



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

Minutes  
Executive Committee Meeting  
Ocean State Regional  
Crowne Plaza Hotel  
Warwick, RI  
Friday, September 6, 2024

Officers: Susan Miguel -President, Denise Bahosh - Vice President, Joe Brouillard - Treasurer, Carolyn Weiser- Secretary, Curtis Barton-Past President  
Unit Representatives: EMBA-Brenda Montague; Neil Montague (P. Harris alt.); Mike Wavada; RIBA- Joyce Haley; NHBA-William Kennedy; MBA-Dan Morganstern; WMBA-Sheila Ryan  
Invited Guests: Regional Director- Mark Aquino; Tournament Manager- Sally Kirtley  
Absent: Paul Harris, EMBA; Mike Kagen, CMBA; Bill Seagraves, CBA; Steve Ackerman, VBA

### **Call to Order**

As President Miguel was delayed, the meeting was called to order by Vice President Bahosh at 5:50 pm.

**Secretary's Report** - Carolyn Weiser - Minutes, Executive Committee Meeting, Granite State Regional, Nashua, New Hampshire, Saturday, June 15, 2024

A motion was made, seconded, and so voted to accept the minutes as sent.

### **Treasurer's Report** - Joseph Brouillard

Attached are the Financial Position and Operating Income statement for District 25 for the quarter ending June 30.

The Statement of Financial Position shows that our financial position is stronger than we were last year primarily supported by our investments at Fidelity.

Our total assets are up from the same period last year. .

The National Fund has been rebranded the Strategic Projects Fund, which has done very well year to date and is up over 12% from the end of June. We have no outstanding liabilities.

The Operating Income Statement shows a loss of \$15,554. However, it is not that bad considering that our biggest expenses, the GNT and NAP stipends, show a loss of \$12,140. The money came out of our Grass Roots reserve. The GNT money received from the ACBL was down \$4831. Last year we spent over \$10,000. The check from the ACBL was a disappointing \$3,800. We will have to make adjustments to the GNT and NAP stipends.

Tournament income over expenses shows a loss of \$12,140, year to date. We are on track to about break even for the year. I commend Sally Kirtley for keeping the costs low.

Bidding box expense is down to \$2.4K from \$4.4K and should be \$0 by year-end when P. Marcus will reimburse us for that expense.

RD Aquino added that the GNT/NAP money is based on our conducting special games that are held both at the regionals and at the sectionals and clubs in the district that have scheduled Grass-Roots Fund games. Before the pandemic, there were lots of these games. Our treasury was getting \$12-13,000. We can only contribute what we receive. We need to revitalize these games.

(J. Brouillard) If every sectional would designate one day as Grass-roots Fund games that would make a big difference.

A motion was made and seconded to accept the treasurer's report as presented. So voted.

### **Tournament Manager's Report - Sally Kirtley**

We had a loss in Nashua. The hotel was just too expensive. We won't go back. We used Conference Direct and we secured the hotel in Newton for our next summer regional. They are requiring a minimum number of hotel rooms.

Warwick is going to be fabulous. We are way above last year. We should show a profit here.

(RD Aquino) This is a fantastic accomplishment. President Miguel should be applauded for the accomplishment. She came up with the bracketed pairs. We need to get the message to Horn Lake that this is a successful event and it should be approved.

President Miguel arrived

### **Presidents opening remarks: Susan Miguel**

The tournament is fabulous. We had 782 tables last year and this year we have 660 already.

We will have five tournaments next year. The schedule will be the same going forward. Please come and support Norwich, which is scheduled for November 18 to 23, Monday through Saturday.

### **Regional Director's Report – Mark Aquino**

I have sent everyone a copy of the NABC report. With all the activities of the board, the time required to review this would be extraordinary.

The motion I want to highlight pertained to creating four identical brackets for the NAP and GNT. I was the sole vote opposing this motion. The issue was the lowest masterpoint flight that the motion allowed Life Masters with less than 750 masterpoints to compete. I had discussed this motion with the D25 President, Sue Miguel ahead of the vote and she was vehemently opposed to allowing LMs to play in the lowest bracket. The fact that her efforts over the past 20 years has resulted in D25 being head and shoulders above the rest of the ACBL Districts regarding district finals attendance in the NAPs and GNTs was sufficient for me, but not my colleagues on the ACBL Board. The motion as written was approved 12 to 1. Sue Miguel gave an impassioned speech at the meeting of the Advisory Council, which resulted in their overwhelming vote in favor of

reconsideration of this motion. The Board changed its vote to 10 to 3 approving changing the lowest light to 0-750 NLMs.

The four flights for the NAP and GNT will begin January 1, 2025. They will be Open, 0-6,000, 0-3000, and 0-750 NLMs. The D-25 NAP Finals in Norwich will still be under the current rules of A- Open, B -0-2500 and C-0-500 NLM. With Bronia (Jenkins) help, Sue was successful in getting Bracketed Pairs accepted on an experimental basis. The popularity we have seen for this event plus the great work of David Metcalf did enable computerized scoring.

My primary role on the Board this year has been leading a Task Force to develop a business strategy for the North American Championships in the years 2028 and beyond.

The ACBL has been anti-Convention Center because of the costs. The success in Toronto broke the mold. There were almost 10,000 tables. The convention center gave the ACBL great concessions to get us to go there.

(J. Brouillard) The ACBL lost money in Providence because they were stupid. They booked all five-exhibition halls plus the third floor.

(M. Aquino) Joe makes a good point. One of my top priorities is to get the ACBL to accept Providence as an accepted alternate site. We need a Northeast venue. I will stress Joe Bouillard's position regarding space usage.

I have one year left in my term as Regional Representative. I will not be running for re-election.

## **Old Business - none**

## **New Business**

Bylaw Update- A motion was made by W. Kennedy, and seconded by C. Barton to accept the revisions to the bylaws for presentation to the Board of Delegates in Norwich for approval. The motion was passed without dissent.

### **Greening of District 25**

President Miguel reminded the members of the Executive Committee that would no longer be paper flyers. This will reduce postage costs. The number of hand records would also be reduced. Malcolm Burson, from Maine, has volunteered to head a committee spearhead this initiative. If anyone knows of someone who would be a good addition to the committee, please let me know.

### **Tables - S. Kirtley**

Many of our tables are old and tired. The company that stored and delivers our tables wants to save 50-75 of the best tables and buy more new ones. However, there are better ones out there that have white tops that are bigger and better. I would like to suggest that we join forces and see if we can convince him to buy all new ones if we agree to by 50 and he would purchase an additional 100. He would own the full amount and be able to rent them to others. We will have a sample in Norwich. General discussion followed. Sally will investigate further and report back.

### **Horace Gower Day**

President Miguel reported on the success of Horace Gower Day and how pleased he was at the response of the players, the evening dinner and to his gifts including the free entry to D-25 games and new sweater.

#### Sunday in the Tent

S. Kirtley reminded the attendees that all events Sunday would be in the tent. She asked everyone to help the players get there.

#### Bracketed Pairs

President Miguel reminded those present that Norwich will be the last time we can run the Bracketed Pairs under the experimental agreement with the ACBL. Director David Metcalf will make a detailed report to the ACBL, as this will be of interest to other parts of the country. Today we got the game started at 10:11, no small feat. The decision to presell entries a day in advance helped lessen the time necessary to stratify the entrees. The top bracket was difficult today. Getting the game going required a great deal of work and time. The divisions were based on the strength of field. With D Metcalf and everyone pitching in, it would not have been possible.

#### Rehab of Bridgemates

The Bridgemates will all be rechecked and have new batteries. Some had their batteries removed as a safety precaution during the long period of covid when they were not in use.

#### Next Generation Gold Rush Pairs

We had the Next Generation Gold Rush event under discussion. After preliminary approval to test it, we are now being told that we can't. We will keep the Board apprised of developments.

A motion was made, seconded and so voted to adjourn the meeting at 6:20 PM.