

DINO

The District Nineteen Organization of The American Contract Bridge League

District 19, ACBL, Internet Board Meeting Minutes, January 12, 2021

1. The meeting was called to order January 12, 2021, at 3:00 p.m. by President Chris Cookson declaring a quorum with the following Board members connected on line: Chris Cookson, Kathie Hoehne, Karen Madison, Brian Maksymetz, Marv Norden, Marla Patterson, Karen Rise, Eric Sieg, Nick Stock, Tim White, and Ralph Wilhelmi. Also present were Dudley Brown, Secretary, David Schmidt, Treasurer, and Matt Koltow, District 19 Tournament Coordinator and ACBL Field Supervisor. Present for part of the meeting was Julie Smith, retiring District 19 Director.
2. Tim White reported that the Seattle Unit was going through its process to name a replacement for him on the District Board due to his being elevated to District 19 Director. The Seattle Unit intends to name a replacement March 1, 2021, in time for the next District Board meeting.
3. There were no additions or modifications to the agenda.
4. **Rise moved and Stock seconded to accept the minutes of the internet meeting of September 22, 2020.** Motion passed unanimously.
5. Correspondence:
 - a. Smith's email announcing her resignation.
 - b. White's email announcing his resignation as a Seattle Unit representative upon his elevation to District Director and his request to be replaced as the District North American Pairs Coordinator.
 - c. IRS Letter absolving the District of paying tax or penalty for 2018. (As the Treasurer had not received a copy, one will be sent him.)
7. Reports:
 - a. District Treasurer Schmidt fielded question including on an updated January 11, 2021, report. **Patterson moved and Stock seconded to accept the reports.** Motion passed unanimously.
 - b. Wilhelmi reported no updates on the budget due to no tournament in 2020.
 - c. Outgoing District 19 Director Smith briefly attended the meeting and highlighted parts of her last email report to the District Board as follows:
 - (1) The ACBL Board is in the process of reorganizing down to 13 members. By 2022 Districts 18 and 19 will be represented by a single Regional Director.

(2) ACBL membership during the Covid pandemic has steadily declined.
(3) Last year's ACBL's financial status was strong but this year may be more challenging.
(4) Player memos, mostly dealing with online actions, have exploded. ACBL continues to minimize opportunities for unethical actions online.

(5) Smith congratulated newly appointed National Goodwill Committee members Karen Rise, Ralph Wilhelmi and Bruce McIntyre.

(6) Face to face tournaments are cancelled through the end of February 2021.

(7) New alert procedures were effective January 1, 2021. See the latest ACBL Bulletin.

d. New District Director White discussed coming changes to include the elimination of alternates for the Board of Directors and the effect on Board of Governors membership. In light of this President Cookson will offer Jeff Ford his choice of being appointed Second Alternate Director (a position which will disappear in 2022) or a Board of Governor's member. This year the National GNT event will be online and will not have status as a National event or award platinum points.

e. District GNT Coordinator Sieg reports that the 2021 GNT events will be online and that no kibitzing will be allowed. District finals are slated for April 24-25, 2021, for Open and Flight B; May 8, 2021, for Flight C; and May 8-9, 2021, for Flight A.

f. Outgoing District NAP Coordinator White reported that the National NAP Finals will be held online March 11 and 12, 2021, on BBO at 3:00 p.m. our time. The League will pay announced stipends to participating First and Second Place qualifiers. **Patterson moved and Maksymetz seconded that the District will pay \$300 per participating Third Place pairs.** Motion passed with 7 Yes votes, 3 No votes and 1 abstention. A new cycle of qualifying will start at club level during June, July, and August. President Chris Cookson appointed Brian Maksymetz to replace Tim White as District NAP Coordinator and will report the change to ACBL.

g. District Elections Chair Brown reported that 2022-2023 terms for the District Board will be announced for representatives for Seattle and Vancouver Units, and for at large positions for eastern and western Washington. Respectively Eric Sieg, Brian Maksymetz, Karen Rise, and Ralph Wilhelmi are incumbents.

h. District Goodwill Chair Hoehne reported that Board members may make up to two nominations per year to the District Goodwill Committee by sending her the nominee's name, player number, address, and to what address to send pin and appointment letter. **Patterson moved and Stock seconded to have President Cookson screen nominees to assure that no disciplinary actions were pending.** Motion passed unanimously.

8. Unfinished Business:

a. Patterson will coordinate with Lynnwood 2021 Regional Chair Gay Parrish and the convention center whether to cancel the regional. If the recommendation is to cancel, the Board will vote by email. President Cookson requested the Treasurer to hold any further advances pending a decision.

b. President Cookson reported that draft copies of a District newsletter had been reviewed by committee members and that recommendations were to make it more interesting with graphics and

bridge columns. He asked Nick Stock to work on helping incorporate these recommendations and to update information due to delay in getting out the newsletter.

9 New Business:

a. The Board postponed setting entry fees for regionals until one is sanctioned and approved by the Board.

b. President Cookson is offering Jeff Ford the choice of being appointed to the BOG or as Second Alternate District Director. If he chooses the BOG, then President Cookson will notify the League that the Second Alternate position will not be filled as the position will disappear in 2022.

c. **Rise moved and Patterson seconded to have Brian Maksymetz be given signature authority on both the Canadian bank accounts and the U.S. Chase account.** Motion passed unanimously.

d. President Cookson requested that Bylaws and Compliance Chair Rise make proposals to the next District meeting regarding changes required due to ACBL restructuring of the ACBL Board.

e. Madison agreed to take over responsibilities of monthly audit of Chase Bank activities. President Cooks asked the Secretary to notify the bank.

10. The following occurred under Tournaments:

a. President Cookson stated that it was a 90% probability that the Victoria 2021 April Regional will be cancelled.

b. **Norden moved and Karen Rise seconded to cancel the 2021 Penticton Regional.** Motion passed unanimously.

c. The 2022 Leavenworth Regional will be held in the fall as originally planned.

d. Norden hopes than Covid 19 vaccinations will be completed and that the border between U.S. and Canada will be open in time to have the 2021 Whistler Regional. The District should know by May or June. A decision is postponed until the next meeting.

11. The next internet Board meeting is scheduled for Thursday, May 20, 2021, at 2:00 p.m.

12. There being no further business the President adjourned the meeting at 5:17 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

DUDLEY BROWN
Secretary

Approved 4 May 2021