

ACBL DISTRICT 22 BOARD MEETING via Zoom

September 22, 2026: 8am via 9:30am

Attending:

- Alan Turner, Presiding
- Lamya Agelidis
- Janet Crossley
- Millie Garrison
- Cornelia Gould
- Vicki Graves
- Paul Markovitz
- Richard Picheny
- David Sizemore, Advisory Council

Prior to this Meeting:

The minutes of our March 26, 2026, board meeting were approved electronically.

The board approved the announcement of our new Education Grant program drafted by Millie on May 13, 2026.

On June 26, the board approved three items proposed by Lamya:

- Replenish 20% of our stock of card decks (60 dozen) at a cost of \$1532.
- Purchase more convention cards/team score sheets at a cost of approximately \$3,800.
- Sponsor a 299er event at the NABC in recognition of Jessica Rohm who has done an amazing job on the human-featured articles in the D22 Connection the last 15 months. (\$300)

The board approved Millie's recommendation to approve an educational grant of \$1000 to the South Orange County Bridge Club on July 21, 2026. She noted that this class took place before the new guidelines were implemented on June 1.

Discussion:

Richard reported that our **Financial** bottom line for 2025 was a loss of \$64. He said that the San Diego Regional financials had improved as compared to 2025 but there was still a loss, he expected the Orange County bottom line would be a loss, and that he is concerned about Palm Springs given the NABC. He recommended that the board re-consider the GNT/NAP stipends at a future date.

Jan said that the table count at the **Orange County Regional** had been greater than in 2025 and the comments had been generally favorable. She did say there had been

feedback that some of the boards and bidding boxes were not in good shape. Lamya said she would ask Sergio for his recommendation on what needed to be done to correct this.

Lamya reported that she was in negotiation with the Westin South Coast Plaza as the host site for the 2027 Orange County Regional and optimistic that the financial terms would be more favorable. She also said the **Tournament Committee** continued to discuss getting grants and sponsors for each regional but local staffing for each would be required and is a challenge.

Millie said that the new **Education** processes had become effective in June and that year to date six grants had been awarded totaling \$1250. She believes that additional communication beyond just the notice sent to the Unit Presidents in April is needed to be sure that teachers know about the grants. After discussion it was agreed that Millie would publish a notice of these available Education Grants in the D22 Connection and send an email to the teachers, club managers, and (again) to the Unit Presidents.

Paul said that to date he has received five **Goodwill Nominations**. He will forward the candidate information to the board for approval in October and announce the winner names in the November D22 Connection.

Cornelia said she had nothing to report from the **ACBL Board** beyond what she'd said in the D22 Connections.

David reported that the **Advisory Council** elections for the Chair position would be in December.

Regarding the upcoming **NABC**, Lamya said they had raised \$45k to use for volunteers and other discretionary items. She said ACBL has reported that hotel reservations for the event are good. But, to date, only 20% of the volunteers needed have signed up to do so. Although volunteer sign ups are often within the last month, she asked that each of us publicize the need within our areas and said she would send the link with more information. If a volunteer works two sessions a day (one hour each) he/she will receive a \$20 discount on their entry fee.

Lamya said that the **GNT Conditions of Contest** for 2027 need to be posted soon but Gary (Waldron) needed some details... the date and location of the district finals, stipend information, etc. Lamya said our best date as far as table count is concerned would be one attached to a Regional and she would look to see if San Diego would be feasible from a date conflict perspective. The South Orange County Bridge Center had been our fall back but Jan said it was difficult for players from her Area to travel to OC for a one day event. Millie said she had heard that some GNT finals had been held on Real Bridge and that was an idea that might bring more people to the competition. As to

the stipend, Vicki mentioned that we should encourage a Grassroots designation for our sectionals as we can not only award 25% more MPs to our players but also the extra \$1 per player charged for the two sessions is a direct pass through to the District's GNT fund. Lamya said she would convey these discussion items to Gary and report back.

Vicki reported that the Unit Presidents had been asked to submit candidates to her for the upcoming open board position **Elections** in Areas 2 (Vicki), 3 (Lamya) and 4 (Vacant-was Bill Shane). The due date is September 30 and she has a candidate for Area 2 (David Peim) & Area 3 (Lamya) but none to date for Area 4. She also said that our Bylaws said a person could only serve three consecutive terms on the Board and there had just been realization that Richard was in his 4th consecutive term and if Lamya runs again, that would be her 4th consecutive term. Vicki recommended that we revise our Bylaws to remove this term limitations clause given the reality that it is very difficult to get any volunteers to run for the board and the type of expertise that board members such as Richard & Lamya have is very difficult to replace. This revision of the bylaws could be done in the October-November election cycle. Vicki also recommended that we eliminate the requirement in the bylaws that board votes taken electronically must be passed unanimously rather than with the majority requirement for votes taken otherwise. After discussion, Alan supported Vicki's motion to move forward with these amendments to the bylaws and this passed. Vicki will forward the specific proposed amendments and draft email to the units to the board for review before release.

Richard recommended that the Board move forward to change the **District 22's tax classification** to 501C3 (charity). He believes that it opens the potential to motivate bequests to the District & will not require significant changes in tax reporting. Millie added that it would also increase the potential for tournament grants. Richard noted that David Peim had offered to contact legal firms who might do the legal work 'pro bono'. Beyond that he added that some changes to the Bylaws to reflect this would be necessary. Millie moved that the board make this change and spend up to \$10k to accomplish a change to 501C3. David seconded this and the board approved the motion. *Addendum: David was able to find a legal firm who agreed to do the legal work necessary to incorporate District 22 as a 501C3 'pro bono'. District 22 will pay the necessary filing fees and related expenses.*

Alan said the **next board meeting will be at the Palm Springs Regional on the evening of December 9, 2026**. He asked Richard to send the financial reports electronically before the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 am.

Vicki Graves