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The District Nineteen Organization of The American Contract Bridge League

District 19, ACBL, Board Meeting Minutes, April 4, 2022, Leavenworth, Washington

1. President Nick Stock called the meeting to order at 9:15 a.m. He declared a quorum with the following Board members present: Kathie Hoehne, Ray Miller, Marv Norden, Marla Patterson, Karen Rise, Ann Romeo, Nick Stock, and Ralph Wilhelmi. Chris Cookson, Karen Madison, and David Waterman were absent. Also present were Tim White, ACBL Region 13 Director, and Dudley Brown, Secretary. David Schmidt, District Treasurer, and J.P. Weber, District Web Master, joined part of the meeting by ZOOM.
2. **Rise moved and Patterson seconded to approve the Agenda as presented.** Motion passed unanimously.
3. **Rise moved and Norden seconded to accept the minutes from the January 21, 2022, internet Board meeting.** Motion passed unanimously.
4. The following occurred regarding Executive Committee actions:
 - a. **Patterson moved and Rise seconded to approve for two years the agreement between District 19 and TournTables as laid out in the spreadsheet and email correspondence between President Stock and David Taylor.** Motion Passed unanimously. President Stock appointed himself, Patterson, and Schmidt to get a formal contract prepared and signed.
 - b. **Norden moved and Rise seconded to accept ACBL's proposal to compensate District 19 for the conflict of a regional at sea with the Lynnwood 2022 Regional.** Motion passed unanimously.
 - c. **Patterson moved and Rise seconded to allow District 9 clubs to participate in the Western Conference STaC's for the May and December dates.** Motion passed unanimously.
5. The following occurred under Reports:
 - a. **Rise moved and Hoehne seconded to accept the Treasurer's corrected January 1, 2022, to March 30, 2022, reports as emailed Board members on March 30, 2022.** Motion passed unanimously. President Stock requested that an item be added to the District 19 Tournament Manual instructing regional tournament chairs to ask for a cash advance in order to pay caddies and other required tournament cash payments as entry fees will only be taken by credit card.
 - b. Tournament Administrator Brown needs signed contracts for all sanctioned regionals.
 - c. John Weinberg, Judiciary Chair, David Binney, Recorder, and Steve Hosch, Appellate Chair, reported no activity.

- d. Norden, Communications and Publicity Chair said regional ads for the ACBL Bulletin must reach him at the latest three months in advance of appearance in the Bulletin. As it was too late to get an ad in the June Bulletin for the Lynnwood 2022 Regional, the Lynnwood Chair and Liaison agreed to place ¼ page ads in the July and August Bulletins. Norden further reported that the District had to pay for a Bulletin ad for the cancelled Whistler 2021 Regional. The ad was to have been paid for by the host hotel which agreed to give \$4,000.00 credit against the next two Whistler regionals' charges,
- e. Patterson moved and Norden seconded to remove any individual from the District Goodwill Committee that has received ACBL discipline. Motion passed unanimously.
- f. Wilhelmi had made arrangements to audit District financial records just before the scheduled Penticton 2021 Regional which was cancelled. Such an audit will have to be rescheduled.
- g. Tournament Oversight Committee (TOC) Report follows:
 - (1) Norden stated the convention center, site for the Penticton 2022 Regional, has agreed to reduce the space used by half with a cost reduction but that relinquished space would be available if needed. He gave the Tournament Administrator a revised contract for the regional. The TOC Chair said that the ACBL is not showing the tournament sanctioned and Norden needs to submit a sanction immediately.
 - (2) Patterson reports that the Lynnwood Convention Center has agreed to reduce the ballroom space for the 2022 regional by half with rent reduced from \$27,000.00 to \$15,000.00. Due to the prohibitive cost, there will be no concession stand but there will be free coffee at the start of morning and afternoon sessions.
 - (3) J.P. Weber, Victoria 2023 Regional Chair, said that the program was nearing completion and that he would work with Cookson and the playing site to reduce space and cost.
 - (4) A sanction needs to be completed for the Penticton 2023 Regional.
 - (5) Any modification of the 2023 Lynnwood Regional contract is pending the results of the 2022 regional.
 - (6) The following possibilities exist for a fall 2023 regional:
 - (a) Olympia if a chair can be identified.
 - (b) Romeo and Patterson agreed to explore the possibilities of a Tacoma area regional.
 - (c) Whistler is anxious to have us back.
 - (d) Leavenworth an option even though that would mean only 18 months separation from this year's event. It does result in an even distribution of Washington versus British Columbia tournaments.
 - (7) Stock reported on seeking a spring 2024 Vancouver area site. Two contacted facilities seemed viable. The best proposal was from the River Rock Casino which offered their ballroom for a reasonable price. If an additional smaller area is available for attendance periods, he will pursue getting a contract.

- h. Region 13 ACBL Director White said that downsizing of the National Board was down to 19 and should be at 13 by 2024; many authorities and responsibilities of the Board are being transferred to other entities. Important developments are in process with staffing, tools and processes for controlling cheating. Better systems for detecting and disciplining miscreants are being developed. A change of personnel in the Recorder's office should help in reducing the backlog of Player Memos which have not been investigated or answered.

White sought input on which charity should receive a \$1,000.00 grant that the ACBL Charity Foundation is allowing him to give. The Board agreed with him that it should go to the United Nations Relief Organization earmarked for Ukrainian relief. It is hoped that District 18 will concur.

The ACBL Competition and Conventions Committee is starting to experiment with using Tablets in the premier Team events at the NABC's.

- i. Romeo reported that the Unlimited and B flights of District 19 finals of the GNT have been successfully completed despite some glitches. Flights A and C are scheduled for April 23rd and 24th.

6. Unfinished Business:

- a. **Rise moved and Patterson seconded that Board members participating in an online Board meeting are entitled to two sessions of free play for each hour participating in the meeting.** Motion passed with 6 Yes votes and one abstention.
- b. **Rise moved and Patterson seconded that all free play certificates currently held by *seated* District Board members be extended without expiration. When a Board member leaves the Board, any free plays will then expire at the end of the next year. Free plays issued under the New Sectional Master Program, and/or to any person who is not an active Board member will be extended to expire December 31, 2022.** Motion passed unanimously.
- c. **Rise moved and Patterson seconded that the revised District Policy Manual which was approved in principle at the May 2021 Board meeting be formally approved and that further changes will be dated and emailed Board members.** Motion passed unanimously.
- d. **Norden moved and Rise seconded to change the Whistler 2022 Regional dates to Thursday, November 3, 2022, through Wednesday, November 9, 2022.** Motion passed unanimously.
- e. J.P. Weber reported on a District Tournament Survey conducted in March by email to 5566 District members. The survey report was based on 905 responses received within 8 days. Survey results were sent to District Board members and future tournament organizers. The survey consisted of three questions: Intention of attending the Leavenworth, Penticton, and Lynnwood 2022 Regionals; Comfort level with Covid cross-border restrictions; and Number of regionals attended per year prior to Covid.

In summarizing responses to the first question, the percentage that indicated that They Will Attend, Are Likely To Attend, or Will Consider Attending, were Leavenworth 20%, Penticton 52%, and Lynnwood 36%.

About a third of responders said they would be more likely to attend tournaments if the boarder restrictions were totally lifted.

Responses to the third question showed that 8% never attended a regional, 19% attended only 1 a year, 20% attended 2 a year, 32% attended 3 a year, and 21% attended 4 or more a year. The survey with responders' comments can be found on the District Web site.

- b. ACBL has solved the District's concerns that tournament credit card entry receipts could only be sent ACBL in U.S. funds by adding a second Canadian vendor account. Regional sponsors should make sure that the Director-In-Charge at their regional should use the Canadian vendor account.

7. New Business:

- a. **Rise moved and Romeo seconded that caddy wages be increased to \$60.00 per session, currency of the country.** Motion passed with 6 Yes votes and one No vote.
- b. **Rise moved and Norden seconded that all Bridge4Youth/Seattle NextGen Bridge members play free at Leavenworth and Lynnwood 2022 Regionals.** Motion passed unanimously.
- c. **Rise moved and Paterson seconded that the entry fee per session at District 2022 regionals will be \$15.00 in the U.S. and Canada. Patterson moved and Rise seconded to amend the motion to read: District entry fees per session for 2022 will be \$15.00 in the U.S. and \$16.00 in Canada, both currency of the country.** Both the amendment and motion as amended passed with 6 yes votes and one No vote.
- d. **Patterson moved and Wilhelmi seconded to grant Bridge4Youth (B4Y) a grant of \$1,000.00 to help B4Y's 2022 in-person summer camp.** Motion passed unanimously.
- e. **President Stock appointed himself to replace Chris Cookson on the Tournament Oversight Committee. He also appointed Bob Tyler to the TOC and confirmed that Rise would remain Chair.**
- f. President Stock asked for suggestions for naming a new I/N Hospitality Chair. Hoehne suggested that one be appointed for B.C. and one for the US. and said she would get information on the process and send it to the President.
- g. Wilhelmi tendered his resignation as of the end of the meeting and made a recommendation for a replacement to complete his term. **Romeo moved and Patterson seconded to appoint Bob Tyler to complete the vacated term for a Board member from Western Washington at Large.** Motion passed unanimously.
- h. **Romeo moved and Patterson seconded that when a scheduled regional is cancelled and the tournament chair and committee have done significant work, the Board may give an appreciation grant on a case-by-case basis.** Motion passed unanimously except for one abstention.

10. The next meeting is scheduled for 5:00 p.m., Wednesday, November 2, 2022, at the Whistler Regional.

11. There being no further business President Wilhelm adjourned the meeting at 2:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

DUDLEY BROWN
Secretary