



Minutes of the District 17 Board of Directors Meeting

Albuquerque, NM - January 14-15, 2026

(subject to approval at the next board meeting)

Day 1: January 14, 2026

Present: Sharon Smith (President), Cindy Shoemaker (National Board), Kay Brock, Kitty Larson (via Zoom), Toby McEvoy (via Zoom), Jennifer O'Neill, Jack Shoemaker, Perry Van Hook, Steve Western.

Also present: Bill Phillips (Tournament Supplies).

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

GENERAL

Free plays were distributed, including allocating free plays for recipients not in attendance.

Opening Remarks

Sharon Smith

Sharon announced the nominations of Julie Clark and Kitty Larson from District 17 to the National Goodwill Committee. Sharon announced the nominations of Patricia Coates (Unit 354) and Jan Evans (Unit 374) to the National Charity Committee in recognition of their work to raise money for the Alzheimer's Association.

Approval of December 11th Meeting Minutes

Kay Brock

Motion by Jennifer to approve the minutes. Seconded by Perry. Carried unanimously.

Treasurer's Report

Jennifer O'Neill

Jennifer presented the Treasurer's Report covering the period of January 1 to December 31, 2025.

Discussion as to what should be done with money and interest being held from past Denver NABC and past Phoenix NABC.

Motion by Jennifer that the disposition of the interest accruing on the money being held by District 17 from past Denver and Phoenix NABCs should be deemed to be under the control of the D17 Board of Directors for the benefit of future NABCs. Seconded by Perry. Carried with one abstention.

Motion by Jennifer to amend the 2026 budget by \$600 to pay for renewal of Smore which is used to distribute the Buzz. Seconded by Perry. Carried unanimously.

Another expense that will exceed the budget is Bill's rental of a truck to bring the supplies to the Albuquerque Regional Tournament because Bill's truck broke down.

Jennifer explained that the Miscellaneous expense on the Income Statement was composed primarily of \$7,200 that will be transferred to the Treasurer of the 2027 Summer NABC in Las Vegas to enhance hospitality, and approximately \$11,000 of 2024 NABC expenses paid in 2025.

Motion by Perry to approve the 2025 Treasurer's Report. Seconded by Cindy. Carried unanimously.

National Board Report

Cindy Shoemaker

Cindy stated that she circulated the National Board Report to the membership, and about 70% opened the document. There are 3 main issues still under consideration:

1. Online events at regional tournaments.
2. Best utilization of local directors at local sectionals to balance cost and integrity.
3. Communication plan to assist districts in expanding Grass Roots fundraising.

The Unit President's Handbook is now available onsite. The 5/5/5 Unit Retention and Recruitment Plan is being streamlined to make it more user-friendly. EDGAR, the program to detect online cheating, is working well. The Codification is being reviewed and streamlined. Guest members of ACBL may no longer participate in regional tournaments. In the future, an ACBL membership may be a requirement to participate in a sectional.

Unit Representation Review

Kitty Larson

Board members reviewed District 17 Units and Membership chart. Discussion as to whether to reallocate board representation of Units 355 (N. AZ), 358 (Yuma, AZ) and 351 (Mesa, AZ) to make representation on the Board of Directors more equitable in relation to the number of members in those Units.

ACTION ITEM: Kitty, Jack and Steve will collaborate on a report to the Board at the April meeting in Tucson as to whether the reallocation of board members to membership is needed and as to how the reallocation of board member representation can be accomplished.

OLD BUSINESS

Policy Manual and Bylaws

Sharon Smith

Jennifer made several substantive suggestions for changes to the Policy Manual, including changing the name of the document to Policies and Procedures Manual.

Motion by Jennifer to increase the remuneration paid to District 17 Directors for in-person attendance at Board Meetings to \$750 beginning January 1, 2027. Seconded by Sharon. Carried unanimously.

Cindy suggested that job descriptions should be in an Appendix, rather than in the body of the document.

ACTION ITEM: Kay will revise Policy Manual to incorporate suggested corrections and changes and submit to the Board of Directors via email for approval.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Tournament Supplies

Bill Phillips

The cost to rent a truck to bring supplies to Albuquerque Regional will be \$1,200-\$1,300. Tires on trailer were scheduled for replacement in 2026, but this expense may be able to be delayed until 2027. Bill will closely monitor the condition of the tires.

Tournaments

Dave Baglee

Dave was absent due to illness. Per Jennifer and Kay, no significant updates from Tournament Committee.

Motion by Sharon to adjourn meeting until 7:30 a.m. January 15, 2026. Seconded by Jennifer. Carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 9:20 a.m.

Day 2: January 15, 2026

Present: Sharon Smith (President), Cindy Shoemaker (National Board), Kay Brock, Kitty Larson (via Zoom), Toby McEvoy (via Zoom), Jennifer O'Neill, Jack Shoemaker, Perry Van Hook, Steve Western.

Also present: Julie Clark (GNT, NAP, and Pianolas), Ken Horwedel (Albuquerque Regional Tournament Director).

THE PRESIDENT CALLED THE MEETING TO ORDER AT 7:27 AM MST.

Ken Horwedel discussed the tournament so far and answered questions from board members. Tournament schedules and game setup (brackets and flight sizes) are often driven by ACBL's masterpoint formulas, which can hamper directors' discretion. Ken's primary goal is to oversee the best game for the players, but at times his ability to do this is compromised due to ACBL mandates.

Education

Toby McEvoy

Toby anticipates expansion of the Bridge in a Day program, more school involvement, and perhaps having some type of get-together for bridge teachers at regional tournaments.

Pianola

Julie Clark

Pianolas are going fine. There was discussion of the one Pianola per regional policy (except in exceptional circumstances) and the potential use of Pianolas for NAPs and GNTs. Current Pianola policy was reviewed, and no changes were proposed.

GNT and NAP

Julie Clark

NAP District Finals are being held this weekend. They will be held at the Taos regional in September, 2026. There was discussion of where they will be located in 2027. They need to be held at a regional after August 31.

GNT District Finals will be held at the Denver regional and online. Low number of teams has been an issue. This is the first year for the new GNT qualifying strategy. Two online GNT qualifiers are planned to support teams that are unable to play in person.

Goodwill

Perry Van Hook

ACTION ITEM: All board members will submit their goodwill nominations (paragraph and photo of candidate) to Perry by March 23 so he can proceed with awards, publication. Board members should ensure their nominees have not received goodwill recognition in the past ten years and that they are ACBL members in good standing.

Grant program

Perry Van Hook

Grant program is currently suspended pending clarification of purpose and structure of grants.

ACTION ITEM: Perry will prepare a proposal for communication of the purpose and structure of the grants program.

NEW BUSINESS

Grass Roots fundraisers at sectionals

Julie Clark

Discussion: May is Grass Roots month. District charges Grass Roots fee for GNT games, not for NAP games. 27% more silver points are awarded at Grass Roots sectional games (cost is \$1 per person more). District cannot require Grass Roots games. Money is to fund GNT. Money comes to district from ACBL in August. Money is paid as a subsidy to 1st and 2nd place GNT winners to help with cost of attendance at NABC final events. Issue: Do Grass Roots subsidies drive attendance? The Snowflake sectional in region 5 is an example of a sectional that runs a Grass Roots fundraising game. Money from charity games can go to 5 distinct funds (Jr. Fund, International Fund, Charity Fund, Education Fund, Grass Roots Fund).

Motion by Jennifer to no longer pay subsidies to 2nd place teams and pairs. Seconded by Perry. Motion was tabled pending discussion in Tucson.

ACTION ITEM: Dave and Tournament Committee will reach out to Units holding tournaments to determine if there is potential to increase Grass Roots funding from sectional or regional charity events.

Logo

Cindy Shoemaker

Discussion as to pros and cons of changing to proposed ACBL logo or keeping current D17 logo.

Motion by Sharon to keep current D17 logo as it is. Seconded by Cindy. Carried unanimously.

ACTION ITEM: Julie will ensure that Pianolas use existing D17 logo. Dave will ensure that regional tournament flyers are consistent in use of D17 logo. Cindy will notify ACBL we are keeping old logo.

Taos Regional 2026

Jennifer O'Neill

Everything is on schedule. The flyer has been prepared. Jennifer will request money from Taos Marketing and Tourism office to help fund event. Volunteers will be needed.

NEXT MEETING

Sharon Smith

The next meeting will be held at the Tucson Regional on April 9 and 10, 2026 at 7:30 am.

Motion by Cindy to adjourn meeting. Seconded by Perry. Carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 9:20 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kay Brock

District 17 Recording Secretary