



## Minutes of the District 17 Board of Directors Meeting Scottsdale, AZ – August 14-15, 2025

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

Attending via Zoom ink: Dave Baglee, Jacque Brickey (nonvoting guest, Unit 373)

Also attending: Julie Clark, GNT/NAP Coordinator

THE PRESIDENT CALLED THE MEETING TO ORDER AT 7:30 AM MST

### GENERAL

Record Approval of Revised May 22<sup>nd</sup> 2025 Meeting Minutes

Bill Phillips

Motion to approve the minutes, as amended, by Perry Van Hook. Seconded by Jennifer O’Neill. Carried unanimously.

Treasurer’s Report

Jennifer O’Neill

Jennifer presented the Treasurer’s Report covering the period January 1 through July 31, 2025. Motion to approve the report by Jennifer O’Neill. Seconded by Steve Reynolds. Carried unanimously.

National Board Report

Cindy Shoemaker

Cindy distributed a detailed report to the board members prior to the meeting. Membership continues to decline. New members are being attracted but not at a rate that is great enough to offset attrition. The “5/5/5” incentive program designed to encourage recruiting new members and re-signing lapsed members is not being used by a number of units.

### OLD BUSINESS

Recording of Email Vote

Sharon Smith

Purchase of an Anker boundary microphone to facilitate participation by people attending via Zoom was approved. The vote was 9 in favor, 1 opposed.

Motion by Cindy Shoemaker to authorize the District 17 President to spend up to \$250 per annum for discretionary expenditures. Seconded by Jennifer O’Neill. Carried unanimously.

Motion by Sharon Smith to renew the Bridge in a Day contract. Seconded by Perry Van Hook. Carried unanimously. There was discussion about how to increase awareness of these teaching materials, along with mechanisms for training prospective teachers in how to use the materials most effectively.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

### Communications and Education

Sharon Smith

The Buzz is thriving under the editorship of Margaret Devere. Many favorable comments were noted.

Two District 17 board members were unable to access the membership list. ACBL has fixed the problem.

Cindy Shoemaker had trouble posting tournament banners on the District 17 website. This problem has been fixed. Nonetheless, the process of making changes to the website needs to be simplified.

### Elections

Kitty Larson

As of this writing there is one candidate to represent Units 355 and 358 on the District 17 Board. As of this writing there is one candidate to represent Unit 356. As of this writing it is not clear whether there is a candidate to represent Unit 373.

Kitty and Sharon will work on job descriptions and will seek individuals who are not members of the District Board who may be willing to chair a committee. There was discussion about whether each committee must include a board member.

### Goodwill

Steve Reynolds

Steve is leaving the board at the end of the calendar year so a new Goodwill Committee chair will be needed.

### NAP/GNT

Julie Clark

**NAP:** A link to a list of people who have qualified will be published in the Buzz. NAP finals will be held at the Albuquerque Regional in 2026. Per ACBL requirements, finals need to be complete by January 18<sup>th</sup>. If Albuquerque moves their tournament to a later date in 2027 it cannot be a venue for NAP unless ACBL changes the deadline.

**GNT:** National conditions of contest are not yet available. Last year there were some complications created by teams that withdrew, and in adjudicating a tie. Perry expressed the view that GNT qualifiers should be held online to allow people to participate without having to travel to a regional tournament. According to Matt Koltnow allowing online play does not seem to increase participation. The different environment of online play compared to face-to-face play and potential integrity issues are concerns. It was decided that additional gathering of facts should take place before making a decision about potential online GNT play. Some units provide stipends to teams to help defray the costs of participating in GNT finals.

### Grants

Kitty Larson

Motion by Kitty Larson to fund a grant request to start a game at a club in Unit 351 at a new venue. Seconded by Sharon Smith. Unit 351 supports the proposal but is not providing financial assistance. Concerns were expressed about the appropriateness of this kind of funding. Vote was 1 in favor, 7 opposed, 1 abstention.

Bill Phillips expressed the view that the grant program needs to be revisited to make it clear to applicants what sorts of requests are likely to be funded. Motion by Kitty Larson to suspend the grant program pending study and revision. Seconded by Jennifer O’Neill. Vote was 8 in favor, 1 opposed.

### Regional Tournaments

There was discussion about reinstating a regional tournament in Taos for 2026. The playing venue would be the Sagebrush. A Taos regional could be the site of the District 17 NAP finals. The quality of the hotel rooms at the Sagebrush Inn is a significant problem. There has been an inquiry from potential sponsors about a regional tournament to be held in Grand Junction, Colorado in 2027.

There was discussion about how speakers at tournaments should be recruited and selected. There was also discussion about potential teacher and/or club director best practices sessions.

### Future Meetings

Sharon Smith

Election of officers and other business will be addressed at a Zoom meeting to be held on December 11, 2025 at 8:30 AM MST.

The next in-person meeting of the District 17 Board will take place at 7:30 AM on January 14<sup>th</sup>, 2026 at 7:30 AM MST, continued on January 15<sup>th</sup> 2026 at 7:30 AM MST. Location is the Albuquerque Regional.

### Policy Manual Changes

Sharon Smith

Motion by Sharon Smith that in the event of a tie vote, the National Board Representative to the District 17 Board of Directors shall stand down and another vote shall be taken. Seconded by Jennifer O’Neill. Carried unanimously.

### ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 9:30 AM MST, August 15, 2025.

**Next Meeting: Thursday, December 11, 2025 at 8:30 AM MST, via Zoom**

Respectfully submitted,  
*William D. Phillips*  
Scribe