

**American Contract Bridge League
District 8 Board Meeting
Saturday 10/25/25
Via Zoom**

Board and Committee Members Present: Karl Anderson, Dennis Abeln, Debbie Avery, Tim Bonner, Mark Boswell, Vicki Brantley, Bill Bulfer, Terry D'Amato, Ken Eiger, Janet Jones, Martha Leary, Steve Lowe, Lori Moore, John Pree, Josh Rich, Debbie Romero, Larry Sealy, and Peter Wilke.

Board and Committee Members Absent: Cindy Lake, Mary Lattan-Shaw, Phyllis Siegel, Grant Sterling, and Milton Zlatic.

Lori Moore called the October 25, 2025, District 8 Board meeting to order at 9:01 AM.

Lori welcomed Unit 223 President and new District 8 Board member, Janet Jones.

Approval of Minutes: Lori called for approval of the June 7, 2025, meeting minutes. Tim Bonner moved to accept the minutes, and the motion was seconded by Ken Eiger. The motion passed.

Lori called for a motion to have the Summary of Email Voting Actions for June 7 – October 24, 2025, attached to the October 25, 2025, minutes. The only item was the approval of the flyer for Crystal Lake. Martha Leary moved to accept, and the motion was seconded by Tim Bonner. The motion passed.

President's Report:

Lori then provided the President's report and started with new appointments and Committee Chairs which included: New secretary from Unit 223 - Vicki Brantley, financial review – Bill Bulfer, and Nominating Committee – Josh Rich. There were no comments or objections to these appointments.

Next Lori discussed that Advisory Council member, John Pree, would like to be replaced. She asked everyone to talk to people to look for a replacement.

Debbie Romero asked if Lori plans for Peter Wilke to continue as Tournament Coordinator for District 8, and she does.

Nominating Committee Report:

Josh Rich provided the Nominating Committee report. He stated that Lori Moore has agreed to serve a second term as President for 2026. If approved, then Tim Bonner has agreed to be nominated for Vice-President for 2026. There were no additional nominations. Ken Eiger moved to accept the recommendations of the Nominating Committee. The motion was seconded by Dennis Abeln. The motion passed.

Treasurer's Report:

Debbie Avery next presented the financial report. Her report included income and expenses for 2024, year-to-date 2025, and proposed budget for 2026. She stated that since she prepared the 2025 statement, a couple of checks have come in. These include the NABC fundraiser and the southern Illinois tournament. She has not yet received the check for the St. Louis tournament.

It was then decided to move the budget discussion and approval to later in the meeting.

Financial Review:

Bill Bulfer stated that he conducted the financial review for 2024 and there were no exceptions noted. He also reviewed the first part of 2025.

ACBL Region 7 Director's Report:

Larry Sealy, Region 7 Director, presented the ACBL Board update. He discussed the following: Net assets from operations were up \$355,000, investments have increased, and the total change in net assets is an increase of \$667,000. The decrease in membership of 6% as of July despite over 4,000 new members. Getting new members and retention are important goals. Net attrition is due to death and lack of retention. Titanium points, the new masterpoint category has been created. These points can be won in NABC events, but not NABC plus events. A task force has been formed to reward members through rank advancement. Guest memberships are free and do not expire. Online events will no longer be approved at face-to-face regionals. ACBL is updating the Internal Regional planning document. Management is exploring a staff-lite approach for tournaments, encouraging pre-registration, and evaluating the future of local Sectionals. Certification for local Sectional Directors was further discussed. The Unit President's Handbook is being updated. Disciplinary regulations are changing. Suspended players may play in club games if approved by the Club Manager if criteria are met. Players whose cheating clearly ended before 2022 and entered "Fast Track Discipline" will get reductions in penalties. The Players Under Discipline list is now sortable and easier to use. Management has proposed smaller NABC events as an experiment. Spring and Fall NABCs will focus on NABC and NABC+ events. Summer NABC will not change. The smaller events will open more potential cities/venues due to smaller space requirements. A summary as of July 2025 of the computer-Based Cheating Detection/Discipline Update was reviewed. Membership statistics as of September were reviewed. As of September, members were 120,500 which is a loss of over 10,000 members in a year and 8 months.

Bylaws:

Debbie Romero presented the proposed and amended District 8 Bylaws for a second reading by the District 8 Board. The only change since the proposed Bylaws were reviewed and approved in their first reading by the Board in June 2025 is in Article 7, Section A paragraph 5. The Section reference was corrected to Section A instead of Section B. Paragraph 5 was also amended to include a provision to replace a Vice President in the interim should a vacancy in this office occur more than three months before the Annual Board Meeting.

Mark Boswell made a motion to approve the Bylaws as presented. Martha Leary seconded the motion. The motion passed.

With this vote, these District 8 Bylaws are now officially approved and adopted by the District 8 Board.

Standing Rules:

Mark Boswell discussed the Standing Rules. He stated that he reviewed the work done by Debbie Romero and recommended no changes. A discussion of what should be included in the Standing Rules followed. Lori stated that she and Mark will discuss it before the next meeting.

Website Update: Dennis Abeln discussed the website and the need to find a replacement host. He has identified a potential host that will be free, but it will need to be tested. No additional funds for web hosting are needed at this time. Lori also verified with Terry D'Amato that the new District 8 logo is in place on the website.

Standing Committee Reports:

NABC Promotional Games: Lori noted the decrease in NABC promotional games so far this year.

Tournament Coordinator's Report: Peter Wilke discussed that the Collinsville Regional is moving to late October in 2026. This is 9 days after the St. Louis Sectional. Dennis Abeln mentioned that Washington University is having an open downgraded Sectional in November, the same weekend of the NAP finals.

St. Louis 2026 NABC: Michael Sherberg, Tournament Chair, joined the meeting to discuss the St. Louis NABC. He said plans are progressing. A checking account has been opened. Ken Eiger stated that he is the Volunteer Coordinator for the tournament and encouraged all Board members to volunteer. Mark Boswell stated that he believes all funds for national tournaments should be released for the St. Louis NABC since that is what the money was raised for, we might not have another NABC for many years due to site size requirements, and he thinks it is important to have high quality hospitality with signs to show District 8 is providing it to increase the chance of a future NABC. He stated that any funds not used would be returned. A lengthy discussion about benefits and problems of using all the funds followed. Larry Sealy stated that he thinks it is unlikely that St. Louis will get another NABC any time in the next ten years. It was discussed that St. Louis is not doing any fundraising since they were 6 months behind when Michael stepped up. Michael stated that they will need most of the NABC funds for the tournament and detailed some of the volunteer expenses. Mark Boswell made a motion to release all District 8 funds for national events to the St. Louis NABC in February/March 2026 and any funds not used to be returned to District 8. Josh Rich seconded the motion. The motion passed. Funds will be deposited after the CD matures in December. Michael Sherberg left the meeting.

Education: No report. Mary Lattan-Shaw absent.

StaC: Lori stated that STaC games occurred recently and will start again on November 10.

NAP: Martha Leary discussed the addition of the Championship flight in the NAP Finals and the downward trend in registrations. Debbie Romero suggested that a targeted email be sent to flights with the lowest number of entries.

GNT: Ken Eiger discussed the GNTs. He stated that the GNT fee structure was approved in the June meeting, but the item to approve the \$800 subsidy was missed. Mark Boswell made a motion to fund an \$800 subsidy for any team who wins the District and goes to Minneapolis. Bill Bulfer seconded the motion. The motion passed. A GNT flyer will be created to share with players. The scheduling problems related to NAPs and GNTs were discussed, and Peter Wilke will follow up. Discussion of creating a calendar for District events followed.

Martha Leary asked about how to get the NAP tournament flyer posted on the tournament calendar. Peter Wilke will follow up on this item also.

Budget:

Debbie Avery presented the budget. Mark Boswell made a motion to approve the budget with the change to the NABC funding amount to \$32,000. Tim Bonner seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Regional Reports:

Tim Bonner presented the Collinsville Regional report. He stated that attendance was down by over 20%. In 2026, the tournament will be at the Doubletree to reduce site costs. The tournament will be October 27 – 31. The 2025 tournament lost about \$7,900.

Dennis Abeln reported on the St. Louis Regional in August. The table count was down about 9% and the tournament lost about \$750. A contract has been signed with the hotel for 2026. The tournament will be for 7 days with no major evening events. Team games are also being changed. Tournament entry fees will be increased. Dennis also reported that the Non-Life Master Regional was in October. The table count was down 23% with a loss of about \$1,300. Dennis stated that they plan to continue the Non-Life Master Regionals in January and October in 2026. Dennis also reported that he is stepping down as Tournament Chair at the beginning of November. Sandy Bigg will run the January tournament. Michael Sherberg will be the Tournament Chair after January. Dennis will remain as the Tournament Coordinator until mid-next summer.

Karl Anderson reported that the Crystal Lake Regional was down about 16%. The free lunch was eliminated for the Swiss Team games. The Non-Life Master Regional in Rockford was down about 12%.

Peter Wilke reported that tournaments in our area were up for the first four or five months of the year, but after that all tournaments were down.

Old Business: None.

New Business: Lori Moore discussed proposed meeting dates for 2026. June 6 is the same time as 2025. For November, the possible dates are November 7 or 14. It was decided that it would be November 14.

Additional Items: Dennis Abeln discussed an income tax concern due to an IRS bulletin which states that for 501(c)(7) organizations investment income is taxable if over \$1,000 in a year. He thinks this applies to District 8. He asked Debbie Avery to investigate this matter. He stated that he would share the bulletin with everyone for consideration.

Martha Leary asked about a list of Board members. Lori plans to send it out and then turn it over to Vicki Brantley.

The meeting adjourned at 11:28 AM.

Appendix A to October 25, 2025, District 8 Board Meeting Minutes

Summary of District 8 Email Voting Actions

(Period June 7, 2025 through October 24, 2025)

Date Requested	Date Approved (Unless otherwise indicated)	Email Proposal	Submitted By
10/15/25	10/16/25	District 8 Approval of the June 15 – 19, 2026 The GREAT Sizzlin' Summer Illinois Regional Flyer for Unit 239.	Marilyn Croft