

**ACBL DISTRICT 22 BOARD MEETING**  
**DECEMBER 10, 2025**

**Attending:**

- Richard Picheny, Presiding
- Lamya Agelidis
- Janet Crossley
- Millie Garrison
- Cornelia Gould
- Vicki Graves
- Margot Hennings, ACBL President
- Matt Koltnow, DIC of Palm Springs Regional
- David Lodge
- David Sizemore, Advisory Council
- Alan Turner

**Prior to the Meeting:**

The minutes of the June 3, 2025, meeting were approved electronically

**Discussion:**

Richard opened the meeting at 7:52pm following the Recognition/Thank you reception for David Lodge.

Cornelia, who will replace David next year as our National Board Representative, said that Jan had volunteered to assume her responsibilities as StaC and Tournament Coordinators for D22. She said she had not found a person to fill her position on the Advisory Council. It was agreed that she would write a description of the role for the D22 as an effort to recruit a volunteer.

A proposed StaC schedule for 2026 very similar to this year's was proposed: May 18-24 (Royal StaC), August 17-23 (Regular StaC), and November 16-22 (Royal StaC). David commented that StaC schedules had traditionally avoided the first part of the year because of the previously held Riverside Regional and San Diego Regional. The board agreed with Cornelia's proposed 2026 schedule. She commented that 2025 StaC

attendance had been higher (400-500 tables) and the District made approximately \$3500.

Matt Koltnow reported that attendance as of today had exceeded his projections by 5% and he expected tomorrow's bracketed pairs event to be well attended. The future of this event is still in question—the gold points in lower brackets is a plus but the delayed starts is a minus. Lamya said there were no tables at the 0-20 supervised bid and play. *Addendum: Table counts for Palm Springs in 2025 were 1701 as compared to 1544 in 2024 and 2020 in 2023. (Note Sunday play was added back in 2025:+101.)*

Richard announced his proposed slate of Board's officers in 2026: Alan as President, Lamya as Vice-President, Richard as Treasurer and Vicki as Secretary. All approved. Alan suggested he would like a focus in 2026 to be function descriptions to enable a smoother transition given board turnover.

Lamya reported that our 2026 regional tournament calendar was final but there were major jeopardies for 2027 as related to both San Diego and Orange County. The Orange County Regional lost \$23k in 2025 and the viable site availability/contracts beyond next year are in question for San Diego and Orange County. In addition, the fall NABC's in Las Vegas in 2024, San Francisco in 2025 and San Diego in 2026 are a negative impact to attendance in Palm Springs. Margot commented that ACBL is looking at modifying the NABC event focus toward the higher-level players. David said that the tournament staffing process for directors would be functionalized in 2026, i.e. each DIC would not determine his/her needs for a specific tournament. Lamya said she is currently negotiating the PSP contract for 2028.

Millie presented an overview of the Education Grants requested for 2025 which will approximate \$2000 as compared to \$4819 for 2024. She commented that she and Vicki had discussed how difficult the application process was if there wasn't a flat fee charge from a visiting teacher and an appearance that we required that the applicant was going to lose money if there was no grant. Ideas discussed were a stipend for contributors to the

D22 or speakers at events (beyond a free play/lunch). Richard asked Millie and Vicki to present an alternate process at the next meeting.

Millie also mentioned the Bridge Whiz online classes available at no charge to school students in the 4<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> grades on Thursdays at 4pm beginning on January 8 and noted that she had sent the email to all unit presidents. It was noted that most of us did not have the right contacts in schools to which to forward this opportunity.

David reported that he had not found any information about best practices in other areas that drew higher attendance at NAP & GNT events. He was hopeful that Sue Miguel, who has just been appointed to the ACBL board, would bring information about NAP/GNT successes in her district.

Richard said we were nearing the deadline for appointments to the National ACBL Committee and we could submit up to two names. Several were discussed and Richard asked for a recommendation to be sent to him within the week.

Vicki said that our district had 27 suspended players for online cheating in October and November and 22 of them were couples. (Margot said there were no different edits for couples.) Vicki commented that no one she knew felt that people who cheated did not deserve discipline but there was frustration/anger towards ACBL about the major obstacles presented by the appeal process. David did not agree.

Alan, as a Committee Chair at the San Diego NABC, proposed that District 22 contribute a significant amount of money towards their goal of \$100,000 to enhance the volunteer experience and player prizes. Margot noted that ACBL pays all expenses of an NABC but it was not uncommon that the host wanted to add dollars to these two cost areas. She added though that at the NABC in San Francisco last week there were 30 boxes of prizes left unclaimed. Millie suggested that the NABC committee present a more detailed list of the proposed need at a future meeting and Alan agreed to do so.

Richard presented the Financials as of November 30. There were some questions, but it was agreed that they would be tabled pending the receipt of the full year 2025 numbers.

The meeting adjourned at 10pm.

Submitted by Vicki Graves