

ACBL DISTRICT 22 BOARD MEETING

MARCH 25, 2026: 7:30pm to 11:00pm

Attending:

- Alan Turner, Presiding
- Lamy Agelidis
- Millie Garrison
- Cornelia Gould
- Vicki Graves
- Paul Markovitz
- Richard Picheny
- David Sizemore, Advisory Council
- Ken Horwedel. DIC of San Diego Regional

Absent:

- Janet Crossley

Prior to the Meeting:

- The minutes of December 10, 2025, board meeting were approved electronically.
- The minutes of December 16, 2025, Annual Meeting (via Zoom) were approved electronically.
- A motion (December 27, 2025) to add Alan Turner as an authorized signatory to the D22 Bank of America accounts was approved electronically.
- A motion (December 31, 2025) to amend the May StaC to May 4-10 rather than May 18-24 was approved electronically.
- A motion (January 14, 2026) to award a \$1000 education grant to San Diego Unit 539 was approved electronically.
- A motion (January 19, 2026) to purchase an annual license for Sign-Up Genius for \$539.89 was approved.
- A motion (March 6, 2026) to move the NAP district finals to the SOCBC venue for play on October 11, 2026 was approved electronically. The event had been scheduled at the OC Regional but that date conflicts with Rosh Hashanah.
- Linda Seifert was appointed to be one of the three D22 representatives to the ACBL Advisory Council. The other two are David Sizemore & Gary Waldron.

Discussion:

San Diego Regional: Ken reported that attendance had to date surpassed his estimates and was about 10% above last year. He also said they were going to try a new method to avoid bracketed pair lines tomorrow although the director staff continues to believe this is less fair competition. He also suggested that we keep side games in larger

regionals. Finally, Ken noted that there were only seven available tables this afternoon so if the tournament grows a larger venue would be needed. Lamya reported that she had not heard negative feedback about the dual hotel arrangement and was working on a 2027 contract using these venues. Happily, it appeared we could again avoid an Easter date conflict. In another matter, an inappropriate player comment to a director prompted Cornelia to see if the ACBL guidelines for discipline could be applied to regionals.

Financials: Richard reviewed the EOY 2025 Balance Sheet which reflected a bottom-line loss of \$64 as compared to a loss of \$10.9k in 2024. We have \$215.5k in the bank. Lamya cautioned that the PSP Regional, our major profit driver, could be seriously affected by the San Diego NABC in 2026—i.e. minus one day and by those who would not play both tournaments back-to-back. (We have a 50% room commitment there.)

Tournament Committee: Lamya said Orange County remains a concern as the parking/other costs are a negative to attendance. She also said we have no alternative location for next year and no one to do leg work to find alternatives. Paul said he would look at alternative tournament sites in the north part of D22 but the thought remains that, given the size of our OC player populations, it would be ideal to find something closer. For 2026, Marjorie Michelin has agreed to be the Partnership Chair and Lamya is looking for options to support Jan Crossley's role as Tournament Chair since she has not had the experience of running a regional and was unavailable to shadow Lamya during San Diego.

As a way we can reduce some of the player costs at our regionals, the Tournament Committee is pursuing sponsorships and grants. Alan said that over \$20k in sponsorships had been raised for the NABC. David Peim has suggested that the District could re-organize as a 501C3 for purposes of donations. It was agreed that this might offset some of our education grant costs but the idea was tabled at this time given the time and money required to change our tax status versus the perceived benefit.

GNT/NAP: The GNT finals are scheduled for May 2-3 at the SOCBC but issues remain. Can we reduce it to one day? Can we waive club qualifications? Is pre-registration necessary? Gary Waldron is seeking answers.

Education: Millie proposed a new approach to our Education Grants given a perception that our existing plan is too complicated and discourages participation. Our goal is to encourage more classes with follow-up classes, supervised play and mentoring, all of which should lead to increased membership and better retention. The instructor would submit a request for reimbursement describing what was taught and the program's format, the date(s), and length of the course and how many students completed the class. Reimbursement would be based on flat rates—for example, A Beginner Course

of 8 hours for 10 students could be \$300 with an option for \$150 more for a subsequent supervised play series. The unit would sign off on the request and have the option to have the payment sent to the instructor directly or back to the unit for disbursement. The Board endorsed this new approach and Millie agreed to add definitions and parameters (a max per instructor or unit?) and submit it for electronic vote. Millie asked the Board to allow a budget of \$10k per year for Education grants and this was approved with the stipulation that if the money was not spent there would be no carry over.

Vicki said she felt strongly that teachers were the key to growing our membership. She noted that in December she had sent an email to all the guest members in her unit offering to pay the \$39 upgrade to a full membership and no one had replied. In January she'd asked two unit Beginning Bridge instructors to ask their students to sign up for the full membership and advise each that the unit would reimburse the \$39 fee. To date this approach had yielded 24 new full members! She noted that given Guest Memberships, it would be almost impossible for any unit to get its 5% for recruitment from the 5/5/5 Membership Plan so she believed that part of their costs would be covered by recruitment component reimbursement. She also said the plan was of benefit to the teacher as they received their recruitment reimbursements (\$10 per year for 3 years) only when the student became a full member. Alan asked Vicki to provide the specifics of what they were doing in case other Units would want to do the same. Vicki said she would also break down the units which are probably too small to fund these reimbursements with the thought that maybe the District could help.

Goodwill Ambassador Nominations: Paul said he would like to expand the nomination process beyond just asking the Unit Boards for names. It was agreed that he would prepare an invitation for nominations for the July & August issues of the D22 Connection. Given results, he may try a direct email appeal to each member in 2027.

ACBL Board Report: Cornelia noted particularly the ACBL efforts to refine their masterpoint systems and the Regional tournament guides that had been developed. She also added that D23 had to cancel its Long Beach Regional in 2026 because of the World Cup and in 2028 because of the Olympics. Vicki noted that Cornelia's comments in the last D22 Connection regarding Grassroots designations for Sectionals were of value to the players and to the District. On any open (not limited in who could play) Sectional, the Unit could designate two sessions as Grassroots games for only \$1 more per player and the MP awards for the players would be 28% higher than the norm! The extra dollar fee collected was a direct pass through back to the district to cover their GNT/NAP costs. The prep was nothing more than advising the DIC that you want to do it and whether you wanted the extra dollar charged to the player or whether the Unit wanted to cover it—even just days before altho ideally in advance to promote the extra MPs. She said for their February tournament there were 85 tables in the two sessions

they picked as Grassroots and the Unit 'ate' the \$340 fee. Alan asked that Vicki send out a document describing the process.

ACBL Advisory Council Report: David said the Council was involved in an effort to revise their Bylaws as there are currently 75 elected members and too many mandated committees that are unneeded. He'd also sent out documents describing efforts to reposition bridge among youth as 'cool' rather than an old people's game, ACBL's recruitment & retention goals, and information regarding EDGAR results to date.

NABC: Lamya reviewed the income and expense budget for the event which projects a \$7.5k shortfall. She asked the District for support funding. To avoid a line item in future budgets for NABC funding not used as had happened in 2017, Millie moved to allocate up to \$5,000 to the NABC if there was a shortfall at the end of the event. This was approved.

Sign Up Genius: Alan procured a license on behalf of D22 that supports 20 different administrators and had reached out to a few people to make this system available. To date it has been used for Registrations in Unit 526, Partnerships at the SD Regional, and Volunteers at the NABC. Alan said he would reach out for more participation.

The Next Meeting will be held on **September 9, 2026**, at the Orange County Regional.

Submitted by Vicki Graves