



New England Bridge Conference of the American Contract Bridge League

Minutes
Executive Committee Meeting
Newton, MA
June 21, 2025

Present-

Officers: Susan Miguel -President, Denise Bahosh - Vice President, Joe Brouillard -Treasurer, Carolyn Weiser- Secretary, Curtis Barton-Past President

Members of the Executive Committee: EMBA-Brenda Montague, Lynn Duncan; CMBA-Shirley Wagner; CBA- Benjamin Levine (W. Segraves alt.) Peter Marcus (via phone); RIBA-James Murphy; NHBA-William Kennedy; VBA-none; MBA- Dan Morganstern WMBA- none

Absent: CBA-William Segraves, VBA- Steve Ackerman, WMBA- Sheila Ryan

Invited Guests: Mark Aquino- Regional Representative, Sally Kirtley - Tournament Manager, Neil Montague-Website Development/Recorder

The meeting was called to order at 5:45 PM.

Presidents opening remarks: Susan Miguel

What happened in this building last night was an encapsulation of what we are about... finding undiscovered markets. We saw people we have not seen in 20 years.

We had 10 tables. People had fun, as if they were at a social event. All they were supposed to play were Stayman, Jacoby Transfers for the majors and regular blackwood. The event was won by one of the novices. The report on-line was totally incorrect.

We signed the contract for the new website. It will be a bit of time until the final roll out.

At the President's meeting this morning we discussed the Charity grants. We are going to have the Units ask for proposals from their members for a 501C4 non-bridge related, charity. We want players to nominate an organization to which they have a connection. The final selections have to be sent to the ACBL by October 5th.

Peter Marcus working on new things to add to the schedule.

Secretary's Report - Carolyn Weiser -

A motion was made, seconded and approved to accept the Minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting held at the Spectacle Regional held in Southbridge, MA, on April 26, 2025.

Treasurer's Report - Joseph Brouillard

I added Pro Forma to this report as the finally tallies for this quarter will not be complete until the end of the month. We voted to do financials on a quarterly basis, but we have a lot going on. Our Total Assets are down \$4142 from last year at this time. The Grass Roots Fund is

down \$2767. As of the end of March, the Strategic Project Fund showed a loss. We are currently up. Are there any questions? (none) We think we will make some money here.

(L. Duncan -108) What is the comparison with last year for this tournament?

(J. Brouillard) Sally, will you field this question.

The Operating Income Statement shows that the GNT and NAP stipends are both down from last year. Deposit for the website was paid. So far we have a loss of \$6,767. I will propose that the website costs be taken out of the Strategic Projects Fund. Year-to-Date we show a net income loss.

We received about \$6,000 last year in from Grass-Roots Fund games from the ACBL. We should receive a check in August. Pre-covid we received between \$12-15,000 in Grass-roots Fund money. We need the Units to run Grass-Roots Fund Games at their sectional to help build up the money.

(Pres.Miguel) We run our night games as Grass-Roots Fund games.

(J. Brouillard) Table count at the evening doesn't make much of a difference. The GNT checks were sent out earlier this week. They will arrive soon.

A motion was made and seconded and so voted to accept the report as presented.

Tournament Manager's Report - Sally Kirtley

We are doing well here. We made money in Mansfield and in Southbridge. We expect to make a profit here.

(Pres. Miguel) We estimate that Warwick will be a success. Through today we are about 720 tables. When we heard the advertisements about the potential traffic issues, we were concerned, but the players have come.

(S. Kirtley) Last year at this time we lost about \$5000 at Nashua.

(S. Miguel) We had to call in another director from Florida. He was being observed for a promotion that would allow him to direct at Regionals. He passed.

(S. Kirtley) We cannot use Sue (Miguel) as an open game director.

(Pres. Miguel) We had significant costs charged to us to bring this director up here. We will contact the ACBL in an attempt to retrieve some of the costs.

(J. Brouillard) This happened years ago, pre covid. We pushed back and the ACBL paid the tab.

(S. Kirtley) Warwick is always a success. Regarding Norwich, last year there was confluence of bad things that cost us attendance. We will have to decide after this tournament is we have to look elsewhere for a site for the Fall Regional. Hopefully, people who were last year will tell their friends to come.

(S. Miguel) In some places, I suggest that we advertise that there will be a night game is attendance allows.

(S. Kirtley) It's very difficult to field a night game in some places. All our schedules do not have to be the same. Mansfield and Southbridge, we did not have night games on the schedule. Our schedules do not have to be the same.

(Pres. Miguel) Why try at all.

(P. Marcus [on the phone]) We can use a local director for the night games,

General discussion continued as to what games would be most popular. A Pro-Am was suggested. General discussion continued, No final decisions were made.

Discussion followed on the stipends for the GNT and NAPs and ways to support these events.

(Pres. Miguel) We do not have stipends for anyone as we have no money to give them. We need to create some excitement regarding the Grass-Roots events. We should be focusing on making the events something that the players want to participate in.

(D. Morgenstern?) (Re GNTs/NAPs) I make a motion that we should only fund the B & C players. The A & B flights will go anyway.

(RD Aquino) This will be brought up in my report. Bronia (Jenkins) hopes that we can develop a system to help support all the districts. There has been a decline in funding throughout the ACBL.

(General discussion followed)

(Pres. Miguel) There will be no stipends for anyone. All we have is \$6,000. Hardly anyone goes to the champion level or open. We should use GRF money not to send players to the nationals but to create excitement at the Grassroots level.

(MBA) I withdraw my motion.

(VP D. Bahosh) I make a motion that the Executive Committee move into Executive Session. Will all non-members of the Executive Committee leave the room at this time. Would Neil Montague remain. The motion was seconded and so voted.

Please do not go too far as we hope this will be short and that you will be called back as soon as possible.

- - - - - Executive Session - - - - -

A motion was made to return to the open meeting. The invited guests were asked to return.

Regional Director's Report – Mark Aquino

ACBL President Margot Hennings is coming to Warwick. She has requested that the meeting of the Executive Committee be moved to earlier in the week because of her travel schedule. She is traveling on Saturday.

(Pres. Miguel) The meetings are held on Saturday to accommodate the representatives who work and must travel a distance to attend the meetings. We can have a “meet and greet” earlier in the week, perhaps Wednesday.

General discussion followed. D-25 will arrange for a mutually agreeable time to welcome President Hennings.

The recent disciplinary actions related to EDGAR reviews of on-line play, especially the expulsions, have led to many complaints. This may be the time to review the issue.

Kudo's to this location. It's a great venue. The NAPs started June 1 at the clubs. There are 4-flights. There has been a change in the divisions: 0-750 NLM, 0-3000, 6000, and Open. Sue (Miguel) was very active in getting the changes. The Board in morphine out of it's current motion driven model, with no time for discussion, Being of the Board has been a great joy, but a lot of work.

I am glad that this Region has two candidates for the position. (see addendum for the full report as sent after the meeting)

Old Business

Website- update- see above in President's remarks

(Contract was signed)

New Business

Annual Audit- Joe Brouillard

I will meet with Linda Robinson as soon as we can arrange a mutually agreeable time to conduct the annual audit. It is possible that it will be completed by Warwick, but certainly by the Mansfield Regional.

Weiss-Bertoni Award- Joe Brouillard

It is traditional for the winner of this award to chair the committee that will choose the next recipient. I will select a committee and send out the information regarding how nominees are selected. The committee can meet via zoom.

As there was no additional new business, a motion was made, seconded and so voted to adjourn the meeting at 7:04 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn Weiser, Secretary- District 25