



# DISTRICT 13 AMERICAN CONTRACT BRIDGE LEAGUE

Units 123, 149, and 222 <http://acbl-district13.org>

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Minutes of October 31, 2015

**Present: Tom Dressing, Stan Subeck, Suzi Subeck, Jan Churchwell, Mike Selchert, Angie Clark, Loring Knoblauch, Adrienne Cohen, Steve Brown, Mike Selchert, Mollie Freier, Mary Ann Romberg, Yvette Neary, Dianne Kiehl**

**Not present: John Goldstein, Les Kent, Dennis Ryan, Chelley Andress, Marlene Backus, Jan Litscher, John Pereles.**

**Also present: Suzi Subeck, Peter Wilke, Stan Fuhrmann, Sandy O'Brien, Jim O'Brien, Bob Young (reporting for Les Kent)**

Tom Dressing called the meeting to order at 10:15 AM stating that in the President's absence the Vice President would normally chair the meeting; however, John had been in touch with Stan Subeck on various matters, so Stan will chair the meeting. Also, John had asked Jan Churchwell to act as Secretary in John Pereles' absence.

**MINUTES** (Stan Subeck for John Pereles)

The Minutes of the meeting of May 2, 2015 had been distributed in advance of the meeting (copy attached). Angie Clark moved to accept them; Adrienne Cohen seconded. The motion passed.

**TREASURER'S REPORT** (Stan Subeck)

Stan Subeck reported that the District is "holding its own," despite declining tournament attendance. Suzi Subeck said that the ACBL is looking for a site for a future NABC in Chicago, probably in 6 years or so. Therefore, the Restricted Fund will remain as is for the present.

The Board discussed the \$.50 per person surcharge on all Team games. Stan suggested keeping the surcharge for now; it will be reviewed along with other financial items before the next Board meeting.

A discussion about changing tournament fees was tabled as being a New Business item, not a Treasurer's Report item. Mike Selchert, President of WUMBA, said that WUMBA will not change its Regional Tournament fee, currently \$10. Suzi stated that the ACBL doesn't require all Units in a District to charge the same fee(s).

## **NOMINATING COMMITTEE** (Jan Churchwell)

Jan reported that the current roster of officers remains basically unchanged. Tom Dressing will run for President in April, 2016, and John Pereles and Stan Subeck will run for the offices of Secretary and Treasurer respectively. Therefore, only the position of Vice President is open. Jan invited all interested Board members to let her know; if she doesn't hear from people, she'll be in touch with all Board members. She said she would like to find a candidate from WUMBA or GMBA since 2 of the 4 current candidates are members of the CCBA. Sandi O'Brien reviewed the terms of office.

Stan Fuhrmann mentioned that he does not have the Second Amended version of the By-laws to post on the website.

## **TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR'S REPORT** (Peter Wilke)

### **Tournament Scheduling**

Peter handed out his semi-annual Calendar of Tournament and reported that 2016 looks good for now — i.e., conflict-free. The 2016 GNT dates are February 20-21, and the tournament will be held in Chicago; Stan Subeck is Coordinating. The Spring Regional was rescheduled to April 25-May 2 because the original week scheduled conflicts with Passover. No future dates are currently scheduled because John Goldstein wants to review arrangements with the Grand Geneva.

Suzi reported that District 8 is filing an official objection to the GMBA-WUMBA Split-Site Regional, currently scheduled to run opposite the St. Louis Regional in August, 2016. Yvette Neary said that she had been unable to find ANY site for the week of August 22, which is why the tournament was rescheduled for the week of August 15.

Suzi also reported that there is a motion that will be discussed at the Denver ACBL meetings to revise the split-regional guidelines because a faction of the Regional Allocation Committee feels that some Districts are using split regionals to "get around" the rules about total number of regionals. If the motion passes, the 2016 schedule could remain in place, but future split regionals would fall into a "1-in-4" category, meaning that another split regional could not be held in our District until 2020.

### **Tournament Update**

Peter Wilke reported that Central States will probably be down about 100 tables from 2014 — and 2014 was down about 100 tables from 2013. Reviewing attendance shows that attendance is down about 50% since 2006, although the decline has not been steady. There was a drop in 2007-2009, then an uptick in 2010 and 2011; since 2012 there has been a steady decline. Evening attendance and team games have suffered the worst; Peter pointed out that this is an issue in general at ACBL tournaments. Suzi added that the issue of declining tournament attendance and shifts in event popularity are being discussed at ACBL meetings.

### **2016 GNT'S** (Stan Subeck)

The 2016 GNT's will be held again at the Northbrook Hilton. Stan said that there needs to be some restructuring of Flight A.

### **NAP** (Sandy O'Brien)

The 2015 NAP games have been completed.

## **DISTRICT STACS** (Sandy O'Brien)

The 2016 District STaCs are scheduled for May 2-8 and October 31-November 6.

## **DISTRICT DIRECTOR'S REPORT** (Suzi Subeck)

Suzi distributed her report; it is attached.

## **2015 NABC** (Suzi Subeck)

Overall the NABC was very successful. The main issue reported was accessibility of bathrooms, especially given the stairs involved for players with mobility issues.

An incident at the Partnership Desk is being reviewed by a disciplinary committee.

## **BOARD OF GOVERNORS** (Tom Dressing)

Tom reported that although ACBL membership is declining it isn't as bad as anticipated. He said that how to handle on-line points vs. "real" points is being reviewed. Peter added that he thinks the general opinion among staff is that ACBL management is in touch with issues better than ever before.

## **WEBMASTER REPORT** (Stan Fuhrmann)

Stan had sent out his report in advance of the meeting; it is attached. He said that his review indicates that "bots" may account for as much as 75% of the total hits on the website. He saw about 30-40 downloads daily for Central States. Suzi asked that the link to "Handouts from Suzi Subeck" be changed to "Regional Daily Bulletins."

## **I/N NEWSLETTER** (Suzi Subeck)

Suzi distributed the latest issue; she will post a notice on the website that it's available.

## **UNIT PRESIDENT REPORTS**

**GMBA**: Yvette Neary reported for John Pereles. Attendance was way down at the August Regional, although she received many compliments on the site and arrangements. Evening games had very poor attendance, and choice events appeared to be the most popular games overall. She also said that a big issue being discussed by unit teachers is how to attract social bridge players to duplicate games.

**WUMBA**: Mike Selchert reported that Regional attendance was satisfactory; they got many players from the Twin Cities. WUMBA has instituted a mentoring program which has club owners support.

**CCBA**: Bob Young reported for Les Kent. The unit is financially sound, tournaments are generally successful (although Central States will probably be in the red this year), and the Board is also looking at ways to attract players to duplicate. A one-time regional tournament was held in February at the Wyndham Hotel in Glenview; the site was very successful, and WinterFest will move there in 2016. The BOD is losing two members: John Goldstein and Angie Clark. Bob thanked them for their years of service and many valuable contributions. The Nominating Committee had identified two candidates, Beryl Block and Steve Brown, to replace them.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

Many people playing at Central States had commented about the superiority of the ballroom site over the Forum, and the point was raised that many people have complained over time about allergy and respiratory problems in the Forum; this will be on the agenda for discussion with Grand Geneva management.

The Scheduling Subcommittee will meet to discuss tournament-related issues and report at the April meeting. Steve Brown is chairing the committee, and Stan Subeck, Yvette Neary, and Marilyn Charlson are members.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Board of Governors**

Tom Dressing went to the BOG meeting at the Chicago NABC. He asked what the ACBL procedures are for electing Governors; it turns out that the District doesn't have that information. Stan Subeck said that, per John Goldstein, if the District By-laws don't include a procedure, the Board may establish one. It can be either ad hoc or formalized for the future. Suzi said that the BOG meets on the first Sunday of all NABC's, and attendance is expected. Bob Young suggested that developing a procedure should come before publicizing information about the BOG.

Jan Litscher is resigning as one of the District's BOG representatives. Stan Subeck moved to appoint Tom Dressing to finish her term; Steve Brown seconded. The motion passed. Tom will take on the responsibility; however, he needs to find a sub for November in Denver.

Discussion about tournament fees will take place at the unit level.

Tom Dressing asked that discussion of the District Budget be placed on the Spring Agenda.

Jan Churchwell moved to adjourn the meeting; Mike Selchert seconded. The motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at 12:10 p.m.

Submitted by  
Jan Churchwell  
Acting Secretary