

Jane requested feedback on the 2 postcards that were printed announcing Regional, Sectional and special events for the year 2019. Other formats were discussed but several BOD members noted that they had received positive feedback from their unit members. It was noted that the postcard is one of the more cost-effective means to communicate this information.

Approval of Hunt Valley 2019 Meeting Minutes:

Secretary Kay Hughes advised there were no changes to the minutes of the Hunt Valley, August 16th meeting as emailed on 9/12/19. Barry Fratkin moved the minutes be approved as emailed and the motion was approved.

Treasurer's Report:

Treasurer Ron Spieker presented the Treasurer's Report as of 8/31/19 that was previously emailed to the BoD. The report included results for the last four fiscal years (9/1 to 8/31) and a recap of GNT, NAOP and STaC results. Ron advised Form 990 had been filed with the IRS for the fiscal year and anyone interested in seeing the Form 990 to ask him. There were no questions.

Committee Reports:

- **Regional Management:** Shawn Stringer presented detailed information on Regional financials and distributed a worksheet recapping D6 Regional Tournaments starting with Richmond, May 2019. The recent Hunt Valley Regional was successful financially although table count was down. The savings in director expense was due to trading a Hospitality Room in exchange for sleeping rooms used by the directors. Almost all of the P & E budget went for food which is very expensive at the hotel. The staffing ratio improved for Hunt Valley, but overall, the staffing ratio is too high, and this continues to be a huge issue that is controlled by ACBL instead of the Tournament Chair.

Shawn advised that David Rodney had worked very hard with her on finalizing the location of the August tournament for next year and preparing a tentative flyer in time for the Chesapeake Regional. The Baltimore Regional will be held at the Hilton Baltimore Inner Harbor August 17-23, 2020. There are many advantages including a great hotel rate for a Baltimore Inner Harbor hotel, free parking for hotel guests, subsidized parking for commuters and no food and beverage commitment. Refrigerator magnets were purchased to advertise the tournament and will be distributed at the Williamsburg and Reston Regionals.

Mary Jo Chiesa, the Hunt Valley tournament chair has agreed to continue in that position. Marty Bley moved that the board approve Mary Jo Chiesa as the tournament chair for the Baltimore Regional and the motion was approved.

Shawn advised that the RR Knockout events are under review by ACBL and very small brackets (fewer than 7 teams in any except the top two brackets) may be disallowed which would mean returning to the old formats. The members have strongly supported this format which allows players to play 2 sessions without getting knocked out in the small-sized brackets.

Shawn noted that Director fees are under review and probably will be raised approximately \$30.00 per session, depending on the director rank. David Rodney pointed out that this is extremely shortsighted on the part of ACBL and is based on Regional tournaments continuing to lose money nationally due to declining attendance.

- **District Tournament Coordinator:** Lucy McCoy - No Report
- **Finance:** Nancy Golden – No Report

- **Grass Roots, NAOP, GNT, Conditions of Contest:** Bill Cole advised the upcoming GNT dates are now on the D6 website as well as the Conditions of Contest and a handout was prepared for this tournament. This past year, attendance was up slightly in both last events.
- **Appellate/Judiciary:** Vice President David Rodney commented that ACBL has very good online reference detailing a club's authority and defining zero tolerance for those inquiring about discipline issues. ACBL has recently updated regulations regarding the Recorder system, abolishing the position of Unit Recorder and centralizing recorder functions at the District level. If desired the Unit can now have an Assistant District Recorder, who will undertake recorder duties within the unit and coordinate activities with the District Recorder. David has prepared a District 6 policy document regarding Assistant District Recorders and detailing the responsibilities and coordination with the District Recorder. Jane had this document reviewed with Robb Gordon of ACBL and was approved. David Rodney made a motion to approve the draft document prepared by David Rodney titled District 6 Policy Regarding Assistant District Recorders and the motion was approved. (Attachment #4).
- **Goodwill:** Jane Farthing thanked the Goodwill Chairman Winnie Fratkin for the delicious food that she prepared and served for the Goodwill reception held Friday, Nov. 15, 2019.
- **Competition:** Steve Robinson – No Report

Old Business:

Officer Election Bylaws Changes Concurrent with Policies & Procedures Changes: Shawn Stringer advised that the Policies and Procedures revisions are still being worked on. Several issues have surfaced that may require some meetings to generate new ideas and solutions, keeping in mind there continue to be diminishing resources.

Regarding the recommended Bylaws change for officer election that was tabled at the prior meeting, Shawn reviewed the Bylaws to see if additional changes were needed. Shawn does not recommend that any changes are needed to the Bylaws at this time. The election process as currently stated in the Bylaws does work and does not warrant changing.

New Business:

ACBL Board of Gov. Replacement for J. W. Williams: Will Williams has recommended Anne Atwood of Unit 109 as his replacement. Barry Fratkin moved that we accept Will's recommendation to appoint Anne Atwood to represent District 6 on the ACBL Board of Governors and the motion was approved.

Pianola Free Service Ending 12/31/2109: Jane Farthing advised that ACBL will no longer be supporting Pianola as of 12/31/19 but the District/Units can contract directly with Marketing Solutions to continue using the service as they have in the past. Pianola will continue to be updated by ACBL with current member information. A big advantage is sending tournament information to members in adjacent districts. Some units use Mailchimp. Marty Bley, Unit 218 advised her Unit had already changed to iContact and has found it easy to update and is at no charge. It will be up to each Unit whether to contract and continue using the service. Jane will check to see if the District must have its own account.

Charity Games: Marty Bley advised that the D6 STaC week in June will be June 15 – 21, 2020 (Mon. – Sun.). ACBL will allow clubs to choose their Longest Day between June 17-24, 2020 (Wed. – Wed.). The overlap days of Wednesday – Sunday will create competition between the two events and those game owners/clubs will need to determine which event they want to support or combine the two. Financially it does not make sense to pay fees for both games on the same day, but a STaC game could be run with a donation jar for The Longest Day.

STaC table fees go to District 6 and The Longest Day table fees go to ACBL to benefit the Alzheimer's Association. It was determined that the D6 STaC week can't be changed. It was pointed out that STaC games are very popular with the members. Each unit will decide how to handle.

Items from the Floor: None

Chesapeake Regional Update: Shawn Stringer advised that daytime attendance is holding up for the main events at 10:30 and 3:00 as compared to 1:00 and 7:00 in the past, but nighttime attendance is way down. She estimated that the final table count would be about 1500 for this year, down from last year's count of 1623.5.

District Director's Report: District Director Margot Hennings addressed two of the issues presented by Shawn Stringer. Regarding the proposed increase in director compensation, ACBL is trying to keep the cost where it is incurred instead of putting the burden on the membership as many members do not attend Regional tournaments. The deficit shown was \$60.00 per session and headquarters worked very hard to reduce this to \$30.00. A \$30.00/session increase in director's compensation is currently in the budget for the coming year.

There is a motion that is being put forward in San Francisco at the Fall BOD meetings regarding smaller brackets in RR Knockouts. The motion states there can be no more than 2 brackets with fewer than 7 teams if more than 22 teams in any event.

Another motion was presented by the District Director of District 25 proposing a change in pairs "flighting", using the average of the players on the team as opposed to member with the highest points.

Margot advised that there are many motions presented at their meetings and if interested, you can go to the ACBL website, click on Administration, then on Board of Directors, then on Meeting Motions and Minutes, scroll down to Board Journal, San Francisco Motions or the link is:

https://web2.acbl.org/documentLibrary/about/SanFrancisco_Motions.pdf.

The suggestion to change the ACBL board from 25 to 9 members and the Board of Governors from 125+ to 50 did not gain traction this past Spring. The Board of Governors asked the ACBL President to appoint a committee to develop yet another proposal for another plan to downsize the board. There is a proposal to reduce the 25 districts to 13 "regions" based on more equal population groups for the purpose of representation on the Board of Directors, with one Director per Region. This would not impact the individual district structure or policies. In this scenario, District 6 would probably be combined into a Region with District 5. The plan will come to a vote in San Francisco and could change again if not passed. Any consequential changes to the size or structure of the ACBL BOD would require changes in the ACBL Bylaws. A two-thirds majority vote and two readings of the identical wording are required for passage.

Next Meeting: After discussing options, Margot Hennings moved that the next board meeting held during the Williamsburg Regional be an evening dinner meeting on Friday, February 7th. The motion was approved. The time and location to be advised.

Meeting was adjourned at 10:20 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Kay Hughes
Secretary