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The District Nineteen Organization of The American Contract Bridge League

District 19, ACBL, Internet Board Meeting Minutes, August 5, 2021

1. The meeting was called to order August 5 at 4:30 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.

2. Patterson moved and Romeo seconded to ratify the election of Karen Rise and Ralph Wilhelmi to the 2022 – 2024 term on the District 19 Board, representing eastern and western Washington at Large, respectively. Motion passed unanimously.

3. Cookson moved and Rise seconded to approve the following addition to the agenda: Under New Business add Review of survey—Cookson. Motion passed unanimously.

4. Romeo moved and Stock seconded to accept the minutes of the internet meeting of May 4, 2021 as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

5. Reports:

- a. White gave a National Board Report: 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 Board is struggling to set policies for face-to-face games versus virtual game. The backlog of disciplinary cases since the increase of virtual games concerned him and the Board is exploring ways of speeding up the process. He stated that he is on an ACBL arbitration panel to settle a dispute between two districts regarding conflicting regional tournaments.
- b. Maksymetz's NAP update told that the District finals are slated for October 14-15, 2021, and that a flyer will be circulated in time for the Seaside Regional. A discussion was held whether to pursue the use of video monitoring or proctors during the on-line District Finals. The consensus was that video was not all that helpful in detecting cheating and that it was too difficult to arrange proctors. The Board suggested that the NAP Coordinator tentatively set the entry fee for the finals at \$15 per session.
- c. Cookson related that a problem has developed in the hotel's offering of the reduced room rates for the Whistler 2021 Regional as reservations have already surpassed the guaranteed block of rooms on all days of the tournament. He also discussed with the hotel management the possibility of the ACBL cancelling the tournament at a late date. When he asked the management to grant more availability of the reduced room rates, hotel

management then asked what the prospects were for the District booking another regional in 2022.

- d. Stock reported that The Burnaby 2022 Regional playing site representative said that the planned dates April 4 to 10, 2022, were no longer available and that henceforth playing space agreements would not be based on the number of rooms booked but on the amount of food and beverage utilized. He had made enquiries of other facilities but presently could not get a commitment for April 4 to 10, 2022. This led to a discussion about changing the 2022 Leavenworth Regional from the fall to April, thus freeing the fall for scheduling a Whistler regional. Rise moved and Patterson seconded to move the Leavenworth 2022 Regional to April 4 to 10, 2022, or alternately April 25 to May 1, 2022. Motion passed with ten (10) Yes votes and one (1) No vote. (This action gave Cookson an answer to the Whistler management's query about scheduling a 2022 regional there and gave Cookson's request to reopen the reduced room rates for the Whistler 2021 Regional a better chance of success.)

6. Under Unfinished Business the following occurred:

- a. **Patterson moved and Norden seconded to approve the following amendments to the District 19 Bylaws to be effective 1 January 2022:**

Article V, Section 5.3. Number, is amended to read: "The Board of Directors shall consist of eleven (11) members. All directors must be members in good standing with the ACBL, as well as members of a Member Unit. The even (11) members shall consist of"

Article V, Section 5.3.8 is deleted.

Article V, Section 5.10, Quorum, is amended 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."

Motion passed unanimously.

- b. Cookson discussed the recently completed survey regarding reopening face-to-face bridge Tournament in the District. He got the Board's approval to share the results with District units and other districts.

7. The following occurred under New Business:

- a. Cookson discussed District 19 dissatisfaction with ACBL's recently arbitrarily cancelling all August tournaments. White expressed that the National Board is considering compensating sponsoring units and districts that suffered financial consequences.

- b. **Patterson moved and Sieg seconded to approve President Cookson's appointment of Ryley Breiddal as District 19 GNT Coordinator.** Motion passed unanimously. As Breiddal is not a Board member, President Cookson appointed Romeo to be the Board Liaison to the District GNT Coordinator

- c. District Treasurer Schmidt requested permission to transfer Canadian funds to the U.S. as the exchange rate was currently favorable and more U.S. funds may be needed. The Board decided that he should transfer \$25,000 Canadian funds to the U.S.

There being no further business, President Cookson adjourned the meeting at 6:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

DUDLEY BROWN
Secretary

Approved at 4 November 2021 D19 Board Meeting