

DISTRICT 11 BOARD MEETING
November 7, 2025
2025 Louisville/Lexington Regional
DRAFT

In attendance:

Officers – Billie Brown, President; Maribeth Ransel, Vice President; Steve Moese, Secretary. Potter Orr, Treasurer.

Voting Members - **Unit 117** Dotty Losey, Bill Cook; **Unit 122** Tom Bishel, Janelle Courtright; **Unit 124** James Danziger; **Unit 136** Bob Zangri; **Unit 164** Susan Bullard; **Unit 193** Jeffrey Chapman;

Alternates: **Unit 124** Monica Ibarra; **Unit 130** Maribeth Ransel; **Unit 164** Andra Gyor; **Unit 193** Jack McCullagh.

Guest: **Unit 124** Judy Ruhle

Absent: **Unit 124** Jim Barrett, **Unit 130** Susan Spickelmier; Marsha Callahan; **Unit 136** Bob Stitt; **Unit 164** Ken Katen; **Unit 193** Bill Lea; Bill Brewer, **Education Coordinator**; Ryan Schultz, **GNT/NAP Coordinator**.

CALL TO ORDER – by President Billie Brown at 6:05 PM EST.

President Billie Brown welcomed alternates, visitors and new board member Janelle Courtright Unit 122. The Board offered Susan Spickelmier condolences on the loss of her mother. Billie mentioned that all Board documents for the meeting are in the D11 Google Drive (these documents are for Board members only). As always members should have these key links bookmarked in their browser for future reference.

Secretary Steve Moese, confirmed a quorum was present.

President Billie Brown reminded everyone to address the chair to be recognized, that only voting members are eligible to make motions and to cast votes, and that the meeting will be recorded (audio) with the recording published to the google drive and the draft minutes to the website. Billie also reminded those present about the best way to make and second a motion. No additions were offered to the agenda.

MINUTES – The Board approved the September 13, 2025 Dayton/Columbus minutes by unanimous consent.

President Billie Brown reminded the Board to review Unit updates on the Google Drive.

President Billie Brown reaffirmed D11 Priorities: grow in-person bridge, grow bridge classes, support our tournaments, and improve retention and recruiting members. She thanked all board members and commented on the excellence of our District 11 Regionals. Billie noted the change in Cincinnati's Tournament Chair and we expect continuing excellence. Tanks to all who are tournament chairs, hospitality chairs, and partnership chairs. Bille recognized the great contribution Cindy made to the hospitality at this tournament. Billie also thanked all teachers and mentors, charging all of us to go home and say thank you to our volunteers.

Next year Evansville and Columbus/Dayton will have the split regional at the end of August. Tom Bishel explained that the calendar change was required by space availability at Sinclair College, the beginning of Rosh Hashana, and the desire to avoid overlapping Pittsburg and Atlanta Regionals.

LOUISVILLE LEXINGTON TOURNAMENT REPORT

Bill Cook Unit 117 and Andra Gyor Unit 164 - Tournament Chairs – Tournament table counts are up and will likely exceed the past two years. With only 12 empty tables, growth next year might max out the space. We will check neighboring restaurants for contingent space.

TIME BETWEEN TOURNAMENT SESSIONS

Jams Danziger U124 – How are the Units dealing with the ACBL desire to have 5 hours between the start of sessions at tournaments. We face challenges:

- 1) Cincinnati still wants to have an evening game. AN evening game is important for working members and younger members. Starting later than 7:30 is a negative.
- 2) 24 boards are not as popular as 26-27 per session.

We consider 10-3-7:30 start sequence to allow 28 boards daytime but keeping the 7:30 start for evening bridge,

Tom Bishel Unit 122 – the third session requires enough staff so directors do only 2 sessions per day. With enough staff, the 5-hour limit would not apply. Staff can do 2 sessions per day. Directors are hourly employees so overtime rules apply.

Steve Moese Unit 124 – Indianapolis and Cincinnati are the only two regionals that attempt to run evening games.

Bob Zangry Unit 136 – If you don't have evening games, working players have no option. Dayton Unit averages 79 years old.

James Danziger – Did the change to 9 or 9:30 affect attendance?

Steve Moese – 9 or 9:30 used to be the norm in Cincinnati. As membership aged, the time changed to 10 AM.

Susan Bullard – Starting Cincinnati earlier than 10 makes traffic an issue for Lexington, Louisville and Columbus.

Dotty Losey – I would not attend a 9 or 9:30 start.

INDIANAPOLIS 2026 BOARD MEETING – DATE AND TIME

Maribeth Ransel as a late minute alternate deferred to a later date.

5/5/5 REPORTS

Steve Moese mentioned that 555 has not delivered on the desired results and most of our units are not achieving the additional results.

James Danziger mentioned that contacts are happening, but results are not matching expectations.

Steve Moese mentioned that club managers are more likely to get people to return than unit board members are.

BOOST PROGRAM

Bob Zangri Unit 136 – We've done BOOST twice and we have over 200 replies, and 60 people in training.

Unfortunately, we could not convert them to members or get them out of start-up games. Many people came to learn but then returned to their community games. Currently have 2 training sessions: one for brand new people (25-30) and one for intermediates (30). We get people in, but cannot convert them.

Bill Cook Unit 117 – When do you run your beginning classes?

Bob Zangri – We run them on an open day with no other game.

Bill Cook- Recommend you run your beginner training on days during existing games so newbies see the fun other people are having.

Steve Moese – The ACBL asks that all Boost programs register participants as Guest Members. Guest Membership is no permanent – membership number is assigned for life. Guest members can earn up to 20 masterpoints before becoming full members. They cannot play in tournaments.

FEES CHARGED TO REGIONALS BY DISTRICT 11

Potter Orr reported the results of his poll of 25 District Treasurers. The details are on the D11 Board Google Drive in the meeting folder for this meeting. 17 treasurers replied. 6 run regionals themselves.

Of the 11 districts who delegate regionals, 2 responding districts do not charge anything: D1 (Eastern Canada) and D23 (Los Angeles). 2 charge less than we do. 3 charge more than we do. 1 is not clear.

D11 charges regionals \$250 plus \$0.40 per table.

D8 (St Louis/Illinois) charges \$900 or 4% of the entries plus \$1/table whichever is greater.

D9 (Florida) charges \$1350 per regional. District 9 has 18,000 members.
D17 (Colorado, Arizona, New Mexico) charges \$8 per table, excluding charity and pro-am tables.
In 2025 Cincinnati paid \$543. Range for D11 was \$325-450 for the others.

Net, there is room to increase fees when we need them.

UNIT REPORTS – only 3 from our 7 Units.

Unit 124 (James Danziger) is an example of a good report.

SECRETARY REPORT/WEBSITE REPORT/ADVISORY COUNCIL REPORT - Steve Moese

Steve will provide an attendance report for Indianapolis.

The pianola usage since last meeting was shared. Potter will bill the Units accordingly. D11 spent about \$15 for the NAP finals – we need to double that next time. Unit 117 will be billed \$114.49 for 22890 emails (~34000, with a rebate for a failed link). Unit 130 charged \$18.70 for the NLM regional.

Steve asked all members to help make the District Website familiar to their Units.

Motions for review by the Advisory Council for the November ACBL Board meeting arrived late November 6, 2025. Three need D11 input.

- 1) Eliminate online pairs games from regionals.
- 2) Changes to local sectional terms (R11 rating down from R13, 50% Silver down from 80% silver; max 50 tables per session up from 25 (though two local sectional directors will be required for >25 tables). Local sectionals can run only one session pairs, and one or two session Swiss teams.

Changes to the local sectional are aimed at reducing costs for Units where necessary. Andra Gyor and Sue Bullard mentioned the use of local sectionals recently. Players didn't want the reduction to 80%.

James Danziger – these changes go against what they want to accomplish.

Bill Cook – this hurts the NonLifeMaster – the people we are trying to encourage to play more.

Andrea Gyor Unit 164 – NLM Local Sectional always awarded 100% Silver points.

Jack McCullagh Unit 193 – Will this change affect STaCs? No, it will not.

James Danziger – we pay a local director ½ what we pay an ACBL director, allowing us to make a profit.

Sue Bullard – Sectionals pay greater awards for single session events than 2 session events. 2-session events pay about 1.5x a single session.

Tom Bishel – a two session Swiss Team game is under-valued. Pays about ½ the same size pair game.

Dotty Losey – I would not be happy to have to go to twice as many sectionals to get the silver points I need.

Steve Moese – do not know if local sectionals are now close to what STaCs award with this change.

Jeff Chapman – Happy to hear people are opposed to this change (reduction in silver points).

Maribeth Ransel – anything that discourages players is the wrong thing to do. Anything that confuses newer players will discourage them too.

Bob Zangri – we do not have open sectionals – none. Many D11 Units showed they hold local sectionals.

Steve Moese – under the new rules can borrow a local sectional director within a 55-mile radius.

- 3) Grand National Teams (GNT) Funding – ACBL concerned about \$12000 deficit from paying for championship flight entries paid by Management. Discussion suggests Districts will be charged for these entry fees. ACBL suggests Units run at least 2 grass roots games at sectionals (\$4/table for 1.3-1.5x masterpoints) to increase available Grass Roots (GR) funds.

GR games are the Grand National Teams and the North American Pairs (NAP). May is GR Month when clubs run games at extra cost for extra masterpoints. These games fund GNT and NAP stipends paid by the ACBL. Each District gets a GR refund to support GR games. That refund to D11 has dropped from about \$7K to \$1256.69 this year – because our clubs are not running grass roots games, our players are

not playing in them, and the ACBL changed the compensation so larger districts keep more of their monies.

Why does the ACBL want to recover the funds from the NABC costs? We do not know.

TREASURER'S REPORT – Potter Orr

The detailed report is on the Google Drive. We have a small profit this year. Payments for 2023 and 2024 fees from regionals to the District are billed. Payments from the units are pending.

District subsidies for GNT and NAP will run out of funds after next year. D11 pays much more for GNT subsidies than D11 takes in. D11 typically makes \$400-500 from the GNT finals, but pays out \$6000 to GNT finalists who play in the NABC finals. D11 had been using the Grass Roots Funds from the ACBL to make up the difference.

Accumulated unused GR funds are at \$8907, meaning after 2026 our balance will be under \$2K. Fees charged by ACBL for TDs have increased substantially.

D11 needs a plan to manage GNT stipends and their funding. Potter Orr and Ryan Schultz will bring a proposal to the Indianapolis meeting.

Sue Bullard – we cannot get anyone from Lexington to participate. They participate in local games.

Bob Zangri – I was the only Dayton player at the NAP.

Steve Moese – Indianapolis, Columbus and Cincinnati were the majority of the players in the NAP this year.

One of the solutions might be to raise the fee charged by the District to the D11 Regionals.

GNT/NAP COORDINATOR REPORT - Steve Moese for Ryan Schultz

NAP was a modest success. Table counts were 5 Open, 5 A, 15 B, 8.5 C. There is a detailed attendance analysis on the Google Drive.

Recommendations:

Cause clubs to promote GR Finals – when clubs run NAP Qualifiers, they should be promoting the finals.

Get NAP Finals poster ready in June for Clubs to distribute during qualifying games.

Make people aware that Gold points are available in their strata for overall finishes.

Make NLMS aware that these two events are the only events where they can earn GOLD POINTS without playing against a Life Master.

Encourage Units to provide additional stipends for their members

Solve the partnership problem. Of 1376 qualifiers, only 118 showed up to play.

Send two D11 email blasts per event.

Potter Orr – We have been paying Cincinnati \$1000 rent for both NAP and GNT finals. When we started that, Saturday PM was a big game at Cincinnati. Should we ask for a discount?

James Danziger – Money goes to hospitality (over \$300).

Tom Bishel – That's a very cheap rental you couldn't get on the market.

Steve Moese – The addition of the fourth flight (flight A) to the NAP means the District will have to pay an additional \$400 in stipends. May we have a motion to pay the additional \$400 for Flight A NAP third place finishers based on their proven participation?

MOTION: Bob Zangri Unit 136 **SECOND:** Susan Bullard Unit 164

Pay the \$400 stipend for Flight A third place finalists on proof of play in the NABC finals. Passed Unanimously.

2026 D11 GNT Finals will be Sunday April 12, 2026 with Saturday April 11, 2026 held in reserve pending reservations for Flights Open and A.

Who should provide the caddy for the GNT? Unit 124 and Ryan Schultz to decide who pays the cost.

Data analysis shows how much attendance in the NAP will improve if each Unit achieves at least a 4% attendance.

TOURNAMENT COORDINATOR - Tom Bishel

December 8-14 is our Royal STaC (combined with Districts 7&10, so lots of overall points are available).

Bill Cook – Questioned the new design for NABC tournaments. When will the change happen?

Steve Moese – the ACBL is considering a trial for an upcoming Fall NABC not sooner than 2028. The change will eliminate all Regional and I/N games, this means that all games will be NABC or NABC+ Rated. All 4+ Session games will have consolation events for eliminated players rated NABC. Events will be FLIGHTED: 0-750 NLM; U3000; U6000; and Open. This means I/N players will play in NABC games in a larger peer group. Whether U100 or U200 games will be offered is unclear. Pricing has not been determined. The objective is to make NABC tournaments more exciting for everyone and give everyone a chance to win Platinum points.

Bill Cook talked this idea with several people and they don't like it. Steve talked it with several people and they did like it – so the proposal will likely have mixed reviews.

There will be lower attendance for the tournament. Not many people are interested in an NABC only tournament. The data shows NABC games are increasing in attendance, but Regionals and I/N games are dropping in attendance.

GETTING READY FOR TOURNAMENTS

Maribeth Ransel showed how the ACBL copied the Indianapolis program and made a brochure – Welcome to Your First Tournament. The ACBL offers a .pdf so we can print it ourselves. We can send you the .pdf.

DISTRICT MINI-MCKENNEY AND ACE OF CLUBS AND OTHER RECOGNITION.

Maribeth Ransel shared her idea for improving how we recognize District Achievers. A formal proposal will be made in Indianapolis in 2026.

Next Board Meeting is in Indianapolis in February – time and date TBD.

There being no more business before the Board, on motion and second, Billie Brown adjourned the meeting at 7:42 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Steve Moese, Secretary