

**. DISTRICT 10
BOARD OF DELEGATES MEETING
Tunica, Mississippi
September 25, 2010**

The Mid-South Conference Board of Delegates met on September 25, 2010 at the Delta Dealin' Regional which was held at Sam's Town Casino in Tunica, Ms. The delegates enjoyed breakfast of scrambled eggs, bacon, biscuits and gravy before the meeting was called to order.

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*
	Don Paterson**
Unit 157 Alabama	Don Kemp*- Absent
	O.T. Johnson **
Unit 161 Arkansas	Ned Irving *
	Betty Schultz**
Unit 170 Shreveport	William Young*
	Linda Young**
Unit 179 Central TN	David Birnbaum*
	Coley McGinnis**
Unit 180 MS Gulf Coast	Lynne Logan **
Unit 182 Baton Rouge	Craig Cordes *
Unit 211 N.E. Louisiana	Dr. Otis K. Lovette*
Unit 214 Hattiesburg	Bob Shearer * - Absent
Unit 215 S. Alabama	Don Kern*
Unit 221 S.W. Louisiana	Marcia Young*
	Susan Menache**
Unit 232 N. Alabama	Paul Munafo*

The following District 10 officials were in attendance.

**REPRESENTATIVE TO
ACBL BD/DIRECTORS-Bill Cook
District 10 President – David Siebert
Vice-President – John Federico
Treasurer - Lynne Logan
Secretary – Judy Knox**

President's Welcome

The meeting was called to order by David Siebert, President of District 10 at 8am.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the last meeting were distributed by Judy Knox. A motion was made to approve the minutes. The motion passed. The Board of Directors minutes from the meeting in Biloxi, MS on January 30, 2010 were approved.

Tournament Coordinator Report – Charles MacCracken

Charlie said Tournament applications are coming in really well. This Tournament is down about 6%. There is some speculation as to why. There are 2 other regional tournaments. One is in Naples and one is in Fort Wayne. Tunica County is down about 8% for the year for Gambling and someone else said it was more like 20%. The bloom may be withering for gambling sites. Nashville was a little disappointing. It was just before New Orleans which had some effect. Hot Springs was up some from what is normally is. 2 years ago it was on Mother's day and that had some effect. Sanction Applications are due for 2013 and you should be thinking about 2014 applications.

Bill Cook brought up the proliferation of Tournaments in October. There are 5 sectionals October this year. The League regulations allow Sectionals every week end. We are a large Geographical Unit and October is extremely popular. We have about 30 Sectionals per year. It is hard not to have an accumulation. Is there a way to re-arrange them? Maybe they could hold some of them in August. Are there chances for people to shift around? Charlie did not know of any way to do anything about this right now.

There was a discussion regarding complaints from people who were not able to get a non-smoking room. If they do get one, it reeks of smoke. We can let the hotel know they need more non-smoking rooms. There was a complaint about the smoking area outside the Tournament door. Lynne Logan stated the ship she was on, allows smoking but they have machines that can run in the room and it gets rid of the smoke. We can suggest that Sam's Town provide more non-smoking rooms for next year. It will be their decision.

Treasurer's Report - Lynne Logan

Lynne Logan, District 10 Treasurer gave the Treasurer's report for 2010. Lynne said she hopes everybody likes the Treasurer's report this year. We actually had a profit. One of the things that helped was that New Orleans was granted \$30,000 for hospitality and they requested \$15,000. They would request more if needed and they are sending us back \$5000. Once we get the National Hospitality fund to \$30,000 we can use it for the District.

Lynne said STAC money is still coming in. It was held in June and someone just now gave her some checks. Some checks are bouncing and bank accounts are closed. It is ridiculous for it to take this long for me to get the money. I don't know why you can't just send it straight tome. Some of these are private games and don't have anything to do with the Unit. If they don't want to pay their bill, we can't do anything about it. Withholding Master points is the way to get them to pay. Not letting them participate next time would be one way to make them pay. Lynne said one of the checks for \$348 bounced and she can't get a hold of anyone to pay it.

Someone has to coordinate the STAC. Jack Tidball was the last STAC coordinator. There was much discussion regarding the STAC collection problems. Judy Knox volunteered to be the STAC coordinator. She will send out the STAC instructions to all clubs and directors. The letter tells them to send the money directly to Lynne Logan. Dan Plato will send the letter to Judy to send out to clubs with instructions. If a club is in arrears, it will be up to ACBL to stop posting their master points. It sound like something the ACBL should address. (David Birnbaum) It is a Unit issue. Authority is given to Units for STACS but I do think we have some authority over that. (Bill Cook) (Please see Exhibit "A" which is attached for a copy of Lynne's report.)

Bill Cook 's Report

Bill Cook's Report addressed 6 areas of concern for the District: (See exhibit B attached for the complete report)

1. Slow Play – There are regulations in place now but the problem is to have Tournament directors enforce it. ACBL has asked the directors to help us put something in place so we can enforce this. The vote on the new language for the slow play regulations was deferred to the Orlando Meeting.
2. Re-districting. We have 25 districts. 22 are in the United States. Nobody wants to deal with this issue. Bill was one of 9 members who voted to consider re-districting. Real issues are here that need to be addressed. Some changes will be made on a case by case basis.
3. Regionals at sea. ACBL granted a regional every year to raise money for the USBF. They sold their rights to hold the tournament. Promoters made \$100,000 on this transaction. Word got out and several Units and Districts have applied for Regionals at sea. This issue was tabled to next Board Meeting. ACBL has the right to decide who gets regionals at sea. It is my personal feeling – No district or Unit should benefit for that kind of potential profit. ACBL should retain the right to host those regionals and profits should go to ACBL only. A special study committee was appointed to make recommendations to the Board on Regionals at sea. We will receive this recommendation at the Orlando Board Meeting.
4. CEO succession – Bill Cook is on this committee. Procedures dealing with the replacement of Jay Baum. He wants to retire July of 2012. The planning committee is to set guidelines regarding the process for looking for Jay's replacement. Someone will be brought on board 6 months before Jay's retirement.
5. Huge number of people playing on line. More and more pressure is put on ACBL to make them equal to face to face bridge players. We are reconsidering the 30% policy being used for advancement. It also throws them into higher brackets when they play in a real game. Their points are huge since they can play in a one hour tournaments for \$1. Chuck Wilkinson asked "Is there any way we can get info on these people to use for recruiting purposes?" Good point for potential recruiting. They don't play for MP. They play for convenience and ease of playing a few hands of bridge and not having to go out. It doesn't take up so much of their time. Tournaments on line last 1 hour.
6. ACBL adopted new regulations dealing with sectional and regional tournaments. It will be on the District web site. This is a big change and allows more regionals available to locations where there is a proliferation of members. Now the number of regionals you can have in your District is based on membership and participation at the regionals. It does not affect us. We are holding all the regionals that we can. (See exhibit C attached)

NAP/GNT/STaC Coordinator Report – Russ Jones

Right now we are in the midst of Unit Qualifiers for NAP. Sometimes we have a tough time with attendance, but we sanction them and try again now and to the end of the year with finals the second week of January in Jackson, Ms. Finals for A are tomorrow in Tunica. We had 6 and ½ tables last year. We are hoping to get an all-time record tomorrow. GNT are sanctioning now. Unit finals are between now and April 10th. We raise money to pay for travelers. In 2009, we had 262 total tables. This year we went to 299 tables (up 37 tables). We were down in A by 5 tables, up 5 tables in B and 25 in C. We paid \$1200 to A, \$1680 for B and \$1304 for C. We owe a refund of \$168 to the Jackson Unit. A late check from Nashville was sent to my old address. I just gave it to Lynne. The total amount we paid was \$2092. It was matched by the districts. I recommend we continue the process. You need to get your sanctions in. That's the Grand national teams and North American Pairs.

Webmaster Report – Don Kemp

Don was absent. David asked if anyone knew of any complaints about us not mailing out the District 10 Newsletter, the Forum? No one has heard any complaints.

Tournament Oversight Committee- Chuck Wilkinson, Coley McGinnes

Chuck had nothing to report except that David needs to appoint a third Committee Member. Jack Tidball was a member, but he has passed away. David appointed Don Kern as the new third Committee member for the TOC. Coley McGinnis was absent.

Education Liaison – Dick Heil

The purpose of the new proposed education policy is to delegate to the Units re-imbusement policy by the District. See proposed Education Policy which is attached at exhibit D. The old District Education reimbursement policy is attached at exhibit C. This will simplify the whole process. You don't need to go through Judy to get the request approved. Send the request to Dick. He sends it to Lynne and she issues the check. The District only paid \$1200 last year. The District is limited to \$10,000 per year for reimbursement of education expenses. Bill Cook stated that we have got to start promoting this policy. Let's spend this money and get people through the doors just by doing a little advertising. The only change to the education policy is the way the money is approved. There is no change in the amount. A Motion was made by Chuck Wilkinson to accept Dick Heil's proposed policy for educational reimbursement with the addition of the last paragraph from the old Education Policy which reads-"At present, the Mid-South Bridge Conference has committed up to \$10,000 per year for its educational reimbursement program. Multiple request may be submitted from the same unit. However, preference will be extended to units that are making their first submission." ACBL will reimburse 75%. The request for reimbursement must be submitted to ACBL first to receive the 75% before submitting it to District 10 for reimbursement. The educational Liaison must submit a report with a detail listing of all submissions and reimbursements at the District 10 meetings each year. The motion was seconded by Jane Dickey. The motion passed unanimously.

(John Federico, Vice President took over the meeting at this point. David Siebert had to leave to play in a knock out.)

Old Business

Discussion regarding re-scheduling Regional Tournaments to start at 10am and 3pm for major events. (Instead of 1:30pm and 7pm).

There was much discussion regarding this issue. A final motion was made by David Birnbaum to try this new time schedule on a test basis using Tunica as the test site starting in 2011 for the next 3 years. If it is successful for Tunica, it will be a requirement for all District 10 regionals from now on. Lynne Logan seconded the motion. It was approved unanimously.

New Business

1. **Discussion of fund raising events for the NABC in Memphis in 2012-Cecile Skaggs and Don Paterson – Unit 144 district representatives.**

A motion was made by David Birnbaum to allow Unit 144 to have the week of November 1 through November 7, 2010 and March 14 through March 20, 2011 to charge \$1.50 extra per table to go to the NABC-2012 Tournament fund-raiser. The motion was seconded by Lynne Logan. The motion was approved unanimously.

2. **Discussion regarding ACBL's decision to greatly limit the number of charity games a club can have.- Otis Lovette.** There was much discussion regarding this issue. Bill Cook said this issue was revisited in Reno. It was not up for reconsideration. ACBL refused to re-visit the issue. There are plenty of ways to get master points through other games. Certain months are set aside for the Junior Fund, the International fund and the Educational funds. If you have one for ACBL, you can have 1 for a local charity in any other months.
3. **Next District 10 Board of Directors meeting will be in Biloxi, Ms on Feruary 5, 2011.** Judy will send out Agendas for everyone's input 30 days in advance of the meeting.

There being no further business to discuss, a motion was made to adjourn. It was seconded by Lynne Logan. The motion was approved unanimously. The meeting was adjourned by John Federico.

Respectfully submitted,

Judy Knox
District 10 Secretary

EXHIBIT A

TREASURERS REPORT

EXHIBIT B

ACBL BOD MEETING
NEW ORLEANS

EXHIBIT C

SECTIONAL TOURNAMENT ALLOCATIONS

EXHIBIT D

OLD DISTRICT 10 EDUCATIONAL REIMBURSEMENT POLICY

EXHIBIT E

PROPOSED DISTRICT 10 EDUCATIONAL REIMBURSEMENT POLICY