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The District Nineteen Organization of The American Contract Bridge League

Synopsis of District 19, ACBL, Internet Board Meeting Actions August 5, 2021

The elections of Karen Rise and Ralph Wilhelmi, representing eastern and western Washington at large respectively, for three-year terms on the District Board starting 1 January 2021 were ratified.

Tim White, District 19's Director on the National Board reported that as face-to-face clubs reopened their attendance showed an upward trend while virtual clubs showed a decline until the Delta Variant of the Covid 19 virus struck. The National Board is struggling to set policies for face-to-face games versus virtual games. The backlog of disciplinary cases since the increase of virtual games concerned him and the National Board is exploring ways of speeding up the process. He is currently serving on an arbitration panel to settle a dispute between two districts regarding conflicting regional tournaments.

The District online finals of the North American Pairs is slated for October 14 and 15th. District NAP Coordinator Brian Maksymetz said a flyer would be circulated before the Seaside Regional. After a discussion on whether to pursue the use of side cameras or proctors during the online finals, the consensus was that cameras were not all that helpful in detecting cheating and that it was too difficult to arrange proctors. The Board suggested that the NAP Coordinator set the entry fee for the finals at \$15 per session.

President Chris Cookson related that a problem has developed in the hotel's offering of reduced room rates for the Whistler 2021 Regional as reservations have already surpassed the block of rooms guaranteed.

After Nick Stock reported that the 2022 Burnaby Regional playing site is not available and that the hotel henceforth would set the cost of playing space based on food and beverage expenditures instead of number of guest rooms rented, the Board decided to move the Leavenworth 2022 Regional from the fall to the spring. This freed up the fall date to allow for scheduling a Whistler Regional again in 2022. President Cookson felt this would be a good bargaining point in getting Whistler to reopen room reservations for 2021 at the reduced rate.

The District Bylaws were amended to decrease the number of Board members from 12 to 11 as the position of District Director is going away as of 1 January. Additionally, a quorum for the transaction of business was changed to read "A quorum for transaction of business shall consist of one more than half of the number of Board members presently serving and representing at least four (4) of the Washington and British Columbia areas."

The Board gave the President the authority to share the results of a recently completed survey regarding reopening face-to-face bridge tournament in the District with District units and other districts.

President Cookson discussed the District's dissatisfaction with ACBL arbitrarily cancelling all September tournaments recently. District Director White expressed that the National Board is considering compensating sponsoring units and district that suffered financial consequences.

Ryley Breiddal has been appointed as District 19 GNT Coordinator.

Submitted by Dudley Brown, District 19 Secretary