



Minutes of the District 17 Board of Directors Meeting Denver, CO – May 22, 2025

Present: Sharon Smith (President), Cindy Shoemaker (National Board), Kay Brock, Jennifer O’Neill, Bill Phillips, Steve Reynolds, Perry Van Hook

Participating via Zoom Link: Dave Baglee, Kitty Larson, Toby McEvoy

Also Attending: Julie Clark, GNT/NAP Coordinator

THE PRESIDENT CALLED THE MEETING TO ORDER AT 9:10 AM MDT

GENERAL

Opening Remarks Sharon Smith

Sharon welcomed Toby McEvoy to the Board. He has been selected by Unit 373 to complete the term left vacant by the resignation of Liz Hamilton.

Record Approval of January 23, 2025 Meeting Minutes Bill Phillips

Suggestion by Perry Van Hook to include information related to the deferral of the vote to elect a tournament chair for the 2027 NABC in Las Vegas. The minutes of the January 23rd meeting will be adjusted to read: “Presentation by Jack Shoemaker. Presentation by Julie Clark and Jennifer O’Neill (applying as co-chairs). Voting was done by ballot. Vote was five for Jennifer/Julie and five for Jack. It was decided that Jennifer, Julie, and Jack will discuss the possibility of sharing the role or to resolve the matter in some other way. Later in the day, after the meeting had concluded, Liz Hamilton conducted a post-meeting vote, recusing herself from the voting.”

Motion by Sharon Smith to approve the minutes of the Albuquerque meeting with the proposed adjustment. Seconded by Jennifer O’Neill. Carried unanimously.

Treasurer’s Report Jennifer O’Neill

Jennifer reviewed the status of District 17 monetary accounts. During this review Cindy Shoemaker reported that, because of scheduling difficulties, it is very unlikely that Denver will be offered an NABC. Phoenix remains a possibility as a host site for an NABC. Perry Van Hook mentioned that Talking Stick Resort in Scottsdale could be a potential venue.

Motion by Jennifer O’Neill to transfer \$7248.85 from the National Restricted Account to the 2027 Las Vegas NABC Account. Seconded by Dave Baglee. Carried unanimously.

Motion to approve the Treasurer’s Report. Seconded by Kay Brock. Carried unanimously.

National Board Report

Cindy Shoemaker

Cindy reported on recent discussions at the national level. ACBL is surveying club managers on whether players disciplined for online cheating should be allowed to play in their local clubs. The survey is currently in progress.

Effective July 1, 2025, ACBL will allow players to earn masterpoints on *all* of the online play providers, including Bridge Base Online, Fun Bridge, Into Bridge, OK Bridge, Real Bridge, and Shark Bridge.

OLD BUSINESS

Recording of Email Votes

Sharon Smith

The following items were proposed and voted on subsequent to the January 23rd meeting: Vote to approve Albuquerque as the site of the NAP finals. Vote was 8 in favor, 1 opposed, with a suggestion that finals be held online. Motion carried. Vote to approve the 2025 District 17 Goodwill Ambassador nominees. Carried unanimously. Vote to approve Julie Clark as Pi-nola Coordinator to replace Jerry Keeran, who resigned. Carried unanimously.

The post-meeting vote to elect a tournament chair for the 2027 Las Vegas NABC resulted in Jack Shoemaker being elected by a vote of 5 to 4.

NEW BUSINESS

Bylaws and Policy Manual

Sharon Smith

A committee consisting of Dave Baglee, Kay Brock, Jennifer O'Neill, Steve Reynolds, Cindy Shoemaker and Sharon Smith was established to work on revisions and updates of the Bylaws and Policy Manual. Sharon Smith will chair the committee.

Election of Officers

Kitty Larson

Motion by Kitty Larson to elect Sharon Smith as President of the District 17 Board of Directors for the remainder of the calendar year. Seconded by Cindy Shoemaker. Motion carried unanimously. Motion by Sharon Smith to elect Kitty Larson as Vice President of the District 17 Board of Directors for the remainder of the calendar year. Seconded by Kay Brock. Motion carried unanimously.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

GNT/NAP

Julie Clark

Julie requested access to District 17 membership reports. Sharon will arrange for her to obtain access.

Julie reported on GNT participation. There were three Championship Flight teams, four Flight A teams, four Flight B teams, and 11 Flight C teams.

For the NAPS, there have been some changes in the conditions of contest that have implications for scheduling. In particular, if there are fewer than five teams in Championship Flight and/or fewer than five teams in Flight A, those flights may be combined. It is not clear whether this is a requirement or a suggestion from ACBL. A decision on the specifics of scheduling for GNT finals in Albuquerque will be deferred pending a clarification.

Julie sent an update to entities that are sponsoring tournaments that she is now the Pianola Coordinator.

Elections

Kitty Larson

Kitty summarized the process for electing District 17 Board representatives whose terms are expiring in 2025. An announcement was included in the May issue of the Buzz. A similar announcement will appear in the July Buzz.

Grants

Kitty Larson

Kitty presented a grant request from Unit 351 to fund a supervised bid and play session at the March 2026 Roadrunner Sectional Tournament. Perry Van Hook expressed his concern that the proposal does not indicate a process or path by which the supervised bid and play participants who are not currently members of the ACBL will be encouraged and guided to become ACBL members. Steve Reynolds and Jennifer O'Neill questioned why District 17 is being asked to fund items that are not hard costs. Dave Baglee supported the grant proposal on grounds that District 17 should do whatever it can to encourage growth in participation. Motion by Kitty Larson to approve the grant proposal. Seconded by Jennifer O'Neill. Vote was 2 in favor, 7 opposed, 1 abstaining. Motion defeated.

Tournament Coordination

Dave Baglee

Bill Phillips noted that the Desert Empire Regional is considering duplicating boards for team games. Bill stated that he will not provide boards or duplication services for team events or for supervised play, and requested that this information be conveyed to the tournament organizers.

Motion by Jennifer O'Neill to change the fee to rent Bridgemates owned by District 17 from the current 50 cents per use to 1 dollar per use. Seconded by Sharon Smith. Vote was 8 in favor, 1 opposed, 1 absent. Motion carried.

Motion by Jennifer O'Neill to approve rental of Bridgemates for a period of three months for a game to be operated by Kyle Rockoff at a club in Mesa Arizona. Seconded by Sharon Smith. Motion carried unanimously.

STaC

Bill Phillips (for Bonnie Bagley)

Motion by Sharon Smith to approve dates of STaC tournaments for 2026 proposed by Bonnie Bagley. Seconded by Jennifer O'Neill. Proposed dates are January 26 through February 1, June 8 through June 14 (Royal STaC), September 14 through September 20, and November 9 through November 15 (Royal STaC). Carried unanimously.

Goodwill

Steve Reynolds

Steve reported on the status of the Goodwill Ambassador committee.

Tournament Supplies

Bill Phillips

Bill reported that the accumulation of deposits on paper has been reduced through repeated passes through the dealing machine, so the paper cards will not need to be replaced until at least 2027.

Communications and Education

Sharon Smith

Sharon Smith reported on the status of communications and education.

There is currently one potential candidate for the position of webmaster to replace Lisa Geiger, who resigned. Sharon is serving as webmaster until a replacement is found.

Scheduling of Future Meetings in 2026

Sharon Smith

Perry Van Hook stated that he believes scheduling of meetings at times that prevent board members from playing is a disservice to tournaments because it prevents board members from playing and thus reduces the table count.

Jennifer and Cindy spoke about the advantages of face-to-face meetings. There was a consensus that exploring options about meeting times is worth revisiting.

Sharon proposed that the next face-to-face meetings be held in Scottsdale, AZ on Thursday August 14, at 7:30 AM with a second session on Friday, August 15th at 7:30 AM. Seconded by Perry Van Hook. Vote was 7 in favor, 1 opposed, 2 absent. Motion carried.

Sharon stated that she plans to schedule a Zoom meeting in December.

ADJOURNMENT

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 12:10 PM MDT.

Next Meeting: Thursday, August 14 at 7:30 AM MST and Friday, August 15 at 7:30 AM MST in Scottsdale, Arizona

Respectfully submitted,
William D. Phillips
Scribe