

**Minutes of the District 5 Board Meeting**  
**August 30, 2024**  
||  
**Pittsburgh Masonic Center**

The meeting was called to order at 6:44 PM by President Barbara Bacon.

Officer's present: Barb Bacon, Barbara Grzegorzewski and Sandi Bross.

Executive Committee: Sharon Fairchild, Ron Franck, Davis Heussler, Jim Overcashier

Absent: Jim Knirsch, Marc Sylvester

Unit Representatives: Bob Ryan (107), Franklin Powers(111), Linda Burroughsford (116) Phil Becker and Fleur Howard (125), David and Maureen Loeb (142), Rick Klapthor (127), Steve Grzegorzewski (226) Lois Porter (229)

Guest: Ken Gibson

### **President's Report**

President Bacon welcomed everyone, thanked them for coming and for all they do to participate in District 5 activities. She reminded them that she is looking for suggestions of names to submit for the Goodwill and Charity Committees.

The Executive Committee has been working to find ways to have our regional tournaments run in ways that will encourage attendance. This tournament has been shortened to avoid the holiday, running Tuesday through Saturday to see how that would affect attendance overall. The Buffalo tournament will run Monday through Friday to see how the players like completely avoiding the weekend. The Cleveland May Regional is being moved to June 24-29<sup>th</sup> at the same location. This is being done because many of our members want to be with their families on the holiday and moving away from that week is an economic advantage.

Marc Sylvester and Ron Franck have decided to leave the Executive Committee; Marc to accommodate his increased academic responsibilities and Ron for family commitments. Barb thanked them for their contributions to the district.

Information from the Toronto NABC where attendance was good, is that the fee structure for NABCs will remain the same next year. There will be no increase in entry fees.

### **Approval of the minutes**

Sharon had mailed the minutes for the May meeting and asked for any additions or corrections. There were none. Davis moved and Jim O. seconded that the minutes be approved as written. Motion carried.

## **Treasurer's Report**

Sandi reported the cash position as of July 31, 2024, the end of our fiscal year.

Edward Jones Account	\$107,759.86.
Chase Checking Account	\$16,800.77
Advance Buffalo	\$500.00
Advance Pittsburgh	\$7,500.00
	\$132,560.63

The May Regional resulted in an income of \$3,280.48. She presented the numbers for the income and expenses for the tournament. She pointed out that  $\frac{1}{2}$  of our entry fees for the tournament goes directly to the ACBL for fees and directors.

Ron reported that Pittsburgh has lots of district tables that could be used by Cleveland. Barb will look into this.

## **Rock and Roll Regional**

Barb Bacon reported for Jim Knirsch. The dates for the tournament are January 8<sup>th</sup> to the 12<sup>th</sup>. The contracts are signed for 2025 and 2026 with Embassy Suites. Jim is working on the schedule. Phil Becker told us that Jim is considering a 9:30 start time and Phil doesn't think this is a good idea. Barb got input on the schedule from Alex and will share these comments with Jim K.

## **All-American Regionally**

Schedule hasn't been finalized yet nor has the contract. This will be a six day tournament running Tuesday through Sunday. We need people to book rooms for the tournament as we have a steep quota at the hotel.

## **Pittsburgh Regional**

We are averaging 43 tables a session. It is disconcerting to see how much of our money is taken by ACBL for fees and directors. Ron discussed how difficult it is to run a regional when it isn't at a hotel.

## **Buffalo Regional**

Davis said the tournament will run October 21-25, 2024 and the Main Transit Fire House with the host hotel being Tru by Hilton. There will be an online game on Saturday following the tournament for D5 players.

## **Tournament Coordinator**

Pat was not in attendance. Barb reminded the units to start their sectional planning early so you can get the dates you want. You can't advertise the schedule until ACBL has approved your flyer.

## **NAP/GNT**

Ron has flyers available for NAPs. The event will be run the first weekend in October, in Erie. You must qualify for this event.

Ron is working on the conditions of contest for the GNTs.

## **Membership**

Marc sent the following report:

### **Membership Report September 2024**

All information is based on the most recent ACBL Quip Report.

As of the June 30, 2024 QUIP report: District 5 currently has a membership of 2340. (This is exactly one more member than when we reported this past May! ? ) Unfortunately, we have recently slipped into being the smallest district in the ACBL. We were previously the next-to-smallest.

Our membership is down 4.61% since the report generated exactly one year prior. We have gained 92 new members in the last 12 months (a 3.76% increase). But we have lost 196 members in the same 12 month period (an 8.02% decrease). A special thanks to the following units for the greatest growth in members over the past year: Pittsburgh (20 new members), Erie (19 new members), Northern Ohio (14 new members), and Western New York (10 new members).

We are 13th /25 in new member retention into a second year – about 49.5% of our members continue into their second year, based on a three year weighted average.

D5 members have an average length of membership of 22.61 years, which is highest in the ACBL. The ACBL-wide average is 20.80.

We are staying the course on average age, 23rd / 25. Average age of D5 members is 75.64, compared to an average age ACBL-wide of 74.58.

## **Social Media**

Sharon reminded people that we do have a facebook page. Please visit it and add a picture to report something happening in your club.

## **Education**

Barb G reminded the units that teachers can get money from D5 as well as ACBL CAP program for lessons for new players. Contact Barb G or Sandi Bross for more information. She is having it posted on the D5 website.

Buffalo is starting up a bridge class for adults soon.

## **New Business**

### **Bylaws**

Sharon reported that we will need a meeting 90 days from when the proposed bylaw changes were mailed to the units. We will have a zoom District meeting. Proposed dates were October 20 and October 28<sup>th</sup>. We decided to hold the zoom meeting on October 20 at 7:00 PM. The link to join will be sent out at a later date.

## **Election of officers**

Barb turned the meeting over to Jim Overcashier, the past president to run the election of the President. Davis nominated Barb Bacon to be President and Sandi seconded. There were no other nominations and Barb was elected by acclamation.

Jim opened the nominations for Vice-President. Steve G. nominated Barb G to serve as Vice-President, Barb Bacon seconded. There were no other nominations and Barb G. was elected by acclamation.

Mike Powers nominated Sandi Bross to serve as treasurer and Bob Ryan seconded. There were no other nominations and Sandi was elected by acclamation.

Barb appointed Sharon to serve as Secretary.

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,  
Sharon Fairchild, Secretary,

