

# Minutes of the District 6 Board Meeting

Virtual Meeting, Wednesday, June 3, 2020

## Seventeen Present:

Officers:	President	Jane Farthing
	Vice President	David Rodney
	Secretary	Kay Hughes
	Treasurer	Ron Spieker
Unit Presidents:	Barry Fratkin (Unit 109), Karen Crowley (Unit 110), Ed Rothenheber (Unit 135), David Butler (Unit 139), Barbara Duer, (Unit 146), Linda Marshall (Unit 147), Marty Bley, (Unit 218)	
Other Voting Members:	Margot Hennings (District Director), Steve Robinson (First Alternate, District Director, Recorder/Competitions & Conventions), Shawn Stringer (Regional Manager, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Alt. to District Director, Immediate Past President)	
Non-Voting Members:	Bill Cole (Grass Roots Chair), Winnie Fratkin (Goodwill Chair), Lucy McCoy, (D6 Tournament Coordinator)	
Guests:	None	

## Welcome:

President Jane Farthing called the Zoom virtual meeting to order at 4:07 pm. and welcomed all attendees. As this meeting was not a previously scheduled meeting but intended to address specific topics relating to recent developments in online bridge/ACBL, not all committee heads were included.

## Approval of Williamsburg, 2020 Meeting Minutes:

Secretary Kay Hughes advised there were no corrections to the minutes emailed to attendees on March 4<sup>th</sup>. There was discussion of the difficulty finding minutes on the website and Jane Farthing will follow up with Brenda Egeland regarding this issue. Jane asked the members to go back and review the minutes from the Williamsburg meeting and advise Kay Hughes of any changes. Jane will then initiate an electronic vote for approval.

## D6 Director Update:

- **ACBL May BoD Meeting:** Margot Hennings, D6 District Director sent several documents prior to the meeting to the Board members relating to recent ACBL developments and online bridge. Margot addressed and provided further detail and context for several of the issues.
  1. Margot highlighted a finance motion regarding a stipend provided to the members on the Board of Directors. The motion was passed 22 to 2 with 1 abstention, not to continue with this stipend for the balance of 2020 which provides a \$52,000 savings to ACBL.
  2. A second motion to allow Regionals and Sectionals to be run online by Districts and Units was defeated by an overwhelming majority (5-20). The rationale is that the clubs are the lifeline of member recruitment and teaching and clubs must survive as well as the ACBL organization. District and unit organizations currently are not incurring significant expenses and are in relatively good

financial positions. This is the position of the ACBL Board for at least the next six months and will be re-evaluated as circumstances change, pending the continuation of online bridge and the inability of FTF (Face to Face) games to resume.

3. Two motions dealt with ethical issues unique to online bridge. A committee will be created to rule on ethical infractions committed online (like the Ethical Oversight Committee for FTF Bridge). This committee will be formed under the direction of Georgia Heth, ACBL President. Appropriate wording will be added to the Code of Disciplinary Regulations to reflect this.

- **Board Breakout Sessions:**

1. Margot chaired one of the four break-out sessions, and because of her role as Governance Chair, when her group discussed Management's Operations Plan (the topic for all of the groups), she emphasized communications and ideas as to how ACBL can do better. The Virtual Club meetings held twice weekly for club owners/directors are providing updated quality information. More needs to be done and this will be a Management focus in the weeks to come.
2. Online Bridge was discussed in detail and a Management Operations Plan was approved in principle relevant to online bridge and will be updated biweekly. One major pigmented-point online event will be held monthly to provide opportunities for Members to continue to play bridge and to work towards their rank achievement goals. These events will generate much-needed income for ACBL. A Task Force was appointed by the President to review and develop a plan for the future of pigmented points as well as the future of online and FTF bridge.
3. The Support Your Club Games and Virtual Club Games are extremely important financially for the club and game owners. After discussion of the differences between BBO games, SYC and Virtual Club games, Jane Farthing noted that the District should communicate more details to the players, but many felt it was better for the local owner/units to promote it. Margot Hennings will work with ACBL to develop a format as to how individuals can best support their local clubs.

Margot's reports included detailed information on several more issues than noted above and Jane Farthing thanked Margot for her work on the report and her work as a D6 Director.

**Future of Bridge: Prepared by Vice President David Rodney**

- David Rodney presented the report on the Future of Bridge which was prepared by himself with input from Shawn Stringer and Jane Farthing. The purpose of the document was to generate discussion on this topic and generate ideas and proposals to develop a District 6 position that could result in recommendations to ACBL. The report included insights on current status of bridge, potential future of Face to Face Bridge, Online Bridge and how the two might work together.
- Shawn Stringer, Regional Tournament Chair spoke to the health of District 6 finances and noted that it was mostly true that Districts and Units did not need income currently, but noted that we do have ongoing expenses such as equipment storage and maintenance. She advised that the Reston and Baltimore Regionals had been canceled without penalties. The Cambridge Regional is expected to be canceled but communication has been difficult since the facility has been closed. In the future, it may not be possible to cancel without penalty and Districts may need money and will need to proceed

cautiously. If Districts and Units aren't allowed to run online events, ACBL could potentially distribute funds in order to help meet ongoing expenses at the District and Unit level.

- After further discussion from board members, the board members agreed to send David written comments on how the District might move forward on the premise of no FTF bridge for the coming year as well as a mix of FTF and online bridge. Both short-term and long-term positions should be considered and potential collaboration with ACBL. Any ideas are welcome. David will summarize the results and will be presented to the BoD in the future. Jane thanked David for preparing and presenting the report.

The next virtual meeting will be scheduled once David has received feedback from the Board and updated the report.

District Tournament Coordinator Lucy McCoy asked about fundraising games for the NABC and Margot will follow-up on that question.

Jane Farthing thanked everyone for their attendance and input and recapped the actionable items. Meeting was adjourned at 6:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Kay Hughes  
Secretary

**Electronic Vote:** In a May 27, 2020 email, President Jane Farthing proposed the BoD approve a Zoom Pro subscription for Board meetings and the purchase was approved.