

## **ADBC BOARD MEETING MONDAY, APRIL 7, 2025**

**Call to Order:** President Larz Smith called the meeting to order at 10:05. Larz Smith, Dorothy Moore, Melody Gann, Wayne Corbett, Doug Berke, Diana Clive and Kate Wickham were all in attendance at the ADBC. Mary Ellen Stanton attended by Zoom.

**Minutes of March 5, 2025 Board Meeting:** The March minutes were corrected to reflect that the Dallas Unit has agreed to reimburse the ADBC \$300 for our closure during their sectional held in April. All future minutes with edits approved by the Board will be emailed to all Directors before final deposit into ADBC records. Melody motioned to approve the March minutes as amended, Wayne seconded the motion and all approved.

**Minutes of Annual Membership Meeting:** Melody proposed that a draft of the Annual Membership Meeting minutes be posted on the website so that all members can suggest additions or corrections before a final review and approval by the Board. We will wait until after the May meeting before posting the draft for the members at large.

**Calendars and Special Events:** Dorothy recommended changes to the March calendar, including closure of the ADBC on Saturday March 12, 2025 because of the Awards ceremony being held at the Fort Worth Studio. The award ceremony includes lunch, the awards, and is followed by a game. Please bring food to contribute. A Royal StaC Swiss game will be held on April 19.

The calendar shows Thursday games being held at 12:30. Although it doesn't always 'make', it usually does. Thanks go to Mary Ellen.

The April calendar is approved.

The proposed May calendar includes Grass Roots month. We will be closed for the Fort Worth Sectional (May 16 and 17), as well as the Dallas Sectional (May 1-3). Special events are difficult to schedule in May because of Mother's Day and school graduation ceremonies. However, there is an 8 is Enuf game scheduled for May 31. May 5, 14, and the 31st will be Club Championships, and other games will be marked as Grass Roots games eligible for enhanced points. We will also be closed on May 11 for Mother's Day.

Can we run a Pro-Am on a Sunday with a limited sanction for Sundays? Mary Ellen will check on this.

June starts NAPs.

Dorothy would like to pass off the responsibilities of creating the monthly calendar to a new caregiver after June. It requires a lot of coordination with Mary Ellen, ACBL calendars, etc. There will be 2 NAP games per sanction per month for June, July and August. There were changes to NAP point structures implemented at the Nationals in Memphis that she still needs to research before setting all the club NAP games for June and months going through the summer. There will also be standard StaC games scheduled in June.

The May calendar was approved. It will be forwarded to George for dissemination to the rest of the membership.

**Financials:** George has nothing to add following the information handed out at the Annual Meeting. However we did receive two nice donations from members, including one for \$5000. However, we are losing an

average of \$1300/month which extends to around \$25,000 by the end of our lease with a current bank balance of less than \$30,000. We can't rely on membership donations to sustain us.

**Election of Officers and Allocation of Board Jobs:** Melody nominated Larz to remain as President, seconded by Doug. All voted in favor. Larz nominated George to continue as Treasurer, Melody seconded and all voted in favor. Vice-President is responsible for standing in for an absent President at meetings, generally coordinates our game directors and game changes, and handles complaints about director issues. Larz nominated Doug as VP and Director coordinator. Diana seconded and all approved. Larz nominated Diana to continue as Secretary, Melody seconded and all voted in favor. It is a "thankless job" ...as are all the others 😊. Wayne will continue as Director of Facilities. Kate offered to take over the creation of the monthly calendar continuing to use a Word template with Dorothy's initial guidance. Melody will coordinate special events, including ordering food and cakes as needed.

Saturday games generally include snacks brought by everyone. Special occasions warrant extra food or cake expenses. The 8 is Enuf game in April will include snacks. The 8 is Enuf game on May 31 will include the club providing pizza or subs. Melody will check on competitive pricing options.

**Discussion of Ideas for Growing the Club:** Randy Eads has communicated that Denton is requesting two sectionals for 2026. The FW Studio also wants to schedule 2. There is a maximum of four allowed per calendar year per District 16 rules. A lengthy discussion followed among the directors regarding a possible sectional by our own ADBC. Larz recommended against it partly due to the cost of all day sanction fees and other costs. Doug was unclear on the labor and other logistics involved in running a sectional, but wanted to explore the idea further. Larz wants to ask the District to increase the number we can have in the Unit to reduce the friction between the clubs. George notes that more sectionals draw people away from our local clubs.

Diana proposed holding a more limited Non-Life Master Sectional that would fall outside the rules imposed by the District. Dorothy questioned whether enough qualified players would come from outside our own club. Diana further proposed adopting some of the initiatives taken by Lorraine at the FW Studio which have successfully increased the number of lower point players.

George questioned the cost and availability of a venue sized sufficiently for 25 tables, suggesting that we could hold a limited local sectional in our own club space, using a reservation system. Perhaps limiting it to 16 tables similar to the FW Studio. Dorothy countered that ACBL doesn't allow limitations, but local sectionals cannot exceed 25 tables. We are unclear how FW is 'getting around' this rule given their lack of space for that many tables. We would also expect closure reciprocity from the FW Studio on the days we hold our tournament. Another question, if the FW Studio is Unit 183, would we be entitled to its use as well for such an event? What would be our costs for that?

Other questions: Could we host a split Unit/Club Championship divided between the FW and Arlington clubs? Does the reservation requirement stand up to scrutiny in ACBL rules? Does Randy have a time limit that he needs an answer? Do we feel comfortable essentially taking a sectional away from Denton knowing that FW wouldn't give up one of theirs?

Larz: Lets get the correct information regarding size/reservation requirements and Randy's time limits.

Doug: The Board can discuss this for a final decision once the information is in hand.

Melody: We can still discuss having a NLM at our club. Or a Unit game in a venue that requires rent, similar to the Dallas Unit.

**Potential New Players from TCC:** Gloria Fields has a number of beginner students in her class at TCC. Lets encourage them to try us by offering them coupons. Melody motions that we offer a \$5 discount on their first play, followed by a free play for their second time here. Larz seconds the motion, all approved. We suggest

that they play in Tuesday or Sunday games which are limited and less intimidating. Melody will design a half page flyer for Gloria to hand out to her students.

T-Shirts with ADBC Logos: Melody suggested designing a T-shirt or polo shirt with our ADBC logo on it, selling it to members for wear outside of the club for advertising and initiating conversations. ADBC swag! Diana will help, and Kate is an artist.

Arlington Newcomer Lists: Perhaps we can partner with Arlington City on providing flyer information or coupons for newcomers or new residents. This idea can be extended to real estate agents or offices that give local information or resources to new residents buying in the area. Perhaps we can approach senior living communities or coffee shops that would post flyers about our club.

Local Councilman: Mary Dove may be able to facilitate a meeting with an Arlington City Councilman Andrew Piel. There might be city resources we aren't aware of.

Kate: Kate will contact the Chairperson of the Dept. of Earth and Environmental Science at UTA to encourage any interest for students learn to bridge.

There were a lot of ideas presented. Each board member can champion one, and bring back any information they have gathered. Melody, Diana, and Kate will work on flyers, T-shirts, and coupons. Larz will champion investigating the logistics of a monthly subscription fee. George opposes special fees or special assessments. He fears it will result in player fall off over time. People will be reluctant to commit given the economic uncertainty we are all feeling. Diana suggests that email encouragement of members to try and play just one more time per month would go a long way to closing our revenue gap, effectively increasing the table count in a less coercive more appealing way. It's easier for members to 'wrap their heads around the idea'.

Director Request for Better Vacuum Cleaner: Doug requested a motion to approve the purchase of a replacement rechargeable vacuum cleaner for director cleanup after games. Larz motioned to approve up to \$100, Melody seconded and all approved.

Old Business: None raised.

New Business: Bob Dove has volunteered to head up a partnership desk for the club. Mary Ellen would prefer to handle partnership requests for her Thursday games. Melody suggested that Bob be looped in for such needs on other games. He has requested names, phone numbers, and emails of members and other active players who would be willing to act a partner resources. George will send out a BCC eblast to solicit names, and pass them on so Bob can develop specific list of such potential players. He can use BCC to limit email blast issues among these players.

Future Board Meetings: Board meetings will continue to be held on the second Wednesday of each month at 10:30. Therefore the next meeting will be held on May 14, starting at 10:30.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:00.

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Respectfully submitted,

Diana Clive  
ADBC Secretary