

**American Contract Bridge League
District 8 Board Meeting
Saturday 06/06/26
Via Zoom**

Board and Committee Members Present: Karl Anderson, Dennis Abeln, Debbie Avery, Tim Bonner, Vicki Brantley, Bill Bulfer, Terry D'Amato, Ken Eiger, Janet Jones, Martha Leary, Steve Lowe, Lori Moore, John Pree, Larry Sealy, and Mary Beth Shaw.

Board and Committee Members Absent: Board members absent were Josh Rich and Michael Sherberg. Committee members absent were Terry D'Amato, Cindy Lake, Phyllis Siegel, Grant Sterling, Peter Wilke, and Milton Zlatic.

Lori Moore called the June 6, 2026, District 8 Board meeting to order at 9:01 AM.

Approval of Minutes: Lori called for approval of the October 25, 2025, meeting minutes. Tim Bonner moved to accept the minutes, and Martha Leary seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Lori called for a motion to have the Summary of Email Voting Actions for October 26, 2025 - June 5, 2026, attached to the June 6, 2026, minutes. The summary included the approval of three tournament flyers. Bill Bulfer moved to accept, and the motion was seconded by Martha Leary. The motion passed.

President's Report:

Lori then began the President's report, stating that Debbie Romero has resigned from the Board, and thanked her for her service.

Next, Lori discussed that Josh Rich has agreed to continue with the Nominating Committee. He will reach out for officer nominees. Anyone interested in serving as an officer should contact Josh. Lori noted that Unit 239 is in line to serve as the next Vice-President.

Lori then discussed the Goodwill and Charity Committees. She stated that District 8 can nominate two individuals for each. Nominations are needed and can be sent to Lori for submission. Later in the meeting, Larry Sealy clarified that Charity Committee nominations are no longer made by the District.

Treasurer's Report:

Debbie Avery asked for any questions on the financial report, which had been provided electronically prior to the meeting. Debbie next asked where we would want our annual donation to go since the Youth Bridge Education Organization is no longer active. After discussion of options, Bill Bulfer made a motion to donate \$500 to Jump Start Bridge, and Steve Lowe seconded the motion. The motion carried.

ACBL Region 7 Director's Report:

Larry Sealy, Region 7 Director, presented the ACBL Board update. He discussed the following from the Fall 2025 meeting:

October YTD profit was \$1.3M. The 2026 budget projecting profit of \$20,000 was approved. The capital budget is \$780,000, mostly for continuing migration from AS400 to Back Office which is estimated to be completed Fall 2026.

The decrease in membership was 7% year over year as of November 2025.

Online events will continue to be an option at face-to-face regionals.

There is a new paradigm for Spring and Fall NABCs. These events will focus on NABC and NABC+ events. Pre-registration will be implemented. The new model will open new city and venue possibilities. The summer NABC will not change.

ACBL has been charging the Districts 50% of the day 1 and day 2 card fees for flights A, B, and C, which will continue for 2026. Beginning in 2027, the charge will increase to 100% for Championship A, B, and C flights. This is to correct an error in the charges for many years. The goal is to reach a financial balance for both the ACBL and the Districts.

The first smaller Fall NABC will be in Austin in 2028. Las Vegas has been approved for Summer 2031.

The Unit President's Handbook is complete. Larry agreed to work to get it posted online.

Key elections and appointments were highlighted.

Next, Larry discussed the following from the Spring 2026 meeting:

Net gain of \$757,000 for fiscal year 2025.

Membership is down year over year by 5%.

The tournament task force is focused on how to achieve appropriate tournament staffing.

Due to an organizational change, there are no longer area managers.

Real Deal is now on RealBridge.

There will be a \$3/player/session surcharge for NABC+ events to support World Bridge Federation dues.

Larry then provided an update on EDGAR. Screenings were finished in June. The estimate of overall rates of red is about 3%. They are dominated by player memos. EDGAR will be applied to new platforms. Ken asked about getting a breakdown of GNT revenues and expenses; Larry promised to ask the Finance Director.

Website Update:

Dennis Abeln discussed the website and stated that the web host is paid through sometime next year. He stated that updates are needed on the website, and any changes should be sent to Terry D'Amato. Terry does not know what needs updating unless someone points it out to her.

Standing Committee Reports:

St. Louis 2026 NABC: Lori stated that she has not yet received a detail report of expenses from Michael Sherberg. They received \$32,743.67 from the district for the NABC. They expect to return just over \$17,000. Returned funds will go back to the District 8 NABC Fund. Ken Eiger stated that there were 6,745 tables at the tournament which exceeded the estimate. When asked, Larry Sealy added that there was a small loss on the tournament, but it was much smaller than ACBL projected. The tournament being held at the convention center impacted the loss significantly. There are no plans for a St. Louis NABC for the next 5 or 6 years since there is no convention hotel with sufficient contiguous playing space for an NABC. Ken added that there were over 80 volunteers at the tournament.

STaC: Lori referred to Grant's STaC report which showed that the second STaC was lower than last year and commented that the District makes the same amount of money on both types of STaC.

GNT and NAP:

Ken Eiger discussed the GNTs. He stated that we lost about \$600 this year. There is no C team going to Minneapolis. Ken recommends increasing the card fees by \$1 per person per session and raising the travel subsidy by \$100 for any flight that plays on both Saturday and Sunday. Ken also wants a budget to advertise which will be discussed later. The proforma shows that no matter what we do, we will lose money. Discussion regarding fees and travel allowances followed.

Martha Leary discussed that participation in the NAPs was about the same last year, and the net profit was \$2,154. Each club can have at least two NAP qualifiers in June, July, and August. Finals will be the second Sunday in November. Martha asked for and received approval to change the times for the finals to 10:00 AM and 2:00 PM.

Lori discussed the need for fees to increase and be consistent. Martha made a motion to increase the fees to \$16 per person per session for GNT and NAP, and Steve Lowe seconded the motion. The motion carried. Lori clarified that the fees will be the same for all flights.

The discussion then returned to travel subsidies for GNTs. Steve Lowe made a motion to increase the travel subsidy for all teams to \$900, and Bill Bulfer seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Later in the meeting, Ken Eiger discussed the need for a budget for GNTs of \$300 to mail flyers to clubs. Martha said she would also like a budget for NAPs. Lori stated that she thinks ACBL should help get Club Managers to promote these events at their clubs. This could be done at Club Manager meetings. Larry Sealy stated that he would ask about this possibility, but also stated that

most clubs are independent businesses. Ken Eiger made a motion for a marketing budget of \$300 for both the GNTs and NAPs, and Dennis Abeln seconded it. The motion carried.

Education: Mary Beth Shaw discussed that she has been investigating dissolving Youth Bridge Education Organization. She does not think the separate organization is needed any longer. She will begin the paperwork for dissolving the organization. The Youth Bridge Board will decide where its remaining funds go.

Flyers for Regionals: Lori questioned why tournament flyers which have already been approved by the Units need to be approved by the District. John Pree expressed disagreement. A discussion about fees, approvals, and flyers occurred. Lori asked if anyone wanted to make a motion to approve the proposed new standing rule which states “District 8 hereby delegates rights of approval over Regional Tournament formats, game schedules and entry fees to the individual Units who have District 8’s permission to host Regional tournaments.” Dennis Abeln made the motion, and Steve Lowe seconded it. The motion carried.

Regional Reports:

Bill Bulfer presented a report on the Champagne tournament. He stated that it went well, and they learned from their experiences. He hopes to have similar events next year, and the weekend dates were attended and will continue next year. Lori asked for feedback on IMP pair games. Bill said that they had mixed comments. There was discussion about the possibility of a Friday evening game.

Steve Lowe and Karl Anderson reported that the Crystal Lake Regional is June 15 – 19. They eliminated the lunch on Friday since it was a net loss to the tournament.

Ken Eiger reported that the St. Louis tournament is August 24 – 30, and they hope everyone will come.

Janet Jones reported that Unit 223 is working hard on the Collinsville Regional, and they need everyone to come. The venue has changed, and the cost is about half of the old venue.

Non-Life Master Regionals and Other Tournaments:

Ken Eiger reported that St. Louis is dropping Non-Life Master Regionals effective this October. Therefore, they will only be running Sectionals in the future. The feedback they have received is that players are more interested in silver points than gold points, and the costs are higher for Regionals.

Steve Lowe stated that their Regional was canceled, but the Rockford Open Sectional is September 14 – 15.

Old Business: None.

New Business: Lori Moore stated that the next meeting is November 14 at 9:00 AM.

The meeting adjourned at 10:57 AM.

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Appendix A to June 6, 2026 District 8 Board Meeting Minutes

Summary of District 8 Email Voting Actions

(Period October 26, 2025 through June 5, 2026)

Date Requested	Date Approved (Unless otherwise Indicated)	Email Proposal	Submitted By
11/20/25	11/22/25	District 8 Approval of the October 27-31 2026 Mississippi Regional Bluffs Regional Tournament for Unit 223	Janet Jones
12/2/25	12/8/25	District 8 Approval of the May 20-24, 2026 The "Champagne" Regional Tournament for Unit 208	Lori Moore
04/15/26	04/17/26	District 8 Approval of the August 24-30, 2026 St. Louis Gateway to the West Regional Tournament for Unit 143	Michael Sherberg

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