

**American Contract Bridge League
District 8 Annual Board Meeting
Saturday 6/1/2024
Via Zoom**

Board and Committee Members present: Dennis Abeln, Debbie Avery, Sandy Bigg, Mark Boswell, Bill Bulfer, Marilyn Croft, Kadie Davis, Martha Leary, Lori Moore, John Pree, Debbie Romero, Larry Sealy, Van Stone, Donna Swick, Karen Walker, and Peter Wilke.

Board and Committee Members absent: Josh Rich, Mary Beth Shaw, Phyllis Siegel, and Grant Sterling.

Debbie Romero called the June 1, 2024 District 8 Board meeting to order at 9:00 AM.

President's Report:

Debbie Romero called for the approval of the November 4, 2023 meeting minutes as distributed. Martha Leary moved to accept the minutes, seconded by John Pree. The motion passed. Debbie R. asked everyone to review Appendix A: Summary of District 8 Email Votes November 4, 2023 – June 1, 2024 for any required changes. Given no changes were identified, Debbie R. noted that this Summary of Email Voting Actions will be appended to the June 1, 2024 minutes.

Debbie R. appointed Marilyn Croft to be the Nominating Chair for 2024.

Debbie R. announced that Pam Ames had resigned from the board and welcomed new members Josh Rich, Kadie Davis, and Donna Swick.

Debbie R. reported that she officially disbanded the District 8 Disciplinary and Appellate committees given the resolution of the last disciplinary complaint within District 8 jurisdiction. All future disciplinary matters will be handled by the ACBL. The position of District Recorder, held by Milt Zlatic, will continue, but it will be a reduced role, supporting the National Recorder with fact finding, upon request.

Debbie R. reminded everyone to get their Unit reports for the June 2024 Issue of the District 8 Advocate Newsletter to Karen Walker soon.

Treasurer's Report:

Debbie Avery reported that the annual income and expense report for 2023 would be completed soon. The Board had no questions.

Financial Report:

Dennis Abeln reported that his financial review of the first nine months of 2023 was complete and that there were no significant findings. He will complete his report for the entire year very soon after he receives the financial records for the last 3 months of 2023 from Debbie Avery.

ACBL Director's Report:

Larry Sealy presented a very comprehensive ACBL Board of Directors (BOD) Update covering the Louisville BOD meeting, Post-Louisville BOD activities, and EDGAR Results and Status. Of particular relevance to District 8, he discussed the ACBL's codification for which tournament will get sanctioned

when Regionals are concurrent and within 425 miles of each other. Larry does not think this codification change affects NLM Regionals; he also explained that during the sanctioning process, it would be the ACBL's responsibility to make the final determination when hosting cities were within 425 miles of each other.

Standing Committee Reports:

NABC Fundraising: Lori Moore reported that District 8 will have three Face-to-Face fundraising weeks available for participating District 8 clubs to generate funds for the Spring 2026 St. Louis NABC. These weeks will be held (one week per year) in September, 2024, September, 2025, and January, 2026 preceding the NABC. There will also be a Virtual Fundraiser held by the ACBL (in 2025) with an additional fee of \$1 per player. All Virtual Club games held during the designated week throughout the ACBL will be included in the one-time Virtual St. Louis NABC fundraiser, and the funds generated will go towards the following year's NABC. Spending of the virtual funds will be at the discretion of the ACBL and the St. Louis NABC Tournament Chairperson (TC).

Debbie Romero reported that the NABC TC is selected by the District President, according to Montie Hamblen, NABC Event Planner for the ACBL. Debbie has officially offered the position to Beth Percich, the lead director at the St. Louis Bridge Center. Beth is still deciding if she will accept the position.

Charity: No report.

Education: Mary Beth Shaw was not present, but she sent a report from the Adult Bridge Camp. Youth Bridge is now defunct. The Adult Bridge Camp lost a little money, but it went extremely well with highly enthusiastic players. Both Lori Moore and Terry Goodykoontz assisted Mary Beth by teaching at the Camp.

Goodwill and Charity Candidates: The District President may nominate two candidates each year to the ACBL Goodwill Committee and two candidates to the ACBL Charity Committee. Debbie Romero requested District board members to submit to her via email any candidates from ACBL members within District 8 for either committee by the end of September. The recommendations need to include the name of the individual, which committee they are being nominated for, and why.

Judiciary Committee: now dissolved

Tournament Coordinator: Peter Wilke reported that each District can now have up to 5 NLM Regionals, up from 4. They can be stand-alone tournaments, but NLM Regionals are best done in conjunction with Open Sectionals for the purposes of cost-sharing, maximizing revenue, and masterpoint enhancement.

STaC Report: Grant Sterling was unable to attend but sent his report. District 8 is benefiting financially from holding four STaC weeks a year, two regular STaC's and two royal STaC's. The ACBL has taken over many of the coordinating duties previously handled by the District STaC Coordinators. Clubs now pay the ACBL directly through Live for Clubs. There was discussion of how some Units within District 8 are paying the STaC fees for their players and how that process will be handled going forward.

GNT: Phyllis Siegel was unable to attend the meeting but sent her GNT financial report. District 8 had a total of 15 teams participate, including 2 Championship teams, 3 teams in Flight A, 6 teams in Flight B, and 4 Teams in Flight C. The event netted \$1300.70 not including any BBO charges (if any). In answer to questions about BBO charges, Peter Wilke explained that to his knowledge, there was currently no charge by BBO for running a GNT, but that was subject to future change. He said that the ACBL collects for BBO.

There was a concern reported by Karen Walker regarding the format for the GNT Championship Flight where only two teams entered the GNT event. The District 8 Conditions of Contest (CoC's) were approved in the Fall 2023 by Brian Weikle at the ACBL and specified a single-session 24-board match with two teams in a flight. However, according to Karen Walker, Sol Weinstein, the ACBL Area Manager for the East Coast and Canada, says that having a single-session is not legal. Peter Wilke believes that a 2-session requirement is new and/or a change from previous ACBL GNT Conditions of Contest. Debbie Romero will follow up with both Sol Weinstein and Brian Weikle to resolve the question. Debbie R. reported that the CoC 's for the 2025 GNT events are due by the end of August 2024.

NAP: Martha Leary reported that the 2023 NAP netted \$1447.60. There were 8 tables in Flight A, 12 tables in Flight B, and 8 tables in Flight C. The District used 3 fill-in pairs who were not charged entry fees. The 2024 District 8 NAP Finals will be held November 10, 2024 on BBO. Martha is working on getting the sanction.

Open Regional Reports:

Crystal Lake: Marilyn Croft reported that the Regional will be held June 17-21 with 2 sessions/day. They didn't raise entry fees. Last year made a little.

Collinsville: The plans are going well; it's the first time the Regional will be held in this area. The Fast Results Bulletin that surveyed people who attended the Champaign Regional indicated that players were interested in attending the Collinsville Regional. Debbie Romero and Dennis Abeln both asked for the survey results to be forwarded to them.

St. Louis: The August Regional will charge \$15 for the Open players and \$10 for players in all I/N events, while 0-5 players can play for free.

Champaign: Karen Walker voiced concerns about the financial loss the tournament incurred, which she felt was substantially impacted by having to pay travel expenses for a nationally-ranked ACBL Tournament Director who lived outside the Midwest region. Peter Wilke indicated that an ACBL Tournament Director is required for Regionals and that there are currently no ACBL TD's residing within District 8.

NLM Regional Reports:

Rockford: Unit 239 is planning to have one NLM Regional combined with an Open Sectional in Sept 2024, as they did in Sept 2023. However, the original sanction request was inadvertently submitted as

a Local Sectional instead of a NLM Regional combined with an Open Sectional. Unit 239 is resubmitting the sanction request and is awaiting approval, which according to Peter Wilke may be problematic given only a 3-month time frame before the event and the complication that NLM Regionals require an ACBL TD rather than the Local TD currently assigned.

Bloomington: Lori Moore said that their NLM Regional lost money in 2023, but they will see how 2024 goes before deciding on future NLM Regional plans.

St. Louis: Dennis Abeln reported that the Oct 2023 and Jan 2024 NLM Regionals both ran with a loss, but the fee structure was lower than usual. The Oct 2023 tournament let the NLMs play for free, while in January, NLM players were only charged \$5 per entry. At the next NLM, Unit 143 plans to charge \$10 per NLM entry. Attendance at both NLM Regionals has been good. In May, when Unit 143 wasn't permitted to hold a NLM Regional, I/N attendance dropped. However, the NLM Regional has an upper range of 750, while the I/N range for the Open Sectional capped at 499, so some I/N players above 500 likely shifted to the Open games.

Allocation of NLM Regionals in District 8: The District can have 5.

Unit 223: Kadie Davis says their unit does not want to hold 1.

Unit 143: Mark Boswell says that St. Louis would like to host 3.

Unit 239: Marilyn Croft says they want 1 or 0.

Unit 208: Lori Moore says they want 1 or 0.

Old Business:

Standing Rules: Mark Boswell voiced his objection to the rule requiring one week's separation between a NLM Regional and other Open Regionals in District 8. Based on an informal survey he did, he believes that having a NLM Regional in May would slightly help St. Louis attendance but would not hurt Champaign's Regional. Peter Wilke pointed out that if every Sectional is combined with a NLM Regional, that will reduce I/N players' opportunities to earn silver points, which are needed to earn Life Master. Peter commented that having at least one stand-alone Sectional in an area is of benefit to non-life masters since it awards the greatest payout of silver points compared to other silver-earning events.

New Business: The Board voted on and approved three motions.

Motion 1 pertained to the ACBL's Charity Foundation's distribution of a \$10,000 grant to the District every 2 years instead of 1. Charity selections and information are due to the ACBL by October 1, 2024.

Motion 1: Allocates the \$10,000 as follows:

- 1) \$2500 to Northern Illinois Food Bank (in Unit 239 area)
- 2) \$2500 to Eastern Illinois Food Bank (supporting parts of Unit 208, and Effingham area of Unit 223)
- 3) \$5000 to St. Louis Area Food Bank (supporting 14 counties in Eastern Missouri of Unit 143 and 12 counties in Southwestern Illinois of Unit 223)

Marilyn Croft moved to accept the motion, and Mark Boswell seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Motion 2: Amend the NLM Policy that was approved by the board at the November 4, 2023 meeting as follows: "There must be at least one week between the last day of a District 8 NLM Regional and the first day of a District 8 Open Regional unless approved by the Tournament Chair of the 'grandfathered' tournament as well as the District 8 ACBL Tournament Coordinator."

Marilyn Croft moved to accept the motion, and John Pree seconded. The motion passed.

Motion 3: Add the approved NLM Policy as amended in Motion 2 to the NLM Section of the District 8 Standing Rules.

Van Stone made a motion to accept Motion 3, and Marilyn Croft seconded. The motion passed.

The meeting adjourned at 11:19 AM.

Next meeting: November 2, 2024 from 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM.

Submitted by: Sandy Bigg, Secretary District 8

Appendix A to June 1, 2024 District 8 Board Meeting Minutes

Summary of District 8 Email Voting Actions

(Period November 4, 2023 through June 1, 2024)

Date Requested	Date Approved (Unless otherwise indicated)	Email Proposal	Submitted By
11/6/2023	11/6/2023 Motion Failed	Approval of the following addition to the NLM Regional Section of the D8 Standing Rules: "There must be at least one week between the last day of a District 8 NLM Regional and the first day of a District 8 Open Regional."	Debbie Romero
2/7/2024	2/12/2024	Approval of the Collinsville, IL Regional Flyer for September 10-14, 2024	Kadie Davis
2/15/2024	2/16/2024	Approval of the St. Louis Regional Flyer for August 12-18, 2024	Dennis Abeln
2/17/2024	2/18/2024 Vote Cancelled in Process due to needed revision in entry fee	Approval of the Champaign Regional Flyer for May 21-26, 2024	Karen Walker
2/18/2024	2/20/2024	Approval of the Revised Champaign Regional Flyer for May 21-26, 2024 (The revision was the \$10 entry fee for 199er pairs, instead of the previously shown \$5 entry fee.)	Karen Walker