

**District 6 Board of Directors Meeting
Richmond, Virginia**

Saturday, May 27, 2017

Those Present:

Officers:	President	Shawn Stringer
	Vice President	George Lewis
	Secretary	Susan MacLaughlin
	Treasurer	Ron Spieker

Unit Presidents **Barry Fratkin (Unit 109), Ron Alldaffer (Unit 110), Ron Conlon (Unit 135), David Butler (Unit 139), Bill Cole (Unit 147 proxy), Martha Bley (Unit 218), Carolyn Riegle (Unit 146). Rich Rio (Unit 231)**

Other Voting Members **Margot Hennings (D6 District Director, ACBL Board of Governors), Fred King (ACBL Board of Governors), Barbara Doran (ACBL Board of Governors) Steve Robinson (1st Alternate ACBL Board of Directors), Don Berman (Past President)**

Non-Voting Members **Lucy McCoy (D6 Tournament Coordinator and Managing Editor of Table TALK), Bill Cole (D6 Grass Roots Chair), David Rodney (Goodwill Chair), Susan Bowles (D6 Prize Chair), Nancy Lowry (Finance Chair)**

Guests **Bob Heller (ACBL President), Barbara Heller (President's Wife), Jay Whipple (D9 District Director, ACBL Board of Governors), Jane Farthing (Williamsburg Tournament Chair), Kevin O'Brien (Supplies & Equipment), Tom Dow (Regional Rotation)**

Welcome **Shawn Stringer called the meeting to order at 9:30am and welcomed everyone. Shawn gave a synopsis of the executive committee meeting actions: 1. Approved D6 joining Gatlinburg charity Stac; 2. Requested more information before agreeing to remote participation in regionals; 3. Approved participation in longest day raffles; 4. Approved I/N regional for October.**

Secretary **Minutes from the Norfolk meeting were approved.**

Treasurer **Ron Spieker presented the Treasurer's Report as of 4/30/2017, showing a loss for the fiscal year to date of approximately \$21,000. Ron said this total did not include GNT expenses of about \$9000 that are in process but does include advances to Richmond and Bethesda Regionals of \$10,000 each, the \$6,000 loss of the Norfolk regional and \$3,000 for a final February mailing of Table Talk. In addition, only 3 stac games were effectively conducted besides the Gatlinburg Relief Stac.**

District Director **(Margot Hennings) 1. The D7 meeting was very good with very good information from Jay Whipple, President of D9. 2. Margot Hennings was appointed to head an ACBL Tournament Task Force and to assure a geographic selection appointed David Rodney, Jay Whipple and Doug Grove. 3. According to statistics that Jay Whipple has obtained from First Results 40-60% of attendees at a regional do not return the next year.**

ACBL President (Bob Heller) 1. Bob thanked D6 for the help with Gatlinburg. He reported that the Dolly Foundation (Dolly Parton) picked up all of the administrative costs so that all donations went to relief. Also the ACBL waived all sanction fees for the Gatlinburg Stac. So that more money went to Gatlinburg. 2. The ACBL Board cancelled the contract to go return to Disney property in 2012 as there were many problems. Phoenix and other warm climate sites will be considered for a replacement. 3. There will be a major overhaul in convention charts. Jeff Meckstroth is on the committee to help develop one chart for all 0-750 games at regionals. 2/3 of the ACBL membership are not life masters. There will be conventions identified that these players can play at their level. Charts will be developed also for mid-level and AX players. 3. Attendance is down at all regionals. D7 has not been as affected in the past but now is. What drives satisfaction is the quality of the hotel but still need to find ways to get participants to return. A most significant statistic is local participation in the regional. 4. BAM and Pairs games at club level are being discussed. 5. Other issues-are that ACBL needs new volunteers. Barbara Heller mentioned that a survey on clubs is coming out in approximately the next 2 weeks from the Board of Governors.

D9 District Director (Jay Whipple) 1. Jay is the chair of the search committee for the new ACBL CEO. 2. There is statistical planning for new technology at ACBL. 3. There is an issue of Regionals at Clubs. A club can be the Host or Source that will allow members to participate. The Host must get an IDC# and pay a \$1,500.00 fee. This is a new a product for clubs. 4. Players can play online at a regional or at a monitored location. All must be on BBO and all playing in the same field. These games will hopefully be run at off times from the regional games and each participate must have his/her own laptop and must be at least 200 miles away.

Committee Reports:

1. **Regional Management:** (Shawn Stringer) The committee met and acted and/or discussed the following: a. Approved the final report for Norfolk; b. the mailing of approximately 20 Table Talks to members who requested such; c. that the equipment is almost completely upgraded and that the boards will be completed prior to Bethesda; d. that the Williamsburg flyers have been completed; e. that the Hunt Valley flyer is being remade; f. for the Bethesda Regional the room numbers are down and that there is a parking problem. g. Parking in Reston is no longer free. There is a problem with merchants pulling out. h. Bill Cole proposed that the D6 national fund may be a source of revenue to help defray cost of regionals. i. Director staffing for tournaments continues to be a very expensive. j. The National Director for District Relations is Gary Blevins. k. Staff expenses at ACBL are high. NABC requires one director for every 5 tables.
2. **District Tournament Coordinator:** (Lucy McCoy) No report
3. **Educational Foundation:** (Ron Spieker) Funding has begun with the charity game.
4. **Regional Rotation:** (Tom Dow) There is no venue for the November 2018 regional in Virginia Beach. Norfolk last November was slated for failure because of the Norfolk downtown Christmas parade prohibiting players from getting to the game site and the NABC in Orlando the following week. Discussions are continuing concerning a tournament in the western part of the state, possibly Roanoke or Virginia Tech in the February of 2019.
5. **Advertising and Communication:** (Shawn Stringer) The Williamsburg Flyer has been completed and the Hunt Valley Flyer is in remake.
6. **Finance:** (Nancy Lowry) No report.
7. **Grass Roots:** (Bill Cole) for both NAP and GNT games a written checklist and explanation is being developed.

- a. **NAP:** Many C players did not participate in qualifying games.
 - b. **GNT:** Attendance was up.
 - c. **STaC: (Don Berman):** a. The cost to ACBL is being reduced by \$1.00/table. A motion was made and passed that the difference of the \$1.00 be split between D6 and the participating clubs, that the cost for a club will be \$6.50/table. b. A motion was made and passed that D6 join D7 to go under one sanction, pending ACBL approval, in June and December, 2017 for Stac games to produce more tables and lower the fees to help makeup the monies D6 given Gatlinburg.
8. **Table Talk:** (Bill Cole) Distribution to Units went well.
 9. **Appellate/Judiciary:** (David Rodney) No report.
 10. **Charity/Goodwill:** (David Rodney) A reception was held for recipients at the Richmond Regional on Friday night and was well received.
 11. **Competition:** (Steve Robinson) Steve reported that 60% of participants want to leave the Sunday Swiss at regionals as is. There was a question as to who responded to the survey and it was recommended that another survey is needed.
 12. **Webmaster:** (Don Berman) Don reported that the website is up and running with the new provider.

Old Business

1. **District MABC Agreement** – current status (Fred King) This cannot be finalized until the Virginia Beach Cavalier issue is resolved.
2. **Update on Virginia Beach contract matter** (Fred King) The resolution is still in process.

New Business

1. **District 6/NVBA NLM Regional** (Shawn Stringer) There will be a NLM Regional in October.
2. **Review of all D6 Policies and Procedures** (George Lewis) Policies and procedures for all signage, marketing, supplies, caddies, free plays, etc. for regionals are all being reviewed and updated.
3. **Future marketing efforts and ideas** (Barry Fratkin) 1. 109 sectionals attendance is good. This is attributed to good lighting, good cards and good food. Sectional locations need to be attractive. Also many e-mails are sent to club members and many reminders are made a club meetings. 2. For the regional 3 e-mails were sent that talked about food, urgency and rooms available. 3. For the Fredericksburg sectional, that is part of Unit 109, a bus was chartered with a \$50.00 cost to each rider that covered the bus ride, lunch and entry fees. The bus was promoted for 6 weeks. 4. Need to explore sponsorship by a group to give \$500 to have a station outside a sectional to market services to the 70 and up members. Ideas of groups that many be interested are wealth management, assistant living facilities, and banks.

Items from the Floor (George Lewis) There needs to be a phone # for people to call to reach a person who is playing in a regional in D6. A grasshopper phone can be purchased for \$20.00/month.

Closing Remarks-Tournament Chair (George Lewis and Jackie Shuman) Thank you to you both.

Next meeting-Hunt Valley, Saturday August 12, 2017 (breakfast meeting)

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan MacLaughlin,
Secretary