

Minutes of the District 6 Board Meeting

Williamsburg Regional, Friday, February 7, 2020

Twenty-three Present:

- Officers:
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| 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), Georgette Weiss, (Proxy, Unit 218), John Markey (Unit 231)
- Other Voting Members: Anne Atwood (ACBL BOG Rep.) Margot Hennings (District Director), Shawn Stringer (Regional Manager, 2nd Alt. to District Director, Immediate Past President)
- Non-Voting Members: Bill Cole (Grass Roots Chair), Winnie Fratkin (Goodwill Chair), Nancy Golden (Finance Chair), Ron Kral (D6 Webmaster), Lucy McCoy, (D6 Tournament Coord.), Rich Rio (Tourn. Chair, Past President, Unit 231)
- Guests: Georgia Heth (ACBL President), Joe Jones (ACBL Executive Director)

Welcome:

Jane Farthing called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm in Conference Room H at the Williamsburg DoubleTree by Hilton, Williamsburg, VA. Jane introduced guests Georgia Heth, President of ACBL and Joe Jones, ACBL Executive Director and both gave a brief review of their background, responsibilities and their focus for ACBL.

She welcomed the new President of Unit 231, John Markey who was introduced by the outgoing President Rich Rio and thanked Rich for his contributions to the District.

President's Report:

President Jane Farthing advised that she and Barbara Duer (Unit 146) had recently researched potential Regional Tournament locations in the Virginia Beach area and had visited The Founders Inn and Spa, Tapestry Collection by Hilton, 5641 Indian River Rd, Virginia Beach, VA 23464. The location meets the tournament space requirements and other needs with a room rate of \$119.00-129.00. If finalized, it is anticipated that the location would become an alternate for the Cambridge Regional and would be scheduled for November 2022. It was noted that attendance continues to trend downward at Regional tournaments with financial losses. The current tournament is running 15% down. Under consideration are 5-6-day tournaments and research is needed on the potential of a shorter week, etc.

Approval of Chesapeake 2019 Meeting Minutes:

Secretary Kay Hughes advised the one correction made to the minutes of the Chesapeake November 16th meeting as emailed on 12/4/2019. Barry Fratkin moved the minutes be approved as corrected and the motion was approved.

Treasurer's Report:

Treasurer Ron Spieker presented the Treasurer's Report as of 12/31/19. The report included results for the last four fiscal years (9/1 to 8/31). Ron advised the appropriate Virginia and Maryland registrations had been filed. 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. Costs across the tournaments are in line. The recent Chesapeake Regional was successful financially even though table count was down and the ratio of staffing expense to table count was up from previous tournaments. Although the Tournament Operations Report indicates that our regionals have showed a net gain, Shawn explained that there are a number of expenses for new cards, bid box inserts, Bridgemate repair and the like that are not reflected in the Operations Report because they are not pertinent to a particular regional but are used at regionals and other D6 events. Staffing is the single biggest expense, and for the first time Shawn has been shown the new ACBL staffing model, but has not yet seen its value or effectiveness. Hotel policies regarding hospitality impact the bottom line. Timing of other district regionals in close proximity also affect attendance. Flyers for this year's tournaments have been produced. Shawn will be doing a study to help evaluate 5-6-day Regionals. She will be adding information to the regional grids showing the number of tables by both time slot and by type of event. Jane noted that future contracts needed to be evaluated carefully before proceeding.
- **Finance:** Nancy Golden – No Report
- **Grass Roots, NAOP, GNT, Conditions of Contest:** Bill Cole advised the open GNT is 2/29 – 3/1 and attendance about the same. The NAP & GNT attendance is holding up although B players are not moving up.
- **Appellate/Judiciary:** David Rodney advised that a behavior situation had been reported from one of the Units and David had written a letter to the person involved and received a letter in reply with an apology and problem now seems to be solved.

District Director's Report: District Director Margot Hennings, now in her 3rd year chairing the ACBL Governance Committee advised that the goal to reduce the size of the Board of Directors may finally be achieved at the Spring Board meetings in Columbus. Changes to the Bylaws require 2 readings and must be approved with a 2/3 majority. The proposal did not get passed in San Francisco so the first reading will be in Columbus and, assuming passage in Columbus, the 2nd in Montreal. This is an important change and is critical for future improvement to the ACBL operation. There is a transition task force supporting the effort, working to evaluate responsibilities and best practices for interested members to perform the many non-core business functions that the Board of Directors now perform.

The motion regarding smaller brackets in RR Knockouts was deferred in San Francisco but is still on the agenda.

Old Business:

Ron Kral, Webmaster, advised that when the D6 website was set up, there was a proposal to send out emails using the website. With approximately 5000 email addresses, the cost is \$650.00 per year. Currently there is no person in place to do this communication. There is a need for someone to take on the communication role to advise highlights and advertise upcoming events. It was noted that several local organizations are sending out information, the website provides information (also noted this was not used by members) and the BOD had approved Pianola for communication. There is a need for more advertising and a suggestion was made that local club directors direct people to the D6 website for more information. Jane Farthing agreed to research and try to locate a volunteer for communication.

Shawn Stringer spoke to the issue of Round Robin Knockouts, pointing out that our players strongly prefer the format over traditional KOs but there has been much criticism of small brackets from BOG members and

ACBL is not supporting the concept in its entirety in terms of the number of teams allowed in each bracket and the numbers of masterpoints available to the teams who place in the brackets.

Shawn noted that attendance on Monday was down 12%, overall 15%. While Gold Rush Pairs was down 27%, knockouts are even, supporting the enthusiasm of the players.

New Business:

Jane Farthing advised the Mercer County Bridge Club in Unit 227, District 11 wanted to move to District 6, Unit 231 and ACBL requires the approval of District 6. Ed Rothenheber moved that Unit 110 approve the move of the club in Unit 227 from District 11 to Unit 231 in District 6. The motion was seconded and approved.

Jane advised that the position of I/N Coordinator/Education Liaison had not be filled.

Jane advised that anyone interested in holding a NLM Gold Rush Regional should contact her for more information. This event has been very successful in the District.

Williamsburg Regional Report: Karen Crowley, Regional Tournament Co-Chair and Unit 110 President thanked everyone for their participation and help during the tournament and asked for all to thank the many volunteers who would be wearing special nametags. She noted that in addition to Shawn's numbers, the evening numbers were way down as the later time format of 10:30 am and 3:00 pm does not lend itself to going out to dinner and back in time to play. She also noted the Houston Regional running concurrently has affected the attendance of the higher ranked players.

Items from the Floor:

Winnie Fratkin. Goodwill Chair reminded the BOD that it is not too early to be nominating candidates for the Goodwill committee. In terms of selection, a suggestion was made that the unit membership could participate as well as the Unit BOD.

Next Meeting: The next board meeting will be at the Baltimore Regional on Friday evening, August 21, 2020. There will be no meeting in Reston.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:20 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Kay Hughes
Secretary

Electronic Vote: In a Dec. 5, 2019 email, President Jane Farthing proposed the BOD approved the continued use of Pianola for D6 communication and this was approved.