

# DINO

## The District Nineteen Organization of The American Contract Bridge League

District 19, ACBL, Internet Board Meeting Minutes, April 21 and 28, 2020

1. The meeting was called to order April 21, 2020, at 4:00 p.m. President Chris Cookson declared a quorum with the following Board members connected on line or by phone: Chris Cookson, Kathie Hoehne, Ron Krueger, Brian Maksymetz, Marv Norden, Marla Patterson, Karen Rise, Eric Sieg, Julie Smith, Nick Stock, and Tim White. Ralph Wilhelmi was absent. Also present were Dudley Brown, Secretary, David Schmidt, Treasurer, and Matt Koltnow, District 19 Tournament Coordinator and ACBL Field Supervisor, and for part of the meeting John Weinberg, District 19 Disciplinary Chair, Ann Romeo, Seattle Unit 446, and Al Bender, Treasurer, Seattle NextGen Bridge.

2. **Patterson moved and Stock seconded to certify Vancouver Unit 430's election of Bryan Maksymetz to the Board to complete an unexpired term ending December 31, 2021.** Motion passed unanimously.

3. Presently there were no additions or modifications to the agenda except the date of the March internet meeting was corrected to March 17, 2020.

4. **Kruger moved and Smith seconded to accept the minutes of the 2019 Pasco Board Meeting. Motion passed unanimously. Stock moved and Smith seconded to accept the minutes of the 17 March 17, 2020, Internet Board Meeting.** Motion passed unanimously.

5. In discussions of received correspondence the following actions occurred:

a. Smith, District National Board Director, volunteered to send Notices of Disciplinary Decisions and Notices of Pending District 19 Board Elections to District 19 Board members and Unit secretaries.

b. Schmidt reported that while the District was pleased to get a partial refund on taxes paid Washington State, a Seattle authority on state taxes recommended to not "Rock the Boat" and to not appeal further. The Board took no further action to appeal.

c. Schmidt reported on the status of appealing an IRS penalty for their claim that our 2018 return was late. The whole issue stemmed from the return being sent back and forth to the District Secretary, Treasurer, and the IRS. **Patterson moved and White seconded to currently not pay the penalty pending a reply to an appeal letter sent the IRS by the District Treasurer.** Motion passed unanimously. Further the President appointed Patterson to submit the 2019 return from her U.S. address to not have the problem repeated.

6. Cookson moved and Kruger seconded approval of the President's appointing Rise as chair and Patterson and Stock as other members of the Bylaws and Compliance Committee. Motion passed unanimously.

7. Rise moved and Patterson seconded to accept the following bylaw additions proposed by the Bylaws and Compliance Committee:

**5.7.1 Under special circumstances and with the permission of the President, a member of the board may participate in a regular meeting by telephone or internet conference call. This should be allowed only in a unique and nonrecurring situation.**

**5.7.2. In the event that action is required by the board with such urgency that a regular board meeting cannot be convened, a telephone and/or internet conference call may be held. Attendance must be taken and quorum requirement met.**

**5.7.3. During the interval(s) between meetings, board members may be polled by email for approval of a proposed course of action on a time-sensitive issue. Before implementation, the proposed action requires a two-thirds majority email vote of the board. The tally will be kept by the President or Secretary and the actions and votes formally incorporated in the minutes of the next meeting.**

**5.8.1. In the event that action is required by the board with such urgency that telephone and/or internet conference call is the method of convening a meeting, the President and/or other initiating party will endeavor to give as much notice as possible but it is agreed that due to the emergency nature of the meeting, ten (10) days notice may not be practicable. A majority of the attendees of the meeting must ratify the decision to waive notice.**

Motion passed unanimously

8. Norden moved and White seconded to cancel the Penticton 2020 regional. Motion passed unanimously.

9. The following New Business Items were taken out of order due to the availability of the presenters:

a. Sieg moved and Stock seconded that Seattle Unit 446 is granted the right to hold a two-day non-life master regional November 14-15, 2020. Motion passed unanimously.

b. Sieg moved and White seconded that the District give a \$1,000.00 grant to Seattle NextGen Bridge. Motion passed with 7 Yes votes, 2 No votes and 2 abstentions.

10. The following reports were given and actions taken:

a. Rise moved and Krueger seconded to approve the Treasurer's 2019 year ending reports. Motion passed unanimously.

b. Tournament Administrator Brown asked that all contracts be given to him promptly. He further related that he was preparing a simplified Regional Budget Form and would shortly be submitting prototypes to some Board members for comments and suggestions and that he was also doing a major overall on the District Policy Manual and would be submitting portions to different Board members for input before presenting to the Board for approval.

c. District National Director Smith told that the National Board was meeting every two months by internet due to the Spring NABC being canceled. The National Board has taken a first vote to reorganize the National Board down to 13 members. A required second vote is pending.

d. District Multi-level Events Coordinator White reported on possibilities for completing District Finals of the NAP. Sieg agreed to be the District GNT Coordinator and to plan for putting on the event by internet. The President asked the Secretary to notify ACBL that Sieg was now the District GNT Coordinator.

e. District Disciplinary Chair Weinberg reported that subject Waters having previously been disciplined and on probation subsequently sent rude, threatening letters to the National Recorder's office. Another hearing took place and he was suspended from any sanctioned tournament. A Board member advised that he has mental health issues and has stopped playing.

f. Norden reported that advertisements in the ACBL Bulletin are cancelled and the District will receive a partial refund for the ad for the June Penticton Regional that was in the last Bulletin.

g. Cookson reported that the District Webmaster J.P. Weber is responding quickly to placing things on the District website and in sending out requested Pianola blasts.

h. Elections Chair Brown stated that notice of the filing period for the District Board for the 2021-2023 terms has been put on the District website and mailed to involved unit presidents and secretaries. Positions involved are for Seattle Unit 446, Vancouver Unit 430, Eastern and Western Washington at Large.

i. Intermediate/Newcomer Hospitality Chair Vivian Thickett submitted an emailed report that she sends out between 15 and 20 congratulatory letters and free plays per month to members advancing to Sectional Master status. In light of the of the Covid-19 cancelations of District regionals, she extended the expiration a year.

#### 11. Unfinished Business items:

a. Cookson stated that David Taylor's claim that some TournTables invoices had been in error seemed valid and if the District Treasurer agrees to the validity of the claim, credit would be made towards amounts that the District had advanced TournTables. **Patterson moved and Rise seconded that the advance paid to TournTables for Burnaby will be applied against the 2021 Lynnwood Regional. Should future regionals need to be cancelled, the Board will move the advance repayment forward to the next District regional.** Motion passed unanimously.

b. White stated that the Virtual Kirkwood Trophy project was completed and placed on the District website including a short video. The actual trophy is currently in the hands of the 2019 winner and if the next winner of the trophy does not want to hold the actual trophy it will be offered to the 2019 winner to keep.

c. Cookson told that Online Regional Bulletin Editor was still perfecting the online bulletins and still was not ready to ask for a contract or payment.

d. The Board agreed to give \$50 credit cards to the principle nine Burnaby 2020 Regional volunteers in appreciation of work done before the cancellation of the tournament.

e. The Board also agreed to extend the expiration date of all District free plays set to expire December 30, 2020, to 30 December 30, 2021.

12. President Cookson recessed the meeting at 7:08 p.m. with plans to recall the meeting at 4:00 p.m. on April 28, 2020.

13. President Cookson reconvened the meeting at 3:59 p.m. April 28, 2020, and declared a quorum with all 12 Board members present. Also present were Dudley Brown, Secretary, Matt Koltnow, District Tournament Coordinator and ACBL Field Supervisor, and for most of the meeting David Schmidt, Treasurer.

14. The Board discussed the pros and cons of annualizing the Whistler Regional and moving the Leavenworth Regional to the spring, alternating with Whistler but took no current action.

**15. Smith moved and Wilhelmi seconded to approve the 2019 Executive Committee's advance of \$12,500.00 to TournTables to be paid back by reductions from future TournTables regional invoices.** Motion passed unanimously.

**16. Wilhelmi moved and Stock seconded to approve the appointment of J.P. Weber as chair for the 2021 Victoria Regional.** Motion passed unanimously.

17. The Board discussed District money allotted to the Canadian Olympic fund. Several asked why it was necessary to continue the practice as in late years the District has given an honorarium to all District pairs and teams participating in international events. Most Board members asked for more history of the practice and Stock volunteered to get information for the Board from Canadian Affairs Chair Jenifer Ballantyne. Smith further volunteered to find out if other Canadian districts were subsidizing their participants in international events.

18. The following actions were taken to revamp the District Free Play policy in light of cancellation of tournaments due to the corona virus:

**a. Sieg moved and Norden seconded to grant non-assignable free plays to all District 19 sponsored regionals to the District Treasurer.** Motion passed unanimously.

**b. Sieg moved and Patterson seconded to grant 8 free plays per calendar quarter to the District webmaster.** Motion passed unanimously.

**c. Sieg moved and Patterson seconded to grant Board members 12 non-assignable free plays per board meeting.** Motion passed unanimously.

**d. Norden moved and Smith seconded to grant Matt Smith free plays to all District sponsored regionals.** Motion passed unanimously. The District Secretary was requested to write a letter to Matt Smith granting him the free plays for life.

e. Cookson reminded the Board that the filing period for three year terms for the District's three (3) elected Board of Governors members is approaching and that interested individuals may declare themselves candidates. The President asked the secretary to ask the District Webmaster to put the announcement on the District Website.

19. Smith reported that the ACBL is holding an experimental tournament on line.

20. The Board discussed the recently received proposal from TournTables. The executive committee will negotiate with District 20 and TournTables to reach an agreement. The Board feels any commitment to share in TournTables' fixed costs should include a commitment from TournTables to continue supplying the District's regionals for 12 months from date of the first traditional regional the District is allowed to hold.

**21. Patterson moved and Sieg seconded to approve the President's appointment of an Executive Committee consisting of Cookson, Wilhelmi, and White.** Motion passed unanimously.

**22. Stock moved and Sieg seconded to negotiate an agreement with TournTables.** Motion passed unanimously.

**23. Patterson moved and Stock seconded to give the Executive Committee the power to cancel the Lynnwood 2020 and Leavenworth 2020 Regionals if necessary.** Motion passed unanimously.

**24. All Board members except Cookson moved and Cookson seconded to adjourn the meeting at 6:12 p.m.** Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted

DUDLEY BROWN