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The District Nineteen Organization of The American Contract Bridge League

District 19, ACBL, Internet Board Meeting Minutes, May 4, 2021

1. The meeting was called to order May 4, 2021, at 2:00 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, Ann Romeo, Eric Sieg, Nick Stock, Tim White, and Ralph Wilhelmi. Also present were Dudley Brown, Secretary, David Schmidt, Treasurer, and Matt Koltnow, District 19 Tournament Coordinator and ACBL Field Supervisor. Present for part of the meeting were John Weinberg, District Disciplinary Chair, and J.P. Weber, District Web Master.

2. White moved and Stock seconded to ratify Seattle’s election of Ann Romeo to complete the remainder of the Seattle board term upon White’s resignation and his assuming the District Director’s position.

3. Rise moved and Patterson seconded to accept the minutes of the internet meeting of January 12, 2021, with the following corrections:

a. Delete Item 7g and renumber 7h and 7i.

b. Item 7i. Delete “President Cookson” and replace with “the District President”.

c. Item 8a. Correct “President Cooks” to “President Cookson”.

Motion passed unanimously.

4. Reports:

a. Romeo moved and Maksymetz seconded to accept the Treasurer’s interim financial reports for January 1 to May 3, 2021, which showed little activity. Motion passed unanimously.

b. White’s National Board report told that ACBL would be able to staff directors when tournaments return face to face; that a tournament preregistration tool is being developed; and that changes to the way tournament disciplinary and ethics committees operate is being discussed. Further ACBL has developed a team of 15 volunteers to help the National Recorder handle the many complaints of unethical behavior by online players; ACBL is establishing guidelines on how to prove online unethical behavior. Lastly he discussed the upcoming election for a Regional Director for Districts 18 and 19 and that he plans to be a candidate for the position.

c. Tournament Oversight Chair Rise and President Cookson and the Board discussed the status of future regionals as follows:

Whistler 2021—a possibility if restrictions ease.
Burnaby 2022—the facility will not book until restrictions removed.
Penticton 2022—the facility will work with the District if feasible to hold a tournament.
Lynnwood 2022—the District is under contract to hold this tournament.
Leavenworth 2022—contracted for the fall, the facility would welcome a change to April.
Victoria 2023—a contract has been negotiated but is not signed yet.
Penticton & Lynnwood 2023—contracts are in place and hopefully tournaments can be held.

d. NAP Coordinator Maksymetz reported that clubs can hold two qualifying games for each session the club is sanctioned in June, July and August. Questions of when and where the District Finals and whether the finals should be online need to be answered soon as it is essential that publicity go out.

e. GNT Coordinator Sieg got approval for the District GNT Finals to be held the weekends of 12-13 and 19-20 June 2021 and that conditions of contest are in process and need to go to ACBL.

f. Rise discussed the changes to the District Bylaws that are needed as the position of District Director will cease on January 1, 2022, and be replaced by a Regional Director who will represent both Districts 18 and 19 at national board meetings; and what compensation, if any, should the District give the Regional Director.

Patterson moved and Wilhelmi seconded to reduce the District Board to 11 members, deleting the District Director. The Regional Director will be a nonvoting, exofficio, member of the Board. Motion passed unanimously.

Cookson moved and Romeo seconded to award the Regional Director 6 nontransferable free plays to a District regional if attending a face to face board meeting.. Motion passed with 9 yes votes and 1 no vote.

White is in contact with the national director from District 18 and will attempt to ascertain what that district will be doing in regard to compensation to the Regional Director.

g. The President reported his following actions and resultant Board actions:

(1) He is participating in a District Presidents Group on line the first Thursday monthly.

(2) He is promoting a multi-district on line 99er game for the 5 western districts.

(3) He is reaching out to District bridge teachers.

(4) He outlined his response to Greg Cole's letter (from ACBL) outlining requirements for starting face to face tournaments and got the Board's opinions on possible follow up actions.

(5) He stated that David Taylor, the current District Tournament Supplier, is willing to sign another 5 year contract and will shortly make a proposal to the District. **Romeo moved and Sieg**

seconded to have a committee of Cookson, Schmidt, Romeo, and Patterson negotiate a contract to be presented to the Board for approval. Motion passed unanimously.

(6) In light of the current pandemic situation and the need for and value of having Zoom capabilities, he asked that arrangements be made with Zoom.

Rise moved and Patterson seconded to buy an annual Zoom contract and to reimburse Sieg and Cookson for the costs of previous meetings for which they paid. Motion passed unanimously.

5. Unfinished business:

a. **Rise moved and Wilhelmi seconded to ratify the action taken by the Lynnwood Tournament Liaison and Chair to cancel the Lynnwood 2021 tournament.** Motion passed unanimously.

b. Norden stated that a sanction had been approved for a Whistler 2021 regional and that he was working with the facility to get a contract based on guaranteeing 500 room nights. President Cookson in light of the restrictions still in place due to COVID 19 asked that the contract be based on paying for playing space based on an amount per table with no requirements for catering guarantees.

Rise moved and Patterson seconded to refer the review of a contract to the Tournament Oversight Committee and to have the committee make recommendations to the Board by email for a decision on whether to accept the contract or not. Motion passed unanimously.

c. District Disciplinary Chair Weinberg reported on possible ACBL changes on how conduct and ethics matters would be dealt with at tournaments with the possibility of the Director in Charge and directing staff to handle some matters without a committee. Considering the uncertainty of change, the Board asked Weinberg to finish producing a panel of District members to be available for hearings at tournaments or at separate times.

6 New Business:

a. **Patterson moved and Romeo seconded to approve the changes below to the District Policy Manual.** Motion passed unanimously.

(1) A quorum for transaction of business shall consist of more than half of the number of Board Members presently serving and representing at least four of the Washington and British Columbia areas.

(2) The appointment of a Kirkwood Trophy Coordinator and the providing of \$50.00 yearly to the winner's home club or unit towards a celebration for the winner was discussed. (The President appointed Romeo as coordinator.)

(3) The removal of compensation of an ACBL President or chief executive of ACBL and their spouses attending a District regional.

(4) The deletion of the requirement for obtaining Domain Names for District regionals.

(5) A Goodwill Reception policy and requesting funding for same.

(6) Deletion of the requirement to maintain a net worth of \$45,000 to \$60,000.

b. District Web Master J.P. Weber outlined changes of what information about District Board members, officers and officials would be on the web site. Parties wishing to contact them would route their request through the web master without having access to individual contact information. The District Board and Officials Roster with full contact information will only be circulated to members on that roster.

c. President Cookson presented a draft of a survey to go to District members and the Board made suggestions of changes.

7. Tentatively the next Board meeting is scheduled for 9:00 a.m., Monday, November 1, 2021, at the Whistler Regional.

8. There being no further business the President adjourned the meeting at 6:28 p.m.

Submitted by Dudley Brown, District 19 Secretary