

MINUTES
ACBL District 18 Board Meeting
10 March 2024 5:00pm MDT
Online via Zoom

Attendees

Andy Anderson, President and SK representative
Ray Fink, Secretary and WY representative
Tom Romine, Treasurer(USD) and MT representative
Steve Lawrence, Treasurer (CAD) and AB representative
Irene Monical, UT representative
Doug Rankin, Tournament Coordinator
Melissa Martin, D18 GNT Coordinator

Agenda Items

1. Minutes of the previous board meeting (15 November 2023) were approved
2. ACBL Representative Report Tim White (Region 13 Director) was unable to attend due to ACBL Board meeting in Louisville. He provided (via email) minutes from the most recent ACBL Board of Directors meeting
3. Financial Status Report (US) - Tom Romine
At the end of calendar year 2023, account balance \$12,843
As of 10 March 2024, account balance \$12,392
For 2023, a net loss of \$11,720 mostly due to losing money on Salt Lake City and Kalispell regionals.
4. Financial Status Report (CAN) - Steve Lawrence
At the end of calendar year 2023, account balance \$58,200 (approx.)
As of 10 March 2024, account balance \$56,050
5. GNT Report – Melissa Martin
2024 District 18 GNT Finals are sanctioned for online play (BBO) 19-20 April 2024. Melissa will prepare an email blast to all District 18 members, coordinating with David Johnson for distribution via Pianola

GNT Travel Subsidies: Previous travel subsidies (\$2000 local currency for the first place team, \$1000 for an eligible second place team) have resulted in considerable financial loss for the District, compared to the entry fees received.

BOARD DECISION: The Board will set GNT travel subsidies on a case-by-case basis each year. For 2024, the District intends to provide \$600 (local currency) to the first-place team in

each flight. If the first-place team chooses not to attend the GNT Finals, the second-place team will be eligible for the subsidy. The subsidy will not be offered to third- or lower placing teams even if they become eligible to attend the GNT Finals.

6. STaC Report – Doug Mann

No report; Doug was unable to attend due to a last-minute conflict.

7. NAP Report – Ray Fink

The 2023 District Finals were held in-person at the Kalispell regional in September. A total of 7 tables (combined Flights A, B, and C) were in play.

The District does not have any financial involvement in NAP events. Entry fees, director fees, etc., and travel subsidies are all through ACBL Headquarters.

BOARD DECISION: The District NAP Finals for 2024 will be held online on BBO. Flight A and Flight C finals (two sessions each) will be held concurrently on Sat 2 Nov 2024: Flight B finals (two sessions) will be held Sat 9 Nov 2024.

ACTION: Ray will prepare NAP Conditions of Contest and coordinate with Crystal Mann to obtain sanctions for these events.

8. Webmaster Report – Andy Anderson

The District website <https://www.wasumi.org/> is up and running. Additional up-to-date content is welcomed.

Andy has substantially revised the Regional Tournament Planning Guidelines.

BOARD DECISION: The recommended publicity budget should be limited to \$100. Printing and distribution of flyers for regionals is no longer recommended; use Pianola instead to distribute via email to players in the District and geographic proximity.

ACTION: Board members review the Guidelines and notify Andy of any recommended changes.

9. Upcoming Regionals

- a. Lethbridge Apr 8-14.
- b. District GNT Final (BBO) Apr 19-20
- c. Saskatoon I/N Jul 12-14. They have a very reasonably-priced playing site. The tournament will likely make money.
- d. Calgary Aug 12-18
- e. Helena Sep 2-8. The venue is low-cost; the tournament will likely make money.
- f. Lethbridge I/N Sep 27-29. A Sectional will be held concurrently.

10. Old Business

- a. Billings Regional 2025: A tournament chairman is in place. They think they have identified a usable site with reasonable pricing.
- b. Lethbridge will run an I/N Regional with a concurrent Sectional

- c. Calgary rotational schedule: The Red Deer unit has become too small to stage a regional every other year. Red Deer would like to hold a Regional in 2025.

BOARD DECISION: Calgary to host a Regional every other year, with Red Deer and Edmonton alternating in the off-years; Calgary - Red Deer – Calgary – Edmonton.

11. New Business

- a. Salt Lake City 2026 Regional The intended playing site is the Sons Of Utah Pioneers building, where the Salt Lake City club games and Sectional Tournaments are held. Both floors of the building will be needed. This site will be much less expensive than hotel convention space. A site contract is nearly completed.

- b. CAP Program This is the ACBL program that provides reimbursement for advertising expenses intended to develop new players. ACBL subsidizes 50% of the costs, provided certain requirements are met. ACBL has added a new requirement that newly-participating players must become ACBL members (free 4-month initial membership) in order to reimburse the club or teacher. In the past, the District had a policy to subsidize 25% of the costs (50% of the remainder after ACBL) up to \$250 per site.

BOARD DECISION: Rather than a blanket subsidy offer, the District will consider subsidy requests on a case-by-case basis. This is due to the current negative trends for District finances.

- c. Dispensing STaC Revenues ACBL remits all STaC proceeds to the District Treasurer on the US side (currently, Tom Romine). D18 STaC participation is relatively equal on both sides of the border, with slightly more participation on the US side. The Feb 2024 StaC had 83 US tables, 69 Canadian tables.

BOARD DECISION: Future STaC proceeds will be split 50-50 between US and Canadian accounts. The District Treasurer will remit the Canadian share to the Canadian account manager.

- d. Dispensing of Charity Funds The District received \$10,000 (USD) from the ACBL Charity Foundation for distribution to non-bridge-related 501(c)3 charities in the District.

BOARD DECISION: The Board approved the following distribution:

- \$4000 Alberta Children’s Hospital Foundation
- \$1000 Raising Readers In Wyoming
- \$2000 CASA of Yellowstone County, Montana
- \$1500 Utah Food Bank
- \$1500 Food Banks of Saskatchewan

Andy Anderson has notified ACBL Charity Foundation to this effect.

- e. Setting Entry Fees

BOARD DECISION: Due to the variability and uncertainty regarding costs of hosting regional tournaments, the board will not set blanket entry fees for regional tournaments. Entry fees will be determined on a tournament-specific basis.

- f. Schedule for Spring Regionals in US. There was some discussion whether scheduling Utah regionals in May creates a competitive conflict with the Denver regional that is always held the last week of May. If so, one possibility would be to

interchange the fall and spring US regional locations; currently Montana hosts a fall regional, with a spring regional intended for Utah/Idaho/Wyoming. The dates for the Salt Lake regional in May 2026 are mostly finalized at this point. No board action on this item.

g. Schedule for Fall Board Meeting

ACTION: Ray/Andy to schedule November meeting and do necessary Zoom setup

The meeting was adjourned at 6:25pm.