

Approval of Richmond 2019 Meeting Minutes:

Ron Spieker moved the minutes be approved as emailed and the motion was approved.

Treasurer's Report:

Treasurer Ron Spieker advised that a Conflict of Interest Policy and a signature had been developed and emailed to the BoD prior to the meeting and all officers and voting board members needed to sign the signature page on an annual basis as required by the IRS and Barbara Ames, CPA. Shawn Stringer moved that the Conflict of Interest Policy be approved, and the motion was approved.

Ron presented the Treasurer's Report as of 7/31/19 stating that it is becoming more difficult to generate positive revenue at Regionals. It was noted that room penalties at Reston were significant and cost of staffing is a big issue in tournament operation which Shawn Stringer addressed later in the meeting.

This report included GNT and NAP results for the past few years. Rising rent costs are challenging but losses have been partially offset by Grass Roots fund payments. The local qualifying games are difficult to track and match relevant payments. There was confusion regarding the NAP, GNT & STaC expenses and Ron Spieker sent out further information following the meeting (Attachment #4).

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 (Attachment #3B). She highlighted problem areas including Director Staffing and related travel expenses, room penalties and hospitality costs which vary by location. Equipment & consumable expenses are not shown as they do not apply to a single Regional and are also used for other D6 events. Regionals show a slight profit on the report but overall are not covering the equipment expenses. She reported that boards had been refurbished by volunteers and all new cards were in place.

David Rodney & Shawn Stringer are studying possible locations for next year. Delta Hotels (Hunt Valley) is currently not under contract for the coming year but is very interested in hosting the tournament again. David advised that 15,000 sq. ft. in ballroom space is required and discussed potential venues that are being researched. It was noted that Hunt Valley had dramatically improved over last year and could be considered again. It was noted that local attendance continues to drop at Regionals and experience with downtown locations has been problematical. Ed Rothenheber volunteered to canvass his Unit 135 Clubs to get feedback on potential locations and local player attendance and will report back to David and Shawn. A decision needs to be made in the next 3 weeks. David Rodney advised that he had some attendance data that was relevant to the discussion and would send it out after the tournament.

- **District Tournament Coordinator:** Lucy McCoy advised the December STaC week was moved to December 16-22, 2019 due to a conflict with the Shenandoah Valley Winter Sectional.
- **Finance:** Nancy Golden – no report.
- **Grass Roots: NAP, GNT** – Bill Cole advised that the Conditions of Contest for the upcoming GNT Competition had been emailed. After discussion of the monetary awards given, it was decided to leave the same as last year.

Bill Cole advised that attendance at these events remained steady but were losing \$700-\$800 per year, mainly due to increased site costs. He recommended that fees be increased for the District GNT/NAP event qualifiers to help reduce losses. After discussion pro and con, Bill Cole moved that for 2020, fees be increased \$.50 per person per day for both NAP & GNT games. That will mean \$52.00 per Pair entry and \$104.00 per Team entry. The motion was seconded and approved. Barry Fratkin asked for a recap of how this change will impact the profit/loss of these events based on last year's numbers.

- **Appellate/Disciplinary:** David Rodney – no report.
- **Goodwill:** Winnie Fratkin advised that the invitations will be sent out in mid-September inviting the candidates and the Presidents to a reception (heavy hors d'oeuvres) Friday evening at 7:00 pm at the Chesapeake Regional at which time the awards will be presented.
- **Charity – Longest Day Results:** Jane Farthing advised that contributions for the ACBL Longest Day events were up across the District and was a very large increase over last year.
- **Competition:** Steve Robinson advised that discussions continue with the ACBL regarding issues with the Knockouts and how teams are bracketed. It is not fair to push teams into the top bracket and he supports managing it differently. Margot Hennings advised that ACBL is very opposed to reducing the number of teams required for the top bracket and recommended other avenues that could be explored. It was noted that the professional teams attending are a very important part of the game and overall experience.

District Director's Report: District Director Margot Hennings reported on the request made at the Richmond BoD meeting regarding Club Director behavior and Club Management behavior. Margot has prepared a detailed recap of her discussions with the National Recorder and highlighting relevant references from the (CDR) Code of Disciplinary Regulations .

Margot Hennings reported on a recent ACBL change regarding Guest Membership effective as soon as programming changes can be made to implement the new policy. This change ends the Temporary Membership program implemented by the previous CEO in 2018 and introduces a Guest Membership concept. This will help those of you who receive questions from club directors and sectional tournament chairs about current processes.

Margot Hennings reported that there are several new regulations regarding the use of Tournament Assistants. Key is that ACBL Tournament Directors are not to assist the Tournament Sponsor in recruiting, determining pay rates, scheduling and/or paying TAs, Caddies or other employees, contractors, or volunteers of the Unit/District. All Unit Presidents, Tournament Chairs, and Directors-in-Charge are encouraged to read the full new set of regulations in the Codification Chapter XIII – General Tournament Information – G. Tournament Directors, Finance and Tournament Assistants – Section 3, Tournament Assistants.

ACBL has addressed the issue of high-level cheating and the consequences for the members involved. The ACBL board had previously taken away any titles received by those involved and the board has now approved that the record will show "Vacated" instead of their names. The other option was to insert the names of the next place winners.

Old Business: Margot Hennings advised that Marty Bley, appointed Chair of the 2022 DC NABC at the D6 meeting in Richmond, requested that the three NABC FUNd Raising Games that can be run to support the NABC be held on August 3 – 9, 2020, August 2 – 8, 2021 and May 2 – 8, 2022. Clubs throughout the district may choose to participate or not. If they participate, an extra \$1.00 per person is to be charged and the \$4.00 per table remitted to the district for the NABC fund. Dale Dallaire, who has supported this event for the previous three DC NABC's has agreed to do so again for 2022. The board approved the three FUNd Raising Games on the dates requested.

New Business:

Election of D6 Officers: ACBL Board of Governors Representative & Nominating Committee Chairperson Will Williams presented the slate of officers nominated for the coming year. The slate includes Jane Farthing, President, David Rodney, Vice President, Kay Hughes, Secretary, and Ron Spieker, Treasurer. Margot Hennings moved that the slate be elected, and the motion was approved.

Proposed Election Bylaw Changes: Will Williams recommended a Bylaws change that all officers would be elected to a term of 2 years effective 9/1/2020 and the amendment and rationale are attached (Attachment #8). This change would require a corresponding change in the number of terms allowed. Will Williams moved that the Bylaws be revised as recommended. Shawn Stringer noted that because both the Policies and Procedures and Bylaws are under full review, we should wait until the next meeting to review all changes at once. Barry Fratkin commented that the Policies and Procedures being developed be consistent with the Bylaws. Steve Robinson moved to table the motion and it was approved.

Items from the Floor: Barry Fratkin announced that Will Williams will be moving to Hawaii and his leaving Richmond Unit 109 and District 6 will leave a big void. Will has been a great volunteer in all areas and has been extremely valuable to the unit and the district. Barry presented Will with an engraved paperweight as a token of appreciation. Will thanked everyone from his heart for the appreciation and expressed gratitude for the enjoyment of being a part of the organization and the many great friends he has made through his association with Unit 109 and District 6.

Next Meeting: The next meeting will be a breakfast meeting on Saturday, Nov. 16, 2019 at the Chesapeake Regional Tournament in Cambridge, Maryland. Breakfast will start at 8:30 am. The meeting will start at 9:00 am finish in time for the 10:30 am bridge session. Location to be advised.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:55 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Kay Hughes
Secretary