



MINUTES

ACBL District 18 Board Meeting

23 November 2025, 6:00pm MDT

Online via Zoom

Attendees

Dan Dover, President and AB representative

James Dulmage, Treasurer (CAD) and SK representative

Ray Fink, Secretary, NAP Coordinator, and WY representative

Doug Rankin, D18 Tournament Coordinator

Tom Romine, Treasurer (USD) and MT representative

Susan Witcraft, incoming MT representative (January 2026)

Not Attending

Crystal Mann, D18 GNT Coordinator; Doug Mann, D18 STaC Coordinator; Irene Monical, UT representative; Tim White, Region 13 Director

Agenda Items

1. Minutes of the previous board meeting (11 March 2025) were approved.
2. ACBL Representative Report: Omitted. (Tim White, Region 13 Director, could not attend due to concurrent ACBL board meetings.) Dan Dover advised that Calgary is still in consideration as a future NABC site.
3. Financial Status – US (Tom Romine): Tom reviewed the YTD financials for the USD account. The Grand National Teams event lost money, the effect of small turnout and cost of subsidies to teams that went to National finals. The Billings regional made a small profit. STaC and NAP events made money. USD balance as of 11/17/2025 was USD\$18,568.55, an increase of \$3061.98 year-on-year.
4. Financial Status – Canada (Dan Dover): Dan reviewed the YTD financials for the CAD account. The Saskatoon regional did very well financially due to the inexpensive playing site (the Saskatoon bridge club). The Red Deer regional was a financial net positive although much less so, due to the \$12K cost for the hotel playing site. CAD

balance as of 11/17/2025 was CAD\$56,699.64, an increase of \$8693.44 year-on-year.

5. GNT Report (Crystal Mann): No report; Crystal was unable to attend. The District GNT finals for 2026 are scheduled for F2F play April 11-12 in Lethbridge AB, just before the Lethbridge regional beginning on 13 April.
6. STaC Report (Doug Mann): Doug was unable to attend but submitted a written report as follows: The November Royal STaC (combined with District 20) was completed Sunday 16 November. 43 clubs participated (19 from D18) with a total of 671 tables. 1062 members (481 from D18) received masterpoints out of 2746 competing. The Final D18 StaC is scheduled for December 8-14 (right after Fall NABC). 12 clubs signed up so far. Doug is starting to schedule STaCs for 2026 and expects to time them about the same way next year.
7. NAP Report (Ray Fink): The District NAP Finals were held online November 8th and 15th. A total of 19.5 tables were in play across three flights, comparable to last year. The Flight A and Championship Flight events were combined due to few entries in the Championship Flight. A total of 14 pairs from the District will be eligible for the National finals in St Louis, March 2026. Travel subsidies for NAP finalists are paid by ACBL HQ, not by the District. The event should come in about \$1200 (USD) positive, due to the increased entry fees (vs 2024) and fewer-than-expected paid ACBL Tournament Director sessions billed.
8. Webmaster Report (James Dulmage): The District's web page is in service, no issues reported. Jackson Chan continues as the behind-the-scenes operations. James has reviewed the technology in use and is comfortable with that. Any webpage input should be directed to James.
9. Regional Reports 2025:
Saskatoon regional - 435.5 tables. The tournament did very well financially due to the low-cost playing site
Red Deer regional – 484 tables. The tournament made some money; the playing site rental cost \$12,000 CAD
Billings regional – 211 tables. The tournament made some money; the playing site was very inexpensive. Having food trucks at the site for lunch was well-received by players.
Lethbridge I/N regional – 81 tables, held in parallel with their Sectional tournament

(63 tables). The unit members provided cookies, coffee, and a pulled pork sandwich luncheon, as well as subsidized Subway sandwiches for one day. The Unit carries all financial responsibility for the combined events, and reportedly was satisfied with the outcome.

10. Upcoming Regionals 2026:

Lethbridge Regional April 13-19

Calgary I/N Regional June 5-7

Edmonton Regional August 11-16 Expected hotel costs \$12K CAD for the venue. The District does not plan to provide free coffee due to the costs involved.

Missoula Regional September 14-19 The playing site (a community center) has been contracted. With the low cost for this venue, the tournament is expected to be break-even financially.

11. Old Business:

- a. James Dulmage to replace Andy Anderson as signing authority on the District's RBC account. This is not yet completed. James and Dan will continue to work the issue; Dan will contact the RBC branch in Calgary.

12. New Business:

- a. Bylaws. James has revised and cleaned up the bylaws, they are ready for review.
ACTION: Board members to review the revised bylaws, discussion online. The intent is to reach approval of these in the near future.
- b. Board Elections Discussion: Tom is resigning as MT representative effective the end of the year. Susan Witcraft (Helena MT) has been selected as the new MT representative. The board welcomes Susan, and thanks Tom for his many years of service as MT representative and District Treasurer.
- c. Expense Policy Discussion: The District apparently does not have a policy regarding cash expenditures by board members. What is the maximum amount that can be spent without prior board approval?
DECISION: Any board member expenditures in excess of **\$200.00** (local funds) require board approval for reimbursement. James will add this to the policy document.

- d. Cashless Regionals: The board notes that NABC tournaments are now cashless. Doug Rankin states that all ACBL Tournament Directors have the Square credit card apparatus; Doug has USD and CAD versions. ACBL pays the credit card fees. For Red Deer, the net receipts from credit card entries were paid to the USD account rather than the CAD account; the District incurred 3% conversion fees when moving these funds to the CAD account. Doug advises that this was in error, ACBL should have paid the CAD account. Cashless tournaments will be safer for Directors and tournament officials, not having to deal with large amounts of cash. I/N regionals are held in conjunction with Unit sectionals; the Units set their own policy for these tournaments. James notes that Sunday lunch tickets will be cashless as these funds are collected as part of the entry fee.

DECISION: All future District-operated regional tournaments will be cashless. (Moved, Ray; seconded, James. Passed unanimously). Per ACBL policy, the tournament publicity must state that it is a cashless tournament.

ACTION: Tournament chairpersons ensure that the tournament flyers so state; **Lethbridge and Edmonton tournament flyers need this revision.**

- e. Calgary 2027 regional: Dan says the Calgary Unit is not taking any responsibility for organizing the regional as is done in other cities. In the past they have been responsible for hospitality and Dan will confirm with them. Dan is working to find a volunteer chairperson.
- f. Unit Directors Handbook: Apparently there is a Unit Director's handbook on the ACBL website. There does not seem to be similar guidance for District board members. Dan will review the Unit Director's handbook and assess the relevance/need for District directors.
- g. Should we have an AGM with unit presidents? The informal consensus is that it is not clear that this is needed yet.
- h. US Treasurer: A new Treasurer is needed, given Tom's imminent exit from the Board. Irene Monical had previously expressed interest in taking on the role. Susan states that she is willing to be treasurer if needed. In either case, we need a second person as an authorized signature on the District's account at First Interstate Bank.
- ACTION: Tom** will check with Irene regarding her interest/availability for Treasurer role.

DECISION: Susan Witcraft is approved to be a signature authority on the District 18 account at First Interstate Bank. (Passed unanimously.)

ACTION: Tom and Susan to coordinate actions to add her as a signature authority.

- i. Regina 2027 regional (James): A venue has been selected for the tournament. The schedule and publicity flyers are in preparation.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:45pm.

Minutes prepared by Ray Fink, District 18 Secretary