

MINUTES
ACBL District 18 Board Meeting
31 May 2026, 6:00pm MDT
Online via Zoom

Attendees

Dan Dover – President, AB representative, Treasurer (CAD)
James Dulmage – SK representative, Webmaster
Ray Fink – Secretary, NAP Coordinator, WY representative
Crystal Mann – GNT Coordinator
Doug Mann – Tournament Coordinator
Tim White – Region 13 Director
Susan Witcraft – MT representative

Not Present
Irene Monical – Treasurer, UT representative

Agenda Items

1. Board Actions by email since November 2025 meeting
    a. 2026-01-06 Douglas Mann is appointed as D18 Tournament Coordinator effective April 1, 2026. Moved Witcraft, seconded Fink, unanimously by email vote.
    b. 2026-01-09 Regional Planning Guide is amended to reflect the cashless policy. Dover moved to accept, seconded Fink, unanimously by email vote.
    c. 2026-01-27 By-laws updated and amended. Witcraft moved to accept, seconded by Dulmage, unanimously by email vote.
    d. 2026-02-12 Regional Planning Guide is amended to reflect ACBL policy that (beginning 2027) all players must have current ACBL membership. Moved Dulmage, seconded Monical, unanimously by email vote.

2. Minutes of the previous board meeting (23 Nov 2025) were approved

3. ACBL Representative Report (Tim White): Upcoming Board of Directors meeting at Minneapolis NABC in July. Tim is on three committees: Executive Director Review

(as chair), Finance, and Appeals and Charges. He is also the ACBL Board representative to the North American Bridge Federation. District 18 continues to lead the way in membership figures, especially with the guest membership program.

4. Webmaster Report (James Dulmage). Website hosting has been successfully migrated from HostPapa to WebHostCanada. Those services are in place for three years. James plans to consider a refresh of the website; it has a very dated style, does not render well on mobile devices, navigation needs improvement.

5. Financial Status – US (Irene Monical) Irene was not available for the meeting. She reported (by email) the following balances for the US account:
   1/1/2026 $20,166.55
   6/1/2026 $21,638.53
   Irene has filed the IRS tax form. State of Wyoming licensing will need to be filed in the next few months; Irene needs mailing address from all board members.

6. Financial Status – CAN (Dan Dover) The Canadian account balance is over $60,000 (CAD)

7. GNT Report (Crystal) The District GNT Finals were held F2F in Lethbridge AB on April 11-12, ahead of the Lethbridge regional. Participation was significantly lower than expected (22 tables total play); some Canadian players reluctant to travel to US for national finals and hence did not compete in qualifying rounds. US players are willing to travel to Canada.

   No pre-registration was required; this made space planning impossible. A rented space (for 16 tables) was oversized for the actual turnout. Had actual turnout been known in advance, the Lethbridge bridge club could have been used for free.

   Recommendations:
   (a) Mandatory pre-registration for district final, whether online or F2F
   (b) Board should decide online vs F2F, then have the coordinator take it from there
   (c) Consider alternating years for online and face-to-face district finals

8. STaC Report (Doug Mann) The District runs four STaC events annually, including a Royal STaC event after the fall NABC. These are run jointly with District 20, which results in a higher table count and increased overall masterpoint awards. Net revenue is approximately $650 per event, for a total revenue of about $2500 (US)

annually.

Four or five Montana Units have been running independent monthly STaCs, averaging 60-70 tables per event and a net revenue of about $150 distributed to the Units. Units can sponsor STaCs (not just districts), must follow sectional sanctioning channels to avoid geographic conflicts. Other clubs/units can join existing STaCs or start their own.

Doug's detailed report is attached.

9. NAP Report (Ray Fink) Ray proposed that the District NAP Finals be held online on BridgeBase. The online participation has averaged 20 tables entered, compared to 8 tables for F2F finals in recent years. The District will use BridgeBase rather than RealBridge due to more player familiarity with BBO; Ray thinks RealBridge is a better online platform (security and social aspects) and will consider in future years.

   The Board approved online District finals on 7 November 2026 (Open, A, C flights) and 14 November 2026 (B flight). Entry fee will be $40 (BB$) per player for the two-session event. BBO takes 25% of entry fees for hosting the event. Expected net revenue approximately $1200 based on similar attendance to the last online final in 2024.

   ***ACTION**: Ray to finalize District 18 Conditions of Contest and submit to ACBL HQ*.

10. Regional Reports 2026
    a. Lethbridge April 13-19, 2026. (Dan). Net revenue approximately $7300 CAD (financial summary is attached). Table count through Wednesday was running 30-40% ahead of forecast, then dropped significantly due to major snowstorm in Calgary. Total attendance slightly below previous years (434 tables)
       ***ACTION**: Crystal to re-send Lethbridge Herald article to James for possible website posting*
    b. Edmonton August 11-16, 2026 (Dan). Planning is progressing smoothly, with good communication from the organizing committee. The hotel venue is booked, was more cost-effective and convenient (to hotels and dining options) than non-hotel venues. Advertising has been via the District ACBL Pianola account; this was considered more cost-effective than an advertisement in the Bridge Bulletin ($500+ for a small ad).

c. Missoula September 14-19 (Susan). Planning is on track, organizing committee has been responsive to inquiries. A reasonably-priced venue has been booked. Advertising via Pianola with 500-mile radius (will include Seattle, Portland, Calgary, Salt Lake City).

11. Upcoming Regionals 2027
    a. Calgary August 3-8, 2027 (Dan). Hotel venue has been booked; was more economical than non-hotel venues. The District is managing planning directly; the Calgary Bridge Center/unit declined involvement.
    ***ACTION**: Dan to contact Emily about possible Calgary Tourism board advertising support*.
    b. Regina May 3-9 2027 (James). The Unit 573 committee is meeting June 7th to review preliminary budget, floor plan, and roles; no roadblocks reported.
    c. Kalispell(?) 2027 (Susan). A final decision is expected after Kalispell board meeting June 8th. Great Falls is a backup option if Kalispell declines.

12. Old Business

13. New Business
    a. Web services. (see Webmaster report above)
    b. Board duplication expense policy. Approved rates: $10 USD per set, $12 CAD per set. Rates are not equivalent by exchange rate, but consistent with other expense limits (advertising, caddies). The rates eflects actual work involved (approximately 1.5 hours per session running boards) and cost amortization of a duplicating machine.
    c. Policy Manual development. Susan has circulated a draft version for review, with expense limits identified separately in an Appendix for annual review/update as needed.
    d. Regional Planning Guidelines. This has been separated from the District Policy Manual and updated to eliminate duplication between the policy manual and the planning guidelines. Dan is attending an ACBL regional planning meeting next week and will review our Guidelines afterward.
    e. Bridge Bulletin advertising for Regionals. Using the ACBL Pianola account we can reach all District members, or all ACBL members within a 500-mile radius, for under $100. A small ad in the Bulletin costs over $500. The board decided that Bulletin ads for regionals are discouraged.
    f. District Newsletter. Dan will circulate the next district newsletter for board feedback before sending out to the District membership.

g. Charity Games. Susan will update District Charity Game policy to reflect that proceeds from Canadian clubs will go to the Canadian Bridge Federation. District-wide Charity Game is scheduled for November 2nd; clubs that do not have a scheduled game on that date may participate if no other clubs in the area are conducting games that day.
   ACTION: *Susan to contact all club directors/unit presidents by October 1st regarding November 2nd charity game opt-in*
h. EFT and ACH for district expenses. The board approved a policy that the Treasurer (US or CAN) may use EFT or ACH payment methods.
i. Registered Agent in Wyoming. The District's registration as a business entity requires a Registered Agent with a physical mailing address in Wyoming. The current registered agent (Paul Nelson, a board member in the 1980s) is unknown to any of us. Ray Fink has volunteered to serve as WY Registered Agent; as a backup plan, commercial services are available for approximately $100/year.. The Board appointed Ray Fink as Wyoming Registered Agent for District 18.
   ACTION*: Ray and Irene to coordinate necessary forms and $5.00 payment to the Wyoming Secretary of State*.
j. Board member official roles. Per direction from the National Recorder, only the District Recorder role is required. Disciplinary Chair, Disciplinary Committee, and Judiciary Committee are no longer needed. Susan is appointed Charity Chair.
   ACTION: *Ray to delete the outdated positions from the District board information at ACBL and add Susan as Charity Chair*.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:24pm.

Submitted by Ray Fink, District Secretary.

Minutes approved, District 18 Board Meeting, 8 November 2026

District 18 Board of Directors

STAC Update May 31, 2026

1. We have the following D18 STACs scheduled for the remainder of 2026:
    a. August 24 – 30
    b. October 26 – November 1
    c. December 14 – 20 Royal STAC held jointly with District 20
2. Results from previous STACs since November meeting:
    a. November 10 – 16 Royal STAC held jointly with District 20:

D18 tables	295.5
D20 tables	391.0
Total tables	686.5

Total net profit $1,578.95. D18 share $679.65

    b. December 8 – 14 Total tables 284.5 Profit $654.35
    c. May 4 – 10 Royal STAC held jointly with District 20:

D18 tables	275.5
D20 tables	311.5
Total tables	587.0

Total net profit $1,350.10. D18 share $633.65

We owe District 20 a total of $2,317.25 for their share of Royal STAC net profits dating back to Spring 2025

3. Montana units have asked for and been granted sanctions for STAC events starting early 2026. They have been running a STAC per month with average attendance of ~65 tables and net profits to the units of $150.00. These are also available to other units (subject to Tournament Coordinator approval regarding timing) throughout the District. Board members may wish to spread the word about these as they seem to be popular with the western Montana units. Another possibility is to have any clubs that wish join the ones being run by the western Montana units.

(As submitted by Doug Mann)

Lethbridge Regional 2026 Summary

Table Count	434				
Revenue					
Gross receipts	34544.00	to ACBL			
From ACBl after expenses	20790.47	From ACBL		Due to unit	
Net Paid to ACBL		13753.53		Caddies	400.00
				Hospitality Allowance	2401.00
Expenses					
C Mann fill in director	600.00				
Equipment Rental	2144.50				
Hotel	7404.60		includes coffee (hospitality)	Due to unit	2801.00
Making Boards	549.00				
Caddies	400.00				
Hospitality Allowance	3472.00				
Coffee 1071.00	-1071.00				
Total Expenses		13499.10			
Net Profit		**7291.37**			

(as submitted by Dan Dover)