

District V Executive Committee Meeting February 15, 2024 by Zoom

Members Present: Barb Bacon, Barbara Grzegorzewski, Jimmy, Marc, Jim, Sandi, Ron and Sharon.

Member Absent: Davis Heussler.

Barb B announced that we need to have a committee to review the bylaws. That committee will consist of Sharon, Davis and Jimmy. Sharon announced that the committee will meet before the May meeting to suggest appropriate changes. The changes will be presented to the executive committee in May.

Since no one ran for the three available seats on the Advisory Council, the District 5 spots are vacant. Barb has appointed Dian Petrov, Steve G and Steve Allen to serve 3 year terms. There are 6 meetings per year and they are required to attend 4 of them.

Barb announced that Steve Allen is our new webmaster with Kerry Davidson as backup. The site will be hosted by www.bridgewebs.com who host websites for many bridge organizations. The direct link is www.bridgewebs.com/acbld5. The site is still under construction but should be public soon. Bridgewebs costs \$80 per year. Marc moved and Sharon seconded that we approve payment of this fee. The motion carried.

The conflict regulations announced at the last Executive Committee Meeting that required 425 miles as the crow flies between regionals has been rescinded. Regionals need to be separated by 200 miles and sectionals by 100 miles.

ACBL has a proposal to change the way that money is collected from the clubs for the STaC. The plan is to have ACBL collect the money and distribute it as needed. This will only work for them if there is a flat fee for everyone. We should find out in April what they decide. Currently we charge \$6.00 per table and we get back \$.76. With the new plan, Jim thinks we could get \$2.00 back so we would be further ahead.

Regionals

Cleveland – we have tentative contracts in Cleveland for 2025 and 2026. We still need to negotiate some of the terms.

Pittsburgh – Ron and Bill met with 4 hotels. Cranberry wanted \$40,000 for the week and that is more than we can afford. The Masonic lowered their rate to \$7500 for Tuesday through Saturday. They are planning on reduced hospitality to cut their losses. They have a new host hotel, the Hampton at the Wexford exit, two exits on I-79 from the Masonic. The flyer shows an entry fee of \$16.00. A discussion was held about whether

this amount was approved by the board. In September, at the District General Meeting, a vote was taken to raise the District entry fee to \$15.00 for all events. Ron said he hadn't printed the flyers yet so he could make the change.

Buffalo – Barb has spoken to Davis and he has secured a non-hotel site for the tournament. It will be at the Main Fire House for the Buffalo Fire Department. The cost will be \$3500. It has free parking and ample playing space. He will need a \$50 deposit when the contract is signed.

New business

We have been discussing regional costs especially for hospitality. Jimmy has been looking at costs pre-Covid. Hospitality costs ran 6%-9% of the gross income. Post-Covid January spent 25%, May spent 4% Pittsburgh spent 24% and Buffalo spent 4% of gross on hospitality. We will take another look at this when we see how Pittsburgh goes.

Jimmy and Steve G want to run a program to get more new players involved. They plan to go to units and clubs with Steve's power point presentation on teaching and mentoring new players. His program increased the game in Erie from 3 tables to 8-9. They are looking on doing this in March. Steve will give the choice of a power point presentation of Easy Bridge or Patty Tucker's program. They will teach how to publicize the classes and how to run a mentoring program. They are requesting funds for gasoline and to help units publicize the program.

Marc moved to pay the federal mileage rate which is currently \$.67/mile to visit the units and clubs. Ron seconded and the motion carried.

Jimmy moved that the district match advertising costs for units ACBL supplies with funds with the same requirements. Jim K. seconded and the motion passed. Barb G and Sandi will oversee the program.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:13.

Respectfully submitted

Sharon Fairchild, Secretary District 5