

New England Conference of the American Contract Bridge League

Minutes

Board of Delegates Meeting

Granite State Get Away

Sheraton Hotel, Nashua, NH

Sunday, June 16, 2024

Attendance- Present

Officers: Officers: Susan Miguel, President; Denise Bahosh, Vice President; Joe Brouillard, Treasurer; Carolyn Weiser, Secretary, Curtis Barton, Past President; Mark Aquino, Regional Representative

EMBA – Unit 108 - 6 of 15 - David Aronson, Paul Harris, Brenda Montague, Neil Montague (S. Agranoff alt.), Linda Robinson, Jan Smola *Absent: Saul Agranoff, Carolyn Bitetti, Peter Clay, Steve Diamond, Kynn Duncan, Abhujit Dutta, Jo Megna-Wallace, Sabrina Miles, Rita Vachani*

CMBA- Unit 113 - 1 of 2 Raymond Oglesby *Absent: Shirley Wagner*

CBA – Unit 126 - 6 of 11 Marie-Jose Babouder-Matta, Ben Bishop, Paul Burnham, Michael Hess, Michael Wavada, Susan Wavada *Absent: Benjamin Levine, John Lloyd, Debbie Prince, Allyson Rudary, William Segraves,*

RIBA-145 - 3 of 3 - Maureen Fahey (D. Lambert alt.), Joyce, Haley, Gregory Klinker, *Absent : Diane Lambert*

NHBA -150 - 1 of 4 William Kennedy *Absent: Sharon Kace, Joseph Watts, John Pieper*

VBA - 175 - 1 of 3 Philip Sharpsteen (S. Collinson alt.) *Absent: Steve Ackerman, Sue Collinson, Don, Sharp*

MBA -189 -2 of 3 Dottie Kelleher, Dan Morgenstern *Absent: David Lindley*

WMBA - 196- 2 of 2 John Dahl (Y. Drabek alt.) Sheila Ryan *Absent: Yan Drabek*

President Susan Miguel called the meeting of the Board of Delegates to order at 8:40 AM and reviewed the District Achievements from January 1 to the present. A full copy of her remarks are attached. (see Addenda) . Our goal is to have as many individuals involved as is possible. Many new initiatives have been launched as well as new programs. A full copy of her remarks are attached. (see Addenda) . Our goal is to have as many individuals

Secretary's Report – A motion was made to accept the Minutes of the Board of Delegates meeting held at the Return of the Gala in Marlboro, MA on November 5, 2023. The minutes were accepted as sent.

Treasurer's Report - Joseph Brouillard

The financial reports are as of the end of March. As the meetings no longer conform to the old schedule, we decided that financials would be produced on a quarterly basis.

The District is financially in good shape. The Statement of Financial Position shows current net assets are up from last year. The principle increase is due to the

increase in the NABC fund. As of March 31, the NABC Fund was up 9% for the year. We have no Long Term Debt.

(M. Wavada) What is the difference between Restricted and Non-Restricted Assets?

(J. Brouillard) Traditionally, the District has restricted any money remaining in the District NABC Fund after the bills had been paid. The Board can vote to use this money for other purposes, if needed. Currently this money is earmarked for a future NABC. The same is true of the Grass-Roots Money. The GNT money and the STaC money have been used to cover fees and stipends and will end up breaking even. Currently we show an Operating Income loss of \$4,495.

The bidding boxes were getting tired. Peter Marcus has agreed to pay for the new bidding boxes. He has been very generous in his support of D-25, intellectually and financially. P. Marcus will be reimbursed for the cost of the bidding boxes over time. A question was asked regarding the “missing figures” for a number of tournaments. Treasurer Brouillard answered that they are placeholders for the usual tournaments and the figures will be added when they are held.

A motion was made to accept the Treasurer’s Report as presented. The motion was seconded and accepted.

GNT/NAP Committee Report - Bart Bussink

As Coordinator Bussink was not present, President Miguel read his report to the delegates. A copy in its entirety can be found in the Addenda.

President Miguel added that B. Bussink has done a good job as coordinator. The Conditions of Contest have been completed and everything is “ready to roll.”

(D. Morgenstern) Asked when the Conditions of Contest would be available.

(President Miguel) They are on the ACBL website.

(B. Bishop) Asked what accommodations were being made for those individuals who could not travel to the sites.

President Miguel noted that now that P. Marcus is no longer donating his time as NAP and GNT director-in-charge, the cost of hiring a DIC for the considerable sessions required would be cost prohibitive. Also, there are many players who have voiced a preference for F2F play. There are plenty of opportunities on line to win gold points. All the finals are held at NABC events that require in-person play.

((D. Morgenstern) We have to play a director when they are F2F. The cost for an on-line director would be \$500 each day for two teams.

Tournament Manager’s Report - Sally Kirtley

The Tournament Comparison Report shows that we lost \$2,543 in Mansfield. The GNT’s made a \$3,710 profit. We are “doing OK” here, but will not know the final results until we review the figures with the hotel. This hotel has the most expensive hospitality costs.

We do not have a formal contract for Southbridge. The hotel has “saved” our dates and I do not anticipate any issue. I believe that we can have this hotel again next June. I will not know until I see the actual contract. The dates would not include Fathers’ Day. Most hotels are willing to work with us. They require a certain number of nights and a certain amount of money spent on hospitality in order to get the playing spaces we need. We need to encourage players to stay at the hotels.

(President Miguel) The room nights are an issue. Some hotels are flexible on the cut-off dates others are not. Warwick has a very early cut-off date. Players who are considering staying are asked to book the room early, often a month before the event, as they can cancel if they decide not to attend.

General discussion followed.

We are planning to return to Mansfield in February (2025). They give us three-times the hospitality, but cannot give us Sunday. We are having the GNT's there. Again, it will be a NLM Regional with a LM Sectional attached.

Question (?): Have they renovated the rooms. Answer: Yes.

We intend to run the Flighted Pairs again in Warwick. We cannot advertise this yet as we have to get official permission. It will be approved. We also intend to run the Bridge Olympics in Warwick. Advertising has to wait until it is formally approved by the ACBL. I do not see any problem in it being approved. Please check my Newsletters for up-to-date information on the events.

General discussion followed on the Flighted Pairs. We are looking for feedback on the Flighted Pairs. Please send your comments in at - experiments@nebridge.org . Please include the phrases "strength of field" not masterpoints your comments.

Regional Representative Report - Mark Aquino

Providence as a site for an NABC is not entirely out of the question. D-25 is doing better than almost any Region in the innovation and success of F2F bridge. The ACBL has lost Boston, New York. There is a planned regional for New York, where the rooms are purported to be \$900 per night.

We need Providence. There was a lot of concern on the cost of the space, but that can be reallocated and be made more cost effective. The situation, of a Convention Center goes hand-in-hand with Toronto. The ACBL sees convention centers as an anathema, and it is difficult to change their minds.

I am 100% with Sue (Miguel) and Bronia (Jenkins). The whole organization needs to be revitalized. Things will never be as they were.

Next year will be my last year. Someone in New England, New York or Long Island will have to be prepared to take over. It has been my honor and privilege to have served. We do have to solidify the role. We need to try to keep the game and to organize together for the needs of the players not the other way around. Congratulations to Denise (Bahosh) and Sue (Miguel).

New Business –

(M. Wavada) We need to consider possible uses of the money that is currently earmarked for future NABC's. General discussion followed regarding various possible ideas for the future its future use. None led to a substantive discussion or firm suggestion.

(Prs. Miguel) We had 10 clubs represented at the "Meet and Greet". We discussed the District rebates of STaC money as well as the importance of integrating all the bridge communities for the support of F2F bridge. This was also a theme of the Presidents Meeting. Both of which were fabulous. The District is committed to helping the Units deal with the 5-5-5 issues. There will be follow-ups on all that was discussed.

Regarding a possible New England NABC, the decision is made by the ACBL. They have a taskforce that makes the recommendations. There was talk of a Providence

NABC in 2027, but things have changed. The ACBL does not like to deal with convention centers as the negotiations and contracts are more difficult. Time will tell.

Nomination Committee Report - Joyce Haley

The Unit Representatives were polled and voted to nominate Susan Miguel as President and Denise Bahosh as Vice President for a second term.

A motion was made to approve the slate of candidates as presented. The motion was seconded and approved without dissent.

President Miguel thanked the committee for the support.

A motion was made, seconded, and so voted to adjourn the meeting at 9:42 AM.

Respectfully submitted:

Carolyn Weiser, Secretary, District 25

Addenda

President Miguel's opening remarks

New England Bridge Conference Milestone Achievements - January - June 2024

Administration

Moved Executive Committee meetings to Zoom
Added Officers Meetings
All meetings posted on D-25 Calendar
Reformatted Tournament Financial/Comparison Report
Created DICE (Director-in-charge Emeritus)
Focus on Engagement/Transparency/Collegiality

Communication

District Newsletter: "Community Connections"
Fun & Frolic Zoom Events
Presidential Emails
D-25 Calendar Current and Accurate
Began Website Review/Redesign

Leadership/Volunteer Expansion

Newsletter Editor
Club Support Guru
Membership Coordinator - 5/5/5/ Liaison
Sanctioning/Sectional Coordinator
Established GNT/NAP Committee
Website Review Coordinator Committee

Tournaments

New Event Experiments: Olympics & Bracketed Pairs
New/Additional February Tournament
2024 Tournament Sanctioned and Posted, 2025 in Progress

GNT/NAP Moved to F2F
Established Pre-Tournament Review Conferences on Zoom
Guaranteed Partnerships

Outreach to Stakeholders

District Sanctioning Workshops
Unit Presidents Working Group
STaC Fee Rebate Program
Club Managers Meet and Great
Continued Working Relationship with ACBL
Guru (club) & 5/5/5 Liaison Program (units)
New District-Sponsored Special Club Games
Donated Rehabbed Bidding Boxes to Teachers, Clubs, Units and Texas Unit 176

Bart Bussink- NAP/GNT report

Nashua, June 2024

Dear Board members,

So, as the NAP GNT coordinator I drafted several local bridge players for comments and discussion on how to best accommodate the coming GNT and NAP events. Bill Segraves, Dan Morgenstern, Sue Miguel and several A flight players in our district participated in the discussions or were consulted for their input. All events will be held in person for this cycle....And hopefully going forward as well. What we came up with is the following schedule and format for the events. These are now locked in for this cycle. At a future meeting, we can review how this set of choices worked and whether we want to alter the general format for the following years.

The NAP qualifying events will all be held at the Norwich, Ct. tournament in November 2024. Flight C will be a two-session event held on Wednesday the 20th. Flight B will be two sessions on Thursday the 21st and the A flight will be a two-day event starting on Friday the 22nd with the top approximately 50% of pairs battling it out on the 23rd. This gives schedule gives any pairs that wants to play "up" that opportunity....

The GNT Qualifying will all take place at the Mansfield tournament in February of 2025.

Flight C will take place as a Swiss on February 20th.

Flight B will also be a Swiss taking place in one day on February 21st.

Flight A will be a two-day event with a round robin or Swiss on February 18th with 4 teams progressing to the 19th for the semi-final in the AM and final in the afternoon of the 19th.

The Championship flight will be a three-day event. The event will start with a Swiss or round Robbin on February 20th to reduce the number of teams for day 2 to four.

The 21st will start with 4 teams and end with 2 teams progressing to the finals on February 22nd.

We hope this format works well. We anticipate that there will likely be some scheduling problems for some players or teams. However, after carefully considering all factors that come into play the preferences for in person play and straightforward scheduling ruled our decisions. We were also aware of the desire to schedule these events at tournaments we know will definitely be happening.

Thanks to everyone who was involved in coming to these decisions. We also want to take a moment to thank Peter Marcus for his years of work as the Director in Charge of these events, for his general knowledge of the parameters in which the game we love is played, and his adjudication of many difficult situations that arose over the years. While “always easy to deal with” would be an incomplete description of the man, his knowledge and input over the years has been invaluable..... Thank you, Peter!!!!. That is it for now.

Thanks everyone.

Bart Bussink