



New England Bridge Conference of the American Contract Bridge League

Minutes

Executive Committee
Presidential Regional
Sturbridge Host Hotel
Sturbridge, MA
February 15, 2020

Present:

Officers: Jack Mahoney, President; Curtis Barton, Vice President; Joseph Brouillard, Treasurer; Carolyn Weiser, Secretary; Lois DeBlois, Past President;
Unit Representatives: EMBA- Paul Harris, Neil Montague (B. Montague alt.); CMBA- Vicki Angus; CBA- Sonja Smith Michael Wavada; RIBA -Margaret Gousie (M. Williams alt.); NHBA -David Lawrence; VBA -Mark Oettinger; MBA - Daniel Morgenstern; WMBA - Peter Samsel
Invited Guests (non-voting) Robert Bertoni (absent), District Director; Sally Kirtley - Tournament Manager; Peter Marcus - DIC; David Moss -District Director for D24 (New York)

President Jack Mahoney called the meeting to order at 5:40 PM. The fact that we are meeting here is a testament to Sally (Kirtley) and the work that she did to get us here. At this point, we are up 38 tables from that at Cromwell last year. Sue (Miguel) is pleased with her numbers. S. Kirtley added that we expect to lose tables Friday.

President Mahoney welcomed David Moss, the District Director from District 24, whom Bob (Bertoni) had invited to attend the meeting. He was previously the president of D- 24 and the President of GNYBA

Secretary's Report - A motion was made, seconded and so voted to accept the Minutes of the Executive Committee meeting held in Mansfield, MA on November 9, 2019.

Treasurer's Report - Joseph Brouillard

The Statement of Financial Position shows that we currently have net assets of \$176,104. The Grass Roots Fund stands at \$20, 521. The NABC Fund is \$104,332. Our only liability reflects the sold entries that have yet not been used. Our total net assets are currently \$176,914, up from last year.

The Operating Income Statement shows that we lost money on the first four tournaments on 2019. Warwick showed a profit of \$13,609 and Mansfield a profit of

\$7,559. In Mansfield, we subsidized the NAP hospitality with Grass-Roots Fund money. Our net tournament income for 2019 was \$31,749. Our total expenses for 2019 were \$20,792. Net Income for 2019 was \$10,957, which was a total reversal of our net loss of \$11,557 in 2018.

The NABC account has a 9 ¾% return amounting to \$9,264 for 2019. The NABC Fund stands at \$104,332.

A motion was made, seconded and so voted to accept the Treasurer's report as presented.

A question was asked as to the origin of the Grass Roots Fund money. Treasure Brouillard explained that the money is sent to the District from the ACBL based on the fees sent in by clubs from Grass-roots Fund games. They charge an extra dollar and we get \$.80. We run Extra Point Series at Regionals as Grass-roots Fund games. The players get the extra points but we do not charge the extra dollar.

Treasurer Brouillard noted that there are still \$810 outstanding in vouchers. Some have been redeemed. There is no expiration date.

The IRS 990 return has been completed, though not yet filed. All 1099's have been filed and mailed.

District 25 has suspended the sale of vouchers since the ACBL has gone to using "Square." Each director has the ability to accept credit cards for entry fees. We have 4500 unsold vouchers, which we will continue to accept through April. The ACBL has raised the sanction fees 6% and will pick up the credit card processing fees. DD Moss noted that it is the same thing, as the entry fee will go up more than 6%. The 2020 ACBL Budget is available. The main increase is the fee paid to directors, which is scheduled to go up 11% April 1. The increase in the sanction fee is up to cover the credit card charge costs.

2. Approval of the Providence NABC Budget

The Budget proposal was passed out in Mansfield. We show projected revenue of \$164,000, including \$106,000 from District 25. There is an additional \$32,000 in ACBL contingencies and allowances. We are estimating \$25,000 in sponsorship money, which we believe is very low, as we raised \$42,000 in 2014.

The ACBL has changed how it handles hospitality. They will cover all \$31,000. We hope to have "Waterfire" again. Treasurer Brouillard reviewed the figures on Summary Budget that was passed around. We need to get an approval for this budget.

A motion was made, seconded and so approved to accept the Providence NABC Budget as presented.

President Mahoney noted that the District is lucky to have such competent people.

Tournament Manager's Report - Sally Kirtley

Summary -Harvest Regional, 2019

We made \$7,500 in Mansfield.

Update - Presidential Regional

The table count is up here at this point and we will make money here. The director and hospitality costs are down.

Update hotel contracts for Regionals

We had two options regarding a move from Cromwell within Connecticut. We never gave the Red Lion any money as a deposit. We will be going to Marriott in Farmington next year. It has a covered garage and the food is good. The room rate will be \$119.00. We need a restaurant guide for that site. J. Brouillard suggested the local Chamber of Commerce as a source. M. Wavada added that he includes one in the Bulletin.

We had a problem as we had a multi-year contract with the Radisson/Ref Lion. The Marriott will give us an annual contract with an option to return.

L. DeBlois made a motion to accept the Marriott in Farmington for the Presidential Regional in 2021.

The question was asked as to whether we are sure that the Red Lion cannot come after us regarding the contract. S. Kirtley answered that they have breached the contract and have received a certified letter. The maximum deposit we gave them was \$500.

The motion was called and accepted as presented.

Tournament / Scheduling Committee Report - Curtis Barton

Update Tournament Schedules

The committee reviewed and approved Fran Merblum's plan to split the GNT's between the Seniors and the Mine in 2021. The Open and B would be held at the Senior Regional in Springfield and the A and C events in conjunction with the Mine.

The Winter Regional would be held in Farmington, CT and the Senior Regional in Springfield. The Mine and Summer Regional both would be held in Marlboro in 2021. The hotel has two wings and is ideally set up to allow two separate tournaments to be held in one location, neither actually overlapping the other physically. P. Marcus will discuss the advantages of having two separately sanctioned tournaments in the same location. This would allow us to accommodate the need of the 750 - 2000 players for more strats between 750 and 2000. ACBL rules only allow for limited number of strats. Separating them into two tournaments would allow for more. They would be able to play within their comfort zone as they do in the KIKO.

The committee approved developing a more standardized schedule for our regionals going forward. There would be slight variations to accommodate special events such as the NAP.

Advanced Director Course

The committee also approved a proposal to offer an advanced director course. This would be offered in conjunction with the Nashua Regional this Spring.

P. Marcus explained that the idea was developed by David Metcalf. It would be offered for one day at no charge to the attendees. P. Marcus and D. Metcalf would also not charge. S. Kirtley would secure a room. The target group would be New England Directors, but others could come, if space allowed. Non-D-25 directors would be charged \$50.00. The cut-off date for signing up would be the end of April 1. Interested directors would send their names to P. Marcus. This would be a service to the clubs geared to improving the quality of local directors.

A motion was made to approve the development and presentation of an Advanced Directors course to be offered at the Nashua Regional, free to District 25 directors and at

a cost of \$50.00 for non-District 25 directors. The motion was seconded by M. Wavada and approved unanimously.

D. Metcalf and P. Marcus will work with S. Kirtley on the email and arrangements.

Caddy Pay- P. Marcus

P. Marcus reviewed the changes in the makeup of our caddie pool over the years. Currently we have a cadre of caddies who are young adults. The head caddy trains them well and they do a wonderful job. They share one room. They were paid \$45 per session. This was subsidized by P. Marcus for 8 years. Two years ago, we raised their salary 40% to cover taxes. \$45 a session comes to only \$90 a day. He suggested that this should be raised to a net of \$100 -\$120 per day. Discussion followed. A motion was made and seconded to raise the caddy pay to \$80 per session, to us, as taxes, etcetera would have to be paid on that amount. The motion was passed unanimously. The raise would be effective immediately.

Simultaneous Open and Non-Life Master Regionals

In this format, there would be no Gold Rush in the open regional. This would allow more strats. Non-life Master Regionals can get 90% gold. The new bottom strats of the Open could target the Gold Rush graduates whether they are life masters or not. This could make the 750 to 1500 groups bigger than the Gold Rush. If it works, we could do it at all of our regionals and add a NLM Regional below the Open Regional.

A motion was made to approve the concept and instruct the Tournament Committee to develop it for 2021. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

President Mahoney asked David Moss if he would like to say anything to the group.

DD David Moss

The motion to cut the ACBL Board from 25 to 13 failed in San Francisco by a 15-10 vote. It will be brought up again in Columbus and it may pass. Bob (Bertoni) voted against it in San Francisco. Bob is up for re-election in 2021. If the motion passes, there will be only one District Director for our two Districts. No one thinks that a 25 person Board is the best way to run the ACBL. "I think, from what I observed in San Francisco, if we take any 13 of the 25 it would be more effective. I personally will vote for it. Bob is opposed."

(President Mahoney) "We are all opposed [to it]."

Past President L DeBlois stated that we did a survey of the Districts. They are very diverse and have different needs. They operate in different ways. We are unique here because of our geographical size. I do not think that a cookie cutter way will serve the District. I do not see how it will help us.

(D. Moss) That's where the District Presidents come in. We would expect the 12 Board members to deal with separate issues. If a District had issues, they would be brought to the Board through the District Presidents. District 24 does it differently. If GNYBA (Greater New York Bridge Association) needs something fixed, it does not go through the District Director; the President goes directly to Horn Lake. The earliest any affect us is January 2022.

President Mahoney brought up the changes in the KIKO in Columbus. D. Moss affirmed that the Board changed the formula for the brackets and awards. P. Marcus

summarized the changes and noted that we simply took what the Board had approved for the top flight using the Soloway Knockouts as the exemplar. "We simply extended the format to everyone." The new format will have brackets of 5 or 6. We can qualify only 3 and only 2 will get overall gold awards. Third will technically not get an overall award, but will get a full match win (20% of 1st overall) at 20% gold and we will publicize them as 3rd overall. That is what I understand passed in Columbus. In the future, we will have brackets of 5. Three will qualify and play a double elimination round-robin. What they plan to pass in San Francisco will minimally affect us.

District Director's Report - Robert Bertoni- absent

Old Business- none

New Business

1. Marketing Committee

(President Mahoney) Currently Lois (DeBlois) and Sue (Miguel) do the flyers and posters. I would like to give their work official status as the Marketing Committee. Mike (Wavada) and I have talked. The Communications Committee will be dissolved and he will become part of the Tournament Committee. He will make his reports there.

2. Update NABC - Joseph Brouillard, Lois DeBlois

(J. Brouillard) The NABC Committee met last night. We have worked on promotional items. We have a provider for shirts and will sell them at the 3 NABCs leading up to Providence. We will have an informational table with various promotional items.

The ACBL allows NABC Fund Games. The (NABC) fundraisers will be run from August 10-16, 2020 at the discretion of the club managers. They can run as many as they have sanctions. The extra dollar goes to us, the extra points to the players. It is all handled through the regular monthly reports to the ACBL.

We are trying to set up a meeting with the ACBL to discuss sponsors. Last time we had our own sponsors. We want a telephone conference in May. We want to make sure we keep Jim Jones in the loop.

(President Mahoney) Stan Nissen has agreed to be the point man for our District Regional games Sponsoring Initiative. I believe that I have a sponsor for Nashua. He will supply the banners and he will have a booth. He is a Medicare Broker. Anyone who is willing to help please contact Stan Nissen or me. Stan seems very enthusiastic about the program.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made and seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 7:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted:
Carolyn Weiser, Secretary, District 25