

*New England Bridge Conference of the American Contract Bridge League*

Minutes  
Executive Committee Meeting  
EnVision Hotel and Conference Center  
Mansfield, MA  
Thursday  
February 8, 2024  
6:00 PM  
In-Person and Via Zoom

Attendees

Officers: Susan Miguel, President; Denise Bahosh, Vice President; Carolyn Weiser, Secretary; Curtis Barton, Past President

Executive Committee: Neil Montague (B. Montague, alt.) EMBA; Jan Smola (P. Harris, alt.) EMBA; William Segraves, CBA-Z; Mike Wavada, CBA-Z; Fred Weaver (J. Haley Alt.) RIBA- Z; William Kennedy, NHBA; Steve Ackerman, VBA- Z; Dan Morgenstern, MBA- Z

Invited Guests: Mark Aquino, RD; David Metcalf, Tournament Advisor; Gary Peterson, Webmaster

Tournament Committee Member: none

Special Guest: John Pieper, NHBA

Absent: Joseph Brouillard, Treasurer; Brenda Montague (EMBA), Paul Harris, EMBA; Mike Kagan, CMBA; Joyce Haley, RIBA; Sheila Ryan, WMBA; Ex-Officio Member; Peter Marcus;

Tournament Committee: Paul Burnham, CBA; Dick Tracy, NHBA; Venky Venkataramani, EMBA

The meeting was called to order at 6:02 PM. After welcoming everyone, President Susan Miguel turned the meeting over to Vice President Denise Bahosh.

(D. Bahosh) We have founded a monthly newsletter. Stuart Showalter, who writes a newsletter for VBA, has volunteered to do this. John Pieper, the Unit Game Coordinator for NHBA in researching Unit and Unit wide games came across Foundation Games, which cost the same and play the same at 81.8% sectional rating. The cost is \$4.00 per table (see appendix). District 25 has never run these games. They would be available to any club in District 25. How the money is allocated, is 100% determined by the ACBL, as long as it is one of their fund games. We cannot sanction these via the ACBL website. No club has to participate. (see addendum for full text)

(S.Kirtley) Why does it award more points?

(J. Pieper) They are treated the same as Unit Championships.

General discussion followed regarding the formats and possible dates.

(VP Bahosh) I will discuss the various special games/months that are set by the ACBL.

(D. Metcalf) Many of the current “games” that are still on the books are not supported by the current IT protocols. D. Metcalf will check.

VP Bahosh) Some units use Unit-wide championships as part of their sectional schedule. This should be taken into account when scheduling.

After general discussion, it was decided to incorporate these games into the schedule for D-25, barring any unforeseen problems, in the month of March.

President Miguel suggested that it be called Shenanigans Week as a support for the clubs from the District. Care will be taken not to overlap with those Unit and Unit wide-games already scheduled by individual Units. After discussion, a motion was made and seconded to schedule the games for November 12-15. This passed without dissent. President Miguel selected J. Pieper as the District Unit-Game coordinator.

President Miguel introduced the concept of having a special team competition at a regional where the teams would represent specific clubs. Brian Weichel said it was legal but that no special points could be awarded. We could do something such as awarding a special prize, such as a free game, and at least they winners would have “bragging rights” for a year. There is a possibility that this would increase attendance.

(D. Metcalf) Perhaps the clubs would play the entry fees.

(Pres. Miguel) We might get the ACBL to all us to give a few extra points on an experimental basis. General discussion followed with no final decision.

The Royal STaC is scheduled for May 20-26 and October 14-20. Cathy Cooper is doing the sanctioning. If you have sanction numbers, please send them to VP. D. Bahosh.

(VP Bahosh) The ACBL will be doing a tutorial on sanctioning for the Units. We need the best time and day. It is just for D-25 on the correct process for sanctioning. I need the information from the Unit Presidents on the person who is your Tournament Coordinator. D. Bahosh checked with the present representative of each Unit. All were updated except WMBA who did not have a representative present. The District website will be updated when the information is complete.

(Pres. Miguel) Regarding the November regional. There is no way that D-4 will change their decision. We cannot have a regional that week.

(S. Kirtley) I went over the situation with Conference Direct what sent a proposal to every hotel in the southern tier. They could find nothing suitable for October 29-November 3. There is a hotel in Connecticut that might be possible for the 18-25<sup>th</sup>. I will meet with them. Their ballroom space is a bit small. They do charge for parking. There is another possibility on the Cape in Hyannis, the Emerald. We have used them before when they were under a different name. I will also check the Capital Center for the Arts in Concord. General discussion regarding sites followed regarding sites and potential conflicts with District 4. S. Kirtley assured those present that the issue with D-4 was just for this year. Several suggestions were made and S. Kirtley will check into these site and will give a review of the possibilities at the next meeting.

(RD Aquino) The standard practice is to allow a motion for reconsideration of such vote (the mileage rule), but it was ruled inoperative in this case.

General discussion followed.

President Miguel asked if there were any questions.

(S. Kirtley) I will send out an email to see what is possible.

President Miguel opened the discussion of the possibility of there being another Providence NABC. She acknowledged her pervious comments but with the new ACBL

regulations that foster helping local players attend, with such things as \$10.00 off the cost, as well as other considerations, it is worth considering.

DD. Aquino added that they are considering Las Vegas again. Providence has the issue of using a Convention Center with all the issues inherent in that. They have the same problems in Toronto.

I am leading the taskforce charged with coming up with strategies for the NABCs. After the current slate of tournaments, this Task Force is drafting a survey that will be published soon, and using techniques such as SWOT analysis (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats) to better right size future NABCs. We will be reviewing the schedules, dates, times, and complete NABC structure. We need to nail this down by 2025. We have commitments through 2027 and additionally for the one in Pennsylvania in 2030.

Las Vegas is the site for this fall's NABC and there's concern about volunteer burnout. Providence has the issue of using a Convention Center with all the extra cost issues inherent in that. They have the same problems in Toronto.

I hope to see you all in Louisville.  
(Pres. Miguel) We had 83 tables today. Maybe we will have to plan for smaller tournaments.

Are there any questions? There were none.

A motion was made, seconded and so voted to adjourn the meeting at 7:13.

Respectfully submitted:

Carolyn Weiser, Secretary, District 25