee meet to make a recommendation, with a final decision made by the Executive Committee within 30-60 days. Motion was approved.

District Director's Report: Margot Hennings gave a follow-up report on the Bridge at Schools program. Jim Davis from Unit 110 has been running a very active after-school bridge program for youth and is bringing 6 of his students with their parents to the youth bridge events at the Atlanta Nationals in August. He's worked very hard to raise funds including fund-raising by the children attending, a school PTA, a grant from his unit, and other miscellaneous fund raisers. Margot said the Bridge at Schools organization felt it was appropriate to donate \$500 from Bridge at Schools to help offset expenses.

Margot also reported on upcoming motions in Atlanta at the Board of Directors (BOD) meetings that will affect Grass Roots events, which include NAPs and GNTs. Motions include raising the Flight B limit from 2000 to 2500, increasing the number of first-day qualifiers into the second day of the national NAP event, and the possibility of allowing a second team to qualify to represent its district in the national GNT event, with a minimum of six teams participating in the flight at the district finals. The focus of all the motions is on trying to improve participation in Grass Roots events.

Margot said there are currently two small NABC+ events, which happen to be women's events, that have not met the minimum 30 table requirement for a number of years—these are the Wagar Women's KO and the Machlin Women's Swiss. After much discussion among committee members and some of the participants it was decided to leave the conditions of contest as they currently exist, but to remove the possibility of qualifying for Grand Life Master status by winning.

Committee Reports:

- Tournaments: Lucy McCoy said we need to decide whether or not to schedule an additional STaC game for 2014 to support Grass Roots. Following discussion, the Board approved an additional STaC game May 5-11, 2014 to support Grass Roots events.
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- NAP: Barbara Doran said they don't yet have a site for the NAPs but will be visiting a proposed location next week and after July 15th they can start talking to Montgomery County about a site. Barbara asked unit presidents to please contact their special events coordinators and club owners and have them post their qualifying dates on the web site.
- GNT: Lynn said they had a very successful GNT this year with the largest number of tables of any District. There is still a continuing problem with the lack of participation in the southern sites and there were some who played that had not qualified. Scott Tumperi said he would work on trying to get several teams together for the coming GNT cycle year.
- Table Talk: Bill said everything is great with Table Talk and they are looking into the possibility of electronic copies for those who would opt out of the mailing program, provided it meets guidelines.
- Goodwill: David Rodney said that Carol Guy has stepped down and he would be filling that position. The last goodwill reception was held in Richmond and it will rotate between different regionals each year. David noted that many of the units are not making nominations. Bob reminded everyone that Friday is Goodwill Day at all MABC regionals.

- STaC: Don Berman said there is always some question as to whether or not mid-chart conventions can be used in a stratified club game. Agreed to allow clubs to individually determine whether to allow mid-chart for STaC's.
- Finance: Shawn Stringer said she thought we were probably in the best financial shape we've been in a long time and thanked Ron Spieker for the good work he does.

New Business: Don said one item that was not on the agenda that needs to be taken care of is election of officers and the by-laws call for election of officers to be held in a Washington area Regional. With no nominations from the floor, Barbara Doran made a motion that the current slate of officers be nominated by acclamation. Motion carried. Several of the MABC Representative positions are also up for re-election this year at the Chesapeake Regional in November. Don said that Lee Nettles has resigned and Bill Cole has been appointed to fill the remainder of his term.

Bill Cole reported that the ratio of tables per director at tournaments has gotten a little better and hopefully by the next meeting those numbers will be significantly better.

Bill presented a chart outlining the cost savings we realize by using Tournament Assistants for some duties that do not require a Director in our regional tournaments. TAs cost about \$80 per session versus \$300 per session for a Director and they are well qualified to handle many of the duties not requiring someone highly skilled. Director cost is \$220 for sectionals (not counting hotel room per session because most of our sectional director sessions do not include hotel). ACBL guidelines allow us to control staffing and Bill said he felt we should take advantage of the cost savings available by using TAs and that we not do away with those positions. Steve Robinson made a motion ACBL be notified that we do not want to eliminate the use of TAs at our tournaments (this is expected to be a topic of conversation at the Atlanta BOD meetings). Motion carried.

Scott Tumperi reported that a local Charlottesville club raised \$14,000 for The Longest Day event benefiting the Alzheimers Association.

Don thanked Amanda Carter for a job well done on this tournament. Amanda said that she had received many compliments about the tournament although attendance is down approximately 10% and a 13% decrease is projected for the entire week. Margot said that Richmond attendance was also down and suggested that perhaps we are having too many tournaments each year. (NOTE: Final attendance was 2330, down only 6% from estimate due to huge Saturday and Sunday attendance by locals).

Don said the next meeting will be in Cambridge and with no further business, meeting adjourned at 11:50 a.m.

Respectfully submitted

Melinda Dow, Secretary
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