

# Minutes of the District 6 Board Meeting

Virtual Meeting, Wednesday, October 28, 2020

## Twenty Present:

Officers:	President	David Rodney
	Vice President	Barry Fratkin
	Secretary	Kay Hughes
	Treasurer	Ron Spieker
Unit Presidents:	Anne Atwood (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), John Markey (Unit 231)	
Other Voting Members:	Barbara Doran (ACBL Board of Gov. Rep.), 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), Jane Farthing (Immediate Past President)	
Non-Voting Members:	Bill Cole (Grass Roots Chair), Nancy Golden (Finance Chair), Ron Kral (IN Coordinator/Ed. Liaison)	
Guests:	None	

## Welcome:

President David Rodney called the Zoom virtual meeting to order at 9:35 am and welcomed all attendees to his first board meeting as President.

He noted that Jane Farthing would continue as Host for the Zoom meetings as the District would be charged \$149.00 to change the Host name even though the contract is with District 6.

## President's Report:

### Education Foundation:

David Rodney went into detail about the status of the D6 Education Foundation. He feels Education should be promoted at the District level and would like to see the Education Foundation play a more active role. The foundation was setup as an independent organization operating as a charity. The purpose was to support Bridge teaching and education. Players at Regional tournaments were charged an extra \$1.00 Registration fee to fund the organization.

The board is comprised of 1 person appointed by each Unit, 2 appointed by the D6 President, and 2 by the District Director. Since the organization has not been active recently, David reached out to the Unit Presidents as well as the current board members to see if they were interested in continuing to serve on the board. The current President, Richard Ferrin (Unit 147) was interested in staying on the board but did not want to continue in that position. As D6 President, David has appointed Ron Kral to the board. Others appointed or continuing to serve are John Markey, Unit 231, John McAllister, Unit 139, Landon Woody, Unit 109, Kevin O'Brien, Unit 218. It is not imperative that each Unit have a representative on the board. Margot Hennings, District Director has reappointed Steve Robinson, currently serving as Treasurer and Margot will continue on the board. It was noted it was important to retrieve the records from Jim Gerding, current Secretary and this is in process. Jim is also willing to serve on the board if needed.

After discussion, David recapped that the board members are responsible to organize a meeting and fill open board positions and David asked Ron Kral to organize a meeting. Jane Farthing will host the meeting on Zoom once a date

has been finalized. It was noted that an application format to request funds was needed and Ron Spieker volunteered to provide a draft application.

**ACBL Charity Foundation Grant:**

David Rodney recapped the responses he received from the units regarding the distribution of the \$30,000 the ACBL Charity Foundation is giving to District 6 this year. The money is to be distributed to 501c3 organizations unrelated to bridge and cannot exceed 7 different grants. Several local food banks have been recommended and several suggestions were made how to equitably split the funds as well as other recipients. Shawn Stringer suggested that Feeding America, the national organization consisting of 200 food banks might be a solution. Jane Farthing volunteered to contact that organization to see if the funds would come back to the local organizations. The deadline is December 15, 2020.

**Approval of August 19, 2020 Virtual Meeting Minutes:**

Secretary Kay Hughes advised there were no corrections to the August 19, 2020 minutes emailed to attendees on September 14, 2020. Barbara Doran moved the minutes be approved and the motion passed.

**Treasurer's Report:**

Ron Spieker referenced the report that had been emailed to the board members and noted there was minimal activity. He reported that the IRS Form 990 had been reviewed by Finance Chair Nancy Golden and President David Rodney and had been filed. There are additional filings to be made with the state of Maryland and Virginia.

**Committee Reports:**

**Regional Management:** Shawn Stringer advised that the Richmond and Baltimore Regionals for 2021 have been canceled without penalty. The July Reston Regional is still being discussed and negotiations are ongoing and now delayed by the hotel until January. Shawn has advised them future contracts will need to be renegotiated as well. She will discuss the Chesapeake Regional for 2021 with the hotel in the near future.

**Grass Roots, NAP, GNT:** Bill Cole gave a review of the plans for District 6 Grand National Teams and advised that there is a detailed update on the website of the District 6 plan for the GNT competition for 2019/2020 and 2020/2021. The 2019/20 event will be finished online Jan. 15-16, 2021. All the 2020/21 events will be online. He encouraged all districts to promote the event to their players (particularly B & C players since they will not be required to travel). Bill wants to make the process of participation as straight forward as possible. ACBL has raised the issue of security. Several board members provided insight into possible solutions which Bill will review. Margot Hennings confirmed that to receive ACBL Masterpoints, the games must be held on BBO.

**Goodwill:** Barry Fratkin spoke for Goodwill Chair Winnie Fratkin in regards to Goodwill nominations this year. As there is not an appropriate event to honor the recipients, there will not be any District 6 Goodwill honorees for 2020. David Rodney announced that Brenda Egeland will be the District nominee to the ACBL Goodwill Committee.

**Education:** Ron Kral was recently appointed Education Chair and sent out a document to all board members prior to the meeting recapping some thoughts and ideas. Ron expressed disappointment ACBL was charging for programs offered to teachers and suggested the D6 Education Fund could be used to offset these costs for those participating. He also noted there was a problem with clarity regarding the new policy on Guest Memberships. Margot Hennings noted that for follow-up. Ron wants to establish focus groups from District 6 to study effective teaching methods and is looking for volunteers. Unit Presidents were asked to send names of unit members currently teaching online.

David Rodney noted that the District may need a survey in the future to see what members want. The ACBL survey results should be available in a month.

**Website:** Barry Fratkin was recently appointed Webmaster and reported that Barry, David Rodney and Brenda Egeland had recently met to review the website and relevant policies. Brenda had reworked the website and will continue to teach participants how to update the website content but is not able to be involved in regular maintenance. Barry is looking for people who might help with this. The website uses WordPress. Linda Marshall volunteered to help on the website.

He noted that the website is an excellent resource for D6 members and should provide impact with the latest news/events to attract attention.

**D6 Director Update:** Margot Hennings sent out a recap prior to the meeting.

1. Margot advised that Francesca Mazarella was named to the ACBL National Charity Committee. For the past few months, Francesca has worked tirelessly with bridge players in the DC area and published a cookbook. As the NVBA took on publication costs, all proceeds were donated to the ECHO charity operating in Northern Virginia.
2. Margot announced the \$1000.00 National Charity Grant from ACBL went to Fisher House which provides accommodations for families when a family member is in a military or VA medical center.
3. Brenda Egeland has been appointed to the National Goodwill Committee for her work and contribution to the District 6 website. Margot noted the Goodwill information on the D6 website needs to be updated and she will work with Winnie Fratkin to update it.
4. Planning for the Summer 2022 NABC scheduled at the Marriot Wardman Park location is currently on hold due to the pandemic. There are litigation issues that may require a change of location for that event.
5. Margot noted the Strategic Committee met in October focusing on membership growth. ACBL is actively responding with increased commitment to fund the tools and human resources needed.
6. The Online Teacher Certification Workshops are available at a cost of \$125.00 of which the ACBL Education Foundation is subsidizing \$75.00. This could be an opportunity to utilize funds from the D6 Education Fund to offset the balance.
7. In the report sent to the Board, Margot summarized details of the ACBL contract with BBO as well as many other items of interest to D6 members.
8. Work on the transition from District Directors to Regional Directors will begin in 2021. The Transition Task Force is finishing their work looking at transitioning the non-core functions that the Board is currently performing to Management. Committees that have worked well will continue as before. The Board of Governors has created a Task Force on potential reorganization.
9. The National Recorder is being inundated with reports of cheating and unethical behavior. Margot, a member of the Appeals & Charges Committee noted many of the relevant issues.

#### **New Business:**

**MABC (Mid-Atlantic Bridge Conference):** Shawn Stringer advised that an agreement had been reached with District 7 to phase out the organization and Shawn will do the paperwork for the termination. The MABC will continue to honor free plays previously issued.

**The Longest Day:** Jane Farthing announced that four District 6 Teams made the top 40 and congratulated all for their participation. ACBL raised over \$820,000 for the Alzheimer's Association. There will be a Virtual Celebration Bash sponsored by ACBL and the Alzheimer's Association on November 17 to thank all participants.

The next virtual board meeting will be Wednesday, January 27<sup>th</sup> from 9:30 am -12:00 pm.

David Rodney thanked everyone for their attendance and participation. Meeting was adjourned at 11:51 am.

Since the board meeting, the Executive Committee has finalized the distribution of the \$30,000 ACBL Charity Fund grant and this information has been included for the record.

November 15, 2020 from President David Rodney

District 6 has identified 7 food banks for our charitable donations. They are spread across District 6. Details are provided below:

Central Virginia Food Bank (operates as Feed More) – Unit 109  
Donation; \$3,500

Virginia Peninsula Foodbank – Unit 110  
Donation: \$7,000 – this will later be split with the Foodbank of Southeastern Virginia and the Eastern Shore – Unit 146

Maryland Foodbank – Unit 135  
Donation: \$5,500

Blue Ridge Area Food Bank – Unit 139  
Donation \$3,500

Capital Area Food Bank – Unit 147  
Donation: \$3,500

ECHO – Unit 218  
Donation; \$3,500

Feeding Southwest Virginia - Unit 231  
Donation: \$3,500

Respectfully submitted,

Kay Hughes  
Secretary  
District 6