

**DISTRICT 10
BOARD OF DELEGATES MEETING**
Biloxi, Mississippi
January 31, 2009

The Mid-South Conference Board of Delegates met on January 31, 2009 at the Mississippi Gulf Coast Regional which was held at the Mississippi Coast Coliseum in Biloxi, MS.

District 10 Units were represented by the following Voting Delegates* and 1st Alternates**

Unit 134 Louisiana	John Federico *
Unit 138 Mississippi	Chuck Wilkinson*
Unit 144 Tennessee	Cecile Skaggs*-not present
Unit 157 Alabama	Don Kemp*
	O.T. Johnson **
Unit 161 Arkansas	Dave Siebert*
Unit 170 Shreveport	William Young*
Unit 179 Central TN	Art Lowen **
Unit 180 MS Gulf Coast	Lynne Logan*
Unit 182 Baton Rouge	Craig Cordes *
Unit 211 N.E. Louisiana	Dr. Otis K. Lovette* – not present
Unit 214 Hattiesburg	Jim Etheridge*-not present
Unit 215 S. Alabama	Fran Krizman*-not present
Unit 220 S. Arkansas	Jack Tidball*
Unit 221 S.W. Louisiana	Tamah Goad*
Unit 232 N. Alabama	Paul Munafo* - not present

The following District 10 officials were in attendance.

**REPRESENTATIVE TO
ACBL BD/DIRECTORS-Bill Cook**
District 10 President – Jack Tidball
Vice-President - Dave Seibert
Treasurer - Lynne Logan

The following Visitors were also in attendance.

Ruth Singletary, Unit 221
Don Kern, Unit 215

President's Welcome

The meeting was called to order by Jack Tidball. He explained to the board why Judy Knox, Board Secretary, was not present at the meeting and that Don Kemp would attempt to handle her duties for the day.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the last meeting were distributed. A motion was made by Don Kemp, seconded by David Siebert, to approve the minutes. The motion passed.

Tournament Coordinator Report – Charles MacCracken

In the absence of Charlie MacCracken, Jack Tidball read Charlie's report which follows:

The Sectional applications for 2009 are mostly in. Regional applications for 2009 and 2010 are all in, but two are missing from 2011 and are delinquent by ACBL rules. The new Regional rotation needs to be decisively settled so D-10 can be in compliance soon.

Please advise your Tournament Coordinators that plans should be made for Sectional dates in 2010 and Regional dates in 2012.

We are in an economic slump. Now is a good time to try to put pressure on hotels and playing facilities to come down in price. I predict there will be a lot of properties in financial difficulties, so take full advantage.

Charles MacCracken

Tournament Oversight Committee

**Chuck Wilkinson, Art Lowen, Jack Tidball
Presented by Chuck Wilkinson, Committee Chairman**

Chuck Wilkinson stated that the schedule of events for all regionals had been approved. Bill Cook stated that there had been a lot of complaints about the schedule of events where B&C players get thrown into the same bracket as A players in KO's. He suggested that in small regionals, events which will place B&C players in the top bracket should be avoided. It was stated that the board could instruct Charlie MacCracken not to approve KO's which would result in that situation. Perhaps small regionals (less than 1,000 tables) should not have KO's.

David Siebert suggested that no team be forced into bracket 1. Art Lowen stated that the Biloxi Regional is a good example. Bracket 1 is fine in the first KO here. The second KO was an example of not having enough teams. He suggested maybe we shouldn't have as many KO's. David S. said that they shouldn't run "side by side." Maybe have a compact KO the second day for those who were knocked out of the first KO.

Bill Cook said the board should talk to Charlie M. through the Tournament Oversight Committee. Bill will provide the committee with his background information.

Jack Tidball explained that the District 10/7 STaC would be held during the following week. He stated that District 7 is running into scheduling problems with STaCs. He stated that they feel that the extra point games at clubs, including STaCs, may be killing off sectionals. District 7 may be doing away with STaCs because of conflicts with Sectionals.

Bill Cook mentioned that table counts are up at STaCs nationwide.

Jack T. stated that he had never seen a 1,500 team complain about playing a novice team. David S. stated that Unit 161 decided to have an 8 is Enough at all their sectional KO's, but that a KO set up that way can only give 80% of sectional points.

Art Lowen's Report

Art referred to table counts for regionals, and referred to the current allocation of regionals. He thinks that Jackson should be eliminated from the full regional rotation, and Nashville should be added.

Art reviewed the situation at the Hot Springs Regional where the board discussed the proposed new regional rotations presented by the Tournament Oversight Committee. He suggested that the new regional rotation was not approved due to recommended changes making the Biloxi Regional two out of three years, rather than annual. He presented a new recommendation to the board. Please see Exhibit A attached for a copy of this report.

Art moved, seconded by Lynne Logan, that the board rescind the tournament allocation approved at Hot Springs and reconsider today.

Chuck Wilkinson stated that the new proposal had not been presented to the Tournament Oversight Committee, and that he feels that there needs to be more study of it by the committee. Craig Cordes asked what is the goal, is it profit or is it to be fair to the players?

Don Kern stated that the profit from the Mobile Regional helps Mobile significantly. Art responded that Mobile gets a portion of the revenue sharing from the district.

Chuck W. referred to exhibit F, showing how many opportunities Nashville had to go to nearby regionals compared to cities in the southern part of the district.

Tamah Goad stated that Tunica and Biloxi get good attendance even though they are not near a lot of places.

Lynne L. stated that the Grand will be ready in 2009, that there will be more casinos and more convention space in the future, but she is not sure when the Biloxi Regional will be able to get back into a casino, probably 2011 at the earliest.

Craig C. asked what is the goal, places with most success or places accessible to players? Don Kern stated that it is expensive to go to regionals in New Orleans, cheaper in Mobile. O.T. Johnson stated that the quality of the tournament has a lot to do with attendance.

Bill Young wants to keep the split regional in Shreveport. David S. likes what Art has done, said let's do something today. Art L. stated we need to do it today to get tournaments sanctioned. Chuck W. stated that Art's proposal is too dramatic in his opinion.

Lynne L. asked John Federico if New Orleans would hold their regional in Biloxi and split the profit. Bill Y. suggested that we keep what was approved in Hot Springs. Chuck W. said that if we rescind what was done in H.S., we don't have a schedule laid out.

Lynne L. suggested that we postpone a decision until the next meeting. Art suggested that we rescind the H.S. vote, move to option #5, if N.O. agrees to go with Biloxi. Then let the Tournament Oversight Committee set it up.

Jack T. said it was put on the agenda and there was no feedback prior to the meeting. Art moved that we rescind the action taken at Hot Springs, replace it with option #5, the T.O.C. handle the schedule if New Orleans agrees then we would have a 3 year rotation. Seconded by Lynne L. The motion failed.

Lynne Logan moved that the T.O.C. reexamine the situation and make recommendations at the Vicksburg Regional. Seconded by Don Kemp. The motion passed. Comments should be forwarded to the T.O.C. (Tournament Oversight Committee)

NAP/GNT/STaC Coordinator Report – Russ Jones

Russ Jones' report was distributed to the board. Lynne L. moved, seconded by John F. that the report be accepted. The motion passed. Russ's report follows:

I will not be able to attend the Biloxi meeting and, therefore, am making the following report and recommendations:

- (1) The attendance at the NAOP Flight A was up .5 tables from last year to 7 at Tunica;
- (2) The attendance at the NAOP Flight B/C was up 2 tables from last year at Vicksburg;
- (3) Most units have scheduled GNT Unit Finals but some have not. Each unit needs to be reminded they are REQUIRED to schedule a A/B/C unit final for GNT between now and April 10, 2009.

Recommendations:

- (1) Previously, we have voted to alternate the GNT A/B/C between Jackson and Tupelo depending on whether it was Jackson's year for a regional. Originally, this was ever other year. Since the regional rotation has been changed, Jackson now receives a regional only every third year. I recommend we change the rotation of GNT A/B/C to Jackson every year that they do not hold a regional. In the years with Jackson regionals, the GNT will be held at Tupelo.
- (2) Last year we accumulated funds to send the A/B/C GNT winners to the nationals. We had no attendance in any of these three flights. Therefore, the money is still in the treasury. We will again raise monies through unit finals for the GNT. I recommend we place the monies from 2008 with the monies from 2009 and pay it out to the winners of this year's A/B/C flights. The minimum reimbursement formula of \$1200 per team would still be in place.

Please let me know if you need any clarification on these issues. Have a good meeting.
Russ

There were funds allocated to the GNT teams which were not spent since several teams were unable to go to the nationals. Chuck W. moved, 2nd by Lynne L., that the money be put back in the general fund of the district.

Forum Editor/Webmaster Report – Don Kemp

Forum Editor, Don Kemp reported that the changing the Mid-South Forum to quarterly did not eliminate the losses. While we had lower expenses, we also had lower income. After some discussion it was decided to continue the Forum, with the current rate schedule. Lynne Logan suggested that we go back to six issues a year. Bill Cook suggested that we do a survey to get feedback from our members.

Bill Cook 's Report

Bill Cook reported that after two years of the ACBL Board of Directors dealing with relocating the Memphis headquarters, they have decided to remain in the Memphis area. Management was authorized to build a new facility if they can't find a suitable building. They will be viewing a building this week.

In 2007 the ACBL board adopted a plan of succession for when Jay Baum retires in 2010. There will be an NABC in New Orleans in 2010.

ACBL has developed a bridge column to be distributed to local weekly newspapers to promote bridge in local areas. ACBL will email the column weekly. Local weekly papers should be contacted by local clubs to encourage them to use the weekly columns, when they become available.

ACBL has put the Bridge Bulletin online. There was a good membership increase last year. ACBL is in good financial condition. There has been a discussion of StaC changes.

Treasurer's Report - Lynne Logan

Lynne Logan, District 10 Treasurer gave the Treasurer's report for 2008. Please see Exhibit "B" which is attached for a copy of Lynne's report.

New Business

Jack Tidball presented several policies which needed to be approved by the board to be in compliance with 501/C regulations. Art L. moved, seconded by Chuck W., that the by-laws be amended to include these rules as part of District 10 by-laws. The motion passed. (You should be able to get copies from Jack.)

Art Lowen said that Birmingham lost money on their regional and asked whether the district should share in the loss. The general consensus was that the district should not, but that there is not a policy in place. The district will set up a policy stating that it is not responsible for regional losses.

Jack Tidball stated that Lynne's job as treasurer had increased with the requirement to do a tax return every year. Art Lowen. moved, 2nd by Chuck W. that the treasurer's salary be increased from \$500 per year to \$1,000 per year and that the district will pay for the tax preparation by Rick Logan, if approved by the Executive Committee. Motion passed.

Bill Cook stated that we will need \$1,000 to \$1,500 for the hospitality packets for ACBL board members.

Art L. moved, 2nd by Lynne L. that any disputes between two cities on the date of a split regional be referred to the T.O.C. for resolution, after consultation with Charlie M. The motion passed.

Chuck W. stated that the ACBL President will be at the Vicksburg Regional. He said that it is customary for the district to pay his hotel bill.

Chuck stated that there is a vast gap in tournament chair's knowledge of how to run a regional. The district should come up with a set of guidelines.

Old Business

Chuck Wilkinson reported that the Building Fund Committee had fulfilled it's mission by dispersing the last of the funds allocated for Katrina recovery, and that the committee expired at Tunica. Biloxi submitted a huge request which depleted the remainder of the funds.

Election of Officers for 2009

Jack Tidball said that his unit is being dissolved, and that he did not wish to run for president again. He opened the floor for nominations.

Chuck W. nominated David Siebert for president. There were no further nominations and Siebert was elected by acclamation.

Chuck W. nominated John Federico for V.P. There were no further nominations and JF was elected by acclamation.

Lynne L. nominated Judy Knox for secretary. There were no further nominations and JK was elected by acclamation.

Art L. nominated Lynne L for treasurer. There were no further nominations and LL was elected by acclamation.

There being no further business, LL moved that we adjourn, 2nd by John F. The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Judy Knox

Judy Knox
District 10 Secretary