

American Contract Bridge League District 8 Annual Board Meeting Saturday 6/7/2025 Via Zoom

Board and Committee Members present: Dennis Abeln, Karl Anderson, Debbie Avery, Tim Bonner, Mark Boswell, , Vicki Brantley, Bill Bulfer, Marilyn Croft, Terry D'Amato, Ken Eiger, Terry Goodykoontz, Jane Johnson, Cindy Lake, Martha Leary, Steve Lowe, Lori Moore, John Pree, Debbie Romero, Larry Sealy, Mary Beth Shaw, and Michael Sherberg.

Board and Committee Members absent: Josh Rich, Phyllis Siegel, Grant Sterling, Peter Wilke and Milt Zlatic.

Lori Moore called the June 7, 2025 District 8 Board meeting to order at 9:01 AM.

President's Report:

Lori Moore welcomed several new members to the board, Ken Eiger replacing Debbie Romero from Unit 143; Tim Bonner, replacing Donna Swick from Unit 223, Vicki Brantley, replacing Bob Holdeman from Unit 223; Karl Anderson and Steve Lowe, replacing Marilyn Croft and Van Stone, respectively, from Unit 239.

Lori also announced that the District 8 Board would be losing two long standing Board Members, Debbie Romero and Marilyn Croft, and thanked them both profusely for their many contributions to the District 8 board.

Lori called for the approval of the November 2, 2024 meeting minutes. Steve Lowe moved to accept the motion, seconded by Martha Leary. The motion passed.

Lori made a motion to have the Summary of Email Voting Actions from November 2, 2024 – June 6, 2025 attached to the June 7, 2025 minutes. Bill Bulfer moved to accept the motion, seconded by Martha Leary. The motion passed.

Lori introduced new appointments for roles that help the Board.

Jane Johnson, Secretary

Cindy Lake, Publicity/Communications

Terry D'Amato, Website Chair

Dennis Abeln, Website movement (moving the website from Karen Walker's server to a third party server) and National Advisory Council

Mark Boswell, Standing Rules and Bylaws once Debbie Romero has finished the current update to the Bylaws

Ken Eiger, GNT Chair will work on Conditions of Contest, and work with GNT Coordinator, Phyllis Siegel on scheduling, flyer and emails.

John Pree, National Advisory Council

These appointments were accepted by the board.

Lori concluded her President's report by having everyone introduce themselves along with their positions.

Bylaws/Standing Rules:

Debbie Romero reported that the proposed Bylaws address changes in operation necessitated by the pandemic and ACBL operational changes. Debbie conducted a first reading.

Major changes to the current District 8 Bylaws include the following:

1. Board meetings were changed to preferably video conferencing or conference telephone rather than Face-to-Face meetings.
2. Executive Committee meetings were added.
3. Email Voting was added.
4. ACBL Director for District 8 was changed to an ACBL Regional Director.
5. Some timeframes and deadlines have been shortened to allow more nimble and responsive board action given that there are only two regular board meetings a year.
6. The District Treasurer and District Administrative Secretary were separated into two different positions and more detailed duties were added. These jobs used to be done by the same person.
7. The Corporate Registered Agent for District 8 was added. The registered agent is the District 8 corporate liaison for communications with the state of Illinois where District 8 is incorporated and is also the District 8 point of contact for receipt of any legal documents.

Dennis Abeln made a motion to approve the first reading of the Proposed District 8 Bylaws as read with an amendment to Article 7A5 to correct the Section reference. Seconded by Marilyn Croft. The motion passed.

There are no changes currently to the Standing Rules. Debbie Romero has transferred the Standing Rules to Mark Boswell within the last few weeks.

Treasurer's Report:

Debbie Avery presented the Income and Expense for 2024 along with the Income and Expense for 2025 thru a week ago. The Board had no questions.

ACBL Region 7 Director's Report:

Larry Sealy presented a comprehensive ACBL Board of Directors Update from the Fall 2024 National along with the Spring 2025 National. All online pigmented games have been moved to the ACBL Clubhouse games. ACBL is looking at consolidating NABC tournaments to a fewer number of cities. New event for Regionals of Bracketed Pairs but must be approved because only certain directors can run this type of event. Bracketed Pairs need large fields with at least four brackets to be successful. New Members and Guest Members are increasing but overall, the ACBL is losing memberships. Reported on initiative to improving tournaments. Updated on players caught cheating from Edgar, player memos and partners of those that were on the list of possible cheating. New online vendors that will be able to award ACBL masterpoints.

Advocate/Website Update: Dennis Abeln reported on the District 8 Advocate. A committee was formed with representation from each Unit.

Dennis made a motion to discontinue the District 8 Advocate, Marilyn Croft seconded. The motion passed.

Dennis made another motion for future payment to the Website Administrator of \$100 per month for work after March 1 to maintain the website, Marilyn Croft seconded the motion. The motion passed. This payment does not include the work that will be required to migrate the website from Karen Walker's account to a third party server.

Website includes links to Unit websites or an informational page. Dennis commented that Units without a website may be charged \$40 an hour for work performed by the Website Administrator.

The hosting of the website is now currently being done on Karen Walker's account. The thought is that the District website will be moved to another account that the District controls. Dennis will do the research and come with a recommendation to the November board meeting with recommendations on how to proceed.

Standing Committee Reports:

GNT: Ken Eiger submitted a report for the last few years since the pandemic. He reported that there are three teams eligible to go to the Philadelphia nationals in July this year. Ken suggested choosing the weekend prior to the Gatlinburg tournament in 2026 for the District GNT finals. A discussion was held on changing GNT fees for next year. Lori made a motion to maintain the same fees as in 2025, Martha seconded. The motion passed.

St. Louis 2026 NABC:

Tournament: Michael Sherberg reported on the plans for the NABC. He has been working with the ACBL team that helps with NABCs and a committee. Debbie A mentioned that the District holds a CD with about \$30,000 in funds available for the tournament. Larry Sealy reported that District 10 gave \$10,000 for the Memphis National tournament and that the committee returned the full amount since it was not used. ACBL budgets out what they expect to be spent on prizes and hospitality and the committee is expected to pay anything above that. Michael Sherberg agreed to report back to District 8 on how District 8's allocated monies will be used.

Mark Boswell suggested giving \$10,000 to \$20,000. Debbie R agreed. The monies held in a district CD were raised for the benefit of National tournaments held within District 8. Larry Sealy reported that there are no future plans to host another national within District 8 as the ACBL is trying to not have national tournaments that use convention centers due to the higher costs involved. After discussion of different amounts by various board members, Lori made a motion that District 8 would allocate \$15,000 to the St. Louis National noting that they can always come back if they need more, seconded by Martha. The motion passed.

NABC Fundraising: Lori Moore reported that District 8 will hold promotional games again in September along with another week to be held in January.

STaC Report: Grant Sterling submitted reports that reflect about the same as last year and the year before.

Tournament Coordinator: No report. Peter Wilke absent.

NAP: Martha Leary reported November's game that participation was down about 30%. She is working with Brian Weikle to get the sanction. The flights have now changed to be the same as the Grand National Teams.

Goodwill and Charity nominations: Debbie Romero reported that the President can select two candidates for both Goodwill and Charity. All District Board members are asked to submit candidates to Lori by September 1.

Debbie Avery has the District 8 Goodwill pins, these pins are used for Units to give out to their members. One pin may be requested by each Unit each year.

Education: Mary Beth Shaw reported about a possibility of holding another Adult Bridge Camp. In 2023 it was a struggle to come up with five tables. She would like to try it again in Spring or Fall of 2026.

Open Regional Reports:

Champaign tournament: Bill Bulfer reported that we averaged five tables per session more than last year. The Unit has approved running the tournament again in 2026.

Crystal Lake: Marilyn Croft reported that Unit 239 will host their Regional June 16-20, 2025 in the same location. Marilyn also reported that by moving their tournament to weekdays only they were able to get a better deal from the hotel. They are negotiating for 2026.

St. Louis: Dennis Abeln reported they are busy planning the August tournament and are expecting to make a modest profit.

Collinsville: Vicki Brantley reported that they are working on promoting the tournament. They negotiated a lower rate from the convention center.

NLM Regional Reports:

Rockford: Marilyn Croft reported that they are having their tournament in September.

Bloomington: Lori Moore reported that Unit 208 would be holding their tournament in July.

St. Louis: Nothing to report.

Old Business: None

New Business:

Mark Boswell initiated a discussion about the possibility and ramifications of dissolving District 8 given that ACBL membership continues to decline, tournament attendance continues to decline, and the District 8 Board is experiencing some difficulty in finding board volunteers. Larry Sealy reported that ACBL will not take action to dissolve Districts without the District wanting to dissolve itself. He doesn't know if the District would transfer to another District as a whole or if the Units would possibly have a choice of which District they would want to join. Most Board members do not support dissolution at this time as it is not in the best interest of the players due to the likely loss of regionals within the District 8 geographical area with dissolution.

The meeting adjourned at 12:00 PM.

Next meeting: October 25, 2025 from 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM.

Submitted by: Lori Moore

Appendix A to June 7, 2025 District 8 Board Meeting Minutes

Summary of District 8 Email Voting Actions

(Period November 2, 2024 through June 6, 2025)

Date Requested	Date Approved (Unless otherwise indicated)	Email Proposal	Submitted By
11/2/24 board meeting	11/14/24	President Lori Moore of Unit 208 committed to hosting the 2025 Champaign Regional in an email to District 8 President Debbie Romero.	Lori Moore
11/2/24 board meeting	11/18/24	President Bob Holdeman of Unit 223 committed to hosting the 2025 Collinsville Regional in an email to District 8 President Debbie Romero.	Bob Holdeman
11/2/24 board meeting	11/21/24	President Mark Zellmer of Unit 143 committed to hosting the 2025 St. Louis Regional in an email to District 8 President Debbie Romero.	Mark Zellmer
11/2/24 board meeting	11/24/24	President Marilyn Croft of Unit 239 committed to hosting the 2025 Crystal Lake Regional in an email to District 8 President Debbie Romero.	Marilyn Croft
12/12/24	12/14/24	District 8 Approval of the May 20-24, <u>2025</u> Champaign Regional Flyer for Unit 208.	Lori Moore
01/29/25	01/31/25	<p>District 8 Approval of Website Compensation for Programming Services.</p> <p>Motion. Approve funding to compensate Terry D'Amato for programming services in support of District 8's website.</p> <p>a. Initial effort to revise the website: Budget \$2,400 for 60 hours work at \$40/hour. Compensation will be based on actual time spent but will not exceed \$2,400 without additional board approval. This initial work is expected to be completed no later than June 30, 2025.</p> <p>b. Subsequent services to support the website: Budget \$1000 per year based on 25 hours per year at \$40/hour. This hourly rate will be fixed through the end of 2027.</p>	Dennis <u>Abeln</u>

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		<p>c. Terry will work as an independent contractor for District 8. Terry will bill District 8 every three months. When payments <u>in a given year</u> total \$600 or more, District 8 Treasurer will report the amount to the IRS using a 1099-NEC form. Terry will make all required income tax withholding payments and pay the combined employer-employee Social Security and Medicare taxes.</p> <p>d. The scope of Terry's work will be coordinated by the <u>District 8 Website Committee</u> chaired by Dennis <u>Abeln</u>. Dennis will be the <u>liason</u> with Terry.</p> <p>Total commitment for calendar year 2025: 60 hours rework plus 12.5 hours for <u>1/2 year</u> maintenance all at \$40/hour = \$2,900. Estimated costs in future years: 25 hours at \$40/hour = \$1,000.</p>	
02/14/25	02/19/25	Approval of the August 2025 St. Louis "Gateway to the West" Regional Flyer for Unit 143.	Dennis <u>Abeln</u>
02/14/25	02/19/25	Approval of the September 2025 Collinsville "Mississippi River Bluffs" Regional Flyer for Unit 223.	Bob <u>Holdeman</u>