



Present: April Apfelbaum, Jay Apfelbaum, Ellen Berkowitz, Mark Bolotin, Mark Cohen, John Dickenson, John Nothdurft, Jeff Rohrbeck, Pam Scalamandre, Cathy Strauss.

Not present: Ellen Luchette

John called the meeting to order at 5:41 p.m.

1. Financials - Ellen Berkowitz: Submitted prior to the meeting:  
We currently have \$93, 878.40 in the bank.  
In June, we had the I/N, which lost \$233. Thank you for the huge effort Ellen Luchette!
2. 555 - Pamela Scalamandre: We received an email that we had qualified for 15%, but it appears that we did not get a full 15. Upon review, we received 12%, broken down as follows:  
During Q2, we “earned” \$4108.17  
Base amount \$1711.74.  
Activity amount \$855.87 (maximum amount)  
Retention amount \$0 (out of a possible \$855.87)  
Recruitment amount \$1540.56 (out of a possible \$1711.74)
3. Upcoming Sectionals – Jay Apfelbaum: A replacement is needed for Randee Braslow for hospitality at sectionals. It was suggested that there was no need for breakfast at sectionals, just lunch. Typically, there are Costco runs to get snack items in addition to lunch. Bala will store items in between the two sectionals. Ellen B and Mark C volunteered to assist. There has been a suggestion to replace some of the cards in our boards – we need to verify that we use standard cards. We can pay to have the cards pre-dealt. The dealer apparatus is in Cherry Hill. There was a discussion of bracketed teams and the team format for the sectionals. There was a discussion about lower-level games at the open sectionals; a 0-50 game was suggested for Friday, Saturday or both.
4. I/N Sectionals – Ellen Luchette submitted a report prior to the meeting (attached below).  
In the meeting, it was noted that there will not be an I/N sectional in January due to the open sectional in the same period. There was a discussion about the next I/N scheduled October 14 in KOP. The club (KOP) will collect registrations, with checks made out to KOP. Preregistration will be required. Karen Pollack will handle accounting. There was a question as to whether two sessions should be required, i.e. single sessions and/or play through; the consensus was that single sessions would be preferred. There is an IN handbook with different possibilities including best of 2. There was a question as to whether lunch should be offered only for those playing both sessions – TBD.  
John has suggested that a strategy be developed to decide when and how many I/N Sectionals to hold. By ACBL rules, we can hold 3 one-day and unlimited two-day sectionals. There was a discussion of the recent North Penn sectional and from where it drew its players. There was a discussion of whether preregistration is preferred in general; preregistration, while adding complexity for money handling, is preferred for game and food planning.
5. Election of secretary – Jeff Rohrbeck was officially elected secretary for the remainder of the year.
6. LBIAD – John Nothdurft: Game Friendly in Cherry Hill will host. September 21 10:00-4:00. The fee will be \$25 including lunch. The book will be provided TBD. Promotion of the event was discussed; suggested communication through clubs and asking novices to invite friends. To promote LBIAD, Ellen Berkowitz needs the final information to create a flyer which will be sent

out to the entire unit, via Pianola, in August. Table helpers will be needed. Additional sessions possible at area clubs. Yard signs, used in the past, were generally considered to be ineffective.

7. PCBA COVID policies – ACBL no longer has a covid policy except for that masks can be provided by those who want their opponents to wear them but cannot be made mandatory. A question was raised as to whether we want to notify players if covid is known to be in the facility for sectionals. The difficulties of this are that it is not clear as to what would constitute a trigger for such notices, and the short duration of sectionals probably makes it unlikely that any outbreak could be caught in time. It was expressed that covid is now a mainstream illness no different than other communicable diseases. There were opinions both for and against announcing. It was decided to leave it in the hands of the tournament chair.
8. ACBL elimination of Life Member category – Life master status at one point conferred Life Membership in ACBL. This changed over the years to be a discounted “service fee” instead of membership. However, the ACBL arbitration clause, preventing lawsuits, is tied to membership; so in the future everyone will have to pay membership and therefore abide by the arbitration clause.
9. Welcome back of suspended players – We have a player coming off suspension shortly. It was suggested that we issue a welcome back from the unit and from the club(s) that this player attends. Ideally, we would proactively welcome them with an email before the end of suspension. It was revealed that some had already reached out to the player, and Mark offered to do so as well from KOP. We will monitor the next players coming back in the future (2025). There was a discussion of the arbitrary and sometimes harsh nature of the penalties issued by the ACBL thus far. There was some discussion of EDGAR and its operation by ACBL.
10. Sanction forms were handed out to all present for informational purposes.

There was a discussion of elections of the replacement board members. This year we will need to vote for the board members whose terms are currently expiring and officially vote in the replacement members. First call in October, second in November. Our next meeting will need to be in time to get the slate in the 4Spot. If there are no more candidates than slots open, an election is not necessary. Elections can be held at the January sectional.

The board wishes John Dickenson good luck and safe travels to the NABC in Toronto this week.

The next Unit Board meeting will be October 7, in person, at 5:00 PM.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeff Rohrbeck  
Secretary

***Submitted by Ellen Luchette:***

Future I/N Sectionals:

- King of Prussia October 14th one day

- Proposed Cherry Hill June 7, 2025 (but Elaine Weintraub can't confirm this date until February 2025 to be sure none of nearby District 4 wants to hold a 3 day sectional that weekend) -
- In Discussion with AMI/Barbara Patterson hoping for an early January date 2025 (not yet discussed with Elaine)

Some changes I'm considering from how Joan and Bill ran Sectionals:

A: I'm working with Karen Pollak (KOP's treasurer) on a pilot method: Checks and forms will be made out to KOP bridge club and in turn, the Unit, director, and club will be paid directly from those funds rather than having a personal bank account and accepting checks made out in my name. I didn't feel comfortable with this format especially after discussing this with Joann Glasson during Valley Forge.

B: At this point, the host club is being paid \$500 per day and the director \$300 per day – as Joan and Bill suggested. The North Penn Sectional lost money (small amount) but I felt it was a success. I/N players were extremely happy to have the chance to earn silver points. If there is really no issue about lost revenue, it seems a fair price. We do need a contract, as North Penn charged me a 100-cleaning fee at the last minute which wasn't discussed. I decided it wasn't worth the argument and simply paid the fee requested. We could consider, instead, paying the club a percentage of revenue to be sure the unit doesn't lose money. Fees beyond 500/300: Food and ACBL cost. We provided a light breakfast at North Penn. I don't feel this is necessary.

C: I feel it's important that players over 50 points playthrough (2 sessions) to build their stamina for tournaments, but a couple of people complained that there should have been a cumulative score. I propose that all playthroughs receive cumulative scores. At this point, the Sectionals I am offering have 2 sections: 0 to 50 (if there are enough pairs to run this section - one session in the morning only) and 0 to 500 playthrough. Those who play only one session will not be eligible for the cumulative points (only 0 to 50 players will have this option).

D: I did create a survey after the sectional which I shared with John and Linda O'Malley. I'm happy to share with the Unit if interested.

E: Most players chose to play only for one day. At this point, I'd like to run more one day sectionals vs. 2-day sectionals, but I am open to your thoughts.