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The District Nineteen Organization of The American Contract Bridge League

District 19, ACBL, Board Meeting Minutes, October 22 & 23, 2023, Leavenworth, WA

1. President Karen Rise called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m., October 22, 2023. She declared a quorum with the following Board members present: Dean Altschuler, Don Bladow, Ray Miller, Marv Norden, Marilyn Olson, Marla Patterson, Karen Rise, Ann Romeo, Gillian Schramm, and J.P. Weber. Also present was Dudley Brown, Secretary. Nick Stock joined the meeting at 8:00 p.m. Also joining the for part of the meeting via Zoom were Tim White, Region 12 Director; and David Schmidt, Treasurer.

2. **Bladow moved and Weber seconded to approve the Agenda with the following additions:**
Paragraph 4. Ann Romeo, representing the Seattle Unit, was added to the certification list for 2024-2026 terms.
Paragraph 8j was added. Bridge for Youth – Romeo.
Paragraph 11k was added. Mentor programs – Altschuler.
Motion passed unanimously.

3. **Bladow moved and Norden seconded to certify the elections of Marilyn Olson, Marla Patterson, and Ann Romeo for 2024-2026 terms and Gillian Schramm for the remainder of the 2021-2023 term.**
Motion passed unanimously.

4. President Rise welcomed Gillian Schramm to the Board.

5. **Bladow moved and Romeo seconded to accept the Minutes from the Victoria, April 17, 2023, meeting with the correction that in Paragraph 5b, “cash basis” is changed to “accrual basis”.** Motion passed unanimously.

6. **Executive Committee or Email Board actions:**
 - a. **Romeo moved and Olson seconded to approve the Board’s June 10, 2023, email agreement to allow the CBF to hold their tournament in the same venue during the Penticton 2024 regional if the CBF accepts the following changes:**
 - (1) **The original terms are amended – subject to agreement by the Penticton Regional Director in Charge – to permit the CBF Pairs games to play on the main floor for which the CBF will pay District 19 a pro-rated portion of the venue rent calculated on the space occupied.**

 - (2) **The original terms are amended – subject to agreement by the Penticton Regional Director in Charge – to allow Tournament Director(s) assigned to the Penticton Regional to work the CBF events. The Directors’ session fees will be billed to the CBF as the responsible party.**
Motion passed unanimously.

- b. **b. Bladow moved and Miller seconded to approve the Board’s July email vote to authorize a Victoria 2025 Regional.** Motion passed unanimously.

7. The following occurred under Reports:

- a. The Treasurer’s interim 2023 reports were accepted after the Treasurer discussed discrepancies on ACBL Regional Tournament invoices and District receipts from the ACBL. **Bladow moved and Miller seconded to ask the Treasurer to check with adjoining districts to see if they had similar discrepancies and to try to get an explanation of the discrepancies.** Motion passed unanimously.

[The President recessed the meeting at 3:15 p.m. on the 22nd and reconvened the meeting at 9:35 a.m. on the 23rd, with all Board members and the Secretary physically present. Also present by Zoom for part of the reconvened meeting were White, Schmidt, and Matt Koltnow, District Tournament Coordinator.]

- b. Elections Chair Brown stated that new terms will be announced next spring for 2025-2027 Board positions for The Seattle Unit, the Vancouver Unit, Eastern Washington at Large, and Western Washington at Large.
- c. Altschuler compared the 2023 budget to actual figures and then presented the 2024 budget; both showed substantial yearly losses. Following discussion, the Treasurer will be asked to expand the P&L by Class to include columns for Multi-level Events and Other Expenses. This will bring the P&L by Class total into alignment with the Balance Sheet.
- d. White told the Board that the new ACBL Executive Director has been focusing on updating and improving ACBL’s IT capabilities, stabilizing and increasing membership, making ACBL actions more transparent, and better interaction between herself, staff, and Board members.
- e. Judiciary Chair John Weinberg reported not activity. No reports were received from the Recorder David Binney, or the Appellate Chair Steve Hosch.
- f. Communications Chair Norden did not place ads for District regionals this year as the District was having net losses and he did not think the ads were cost effective. **Bladow moved and Weber seconded to authorize the Communications Chair to place ACBL Bulletin ads only when he considered them cost effective.** Motion passed unanimously.
- g. Romeo briefed the Board on the activities of and plans for Bridge for Youth and thanked the District for the grant received in 2023.

8. Unfinished Business: The 2022 Treasurer’s reports were approved.

9. New Business:

- a. Stock reported that the Treasurer was backing up District financial records on a thumb drive. The Board agreed this was acceptable for his own use but the Board will implement a method to have records stored on a different platform, more accessible to the Board. Weber will investigate and establish a suitable platform that is accessible to all Board members.
- b. **Norden moved and Bladow seconded approval of the payment for purchasing the bulk Pianola credits necessary for continuing Pianola Eblasts.** Motion passed unanimously. c. **Bladow moved and Olson seconded to allow District clubs to participate in the 2024 and 2025 three yearly Western Conference STaCs as follows:**

2024	May 6-12	August 19-25	November 18-24
2025	May 5-11	August 18-24	November 17-23

Motion passed unanimously.

- c. The optional format allowing the District to run an online game during our regionals was discussed. It was decided that our current game schedules are not compatible with that.
 - d. **Norden moved and Romeo seconded to allow Altschuler and Weber to send a survey by the end of November to newer players with less than 250 Master Points to try to determine the reasons for their not attending regionals.** Motion passed unanimously.
 - e. **Romeo moved and Bladow seconded to approve the District 19 Regional Tournament Director Procedures as written by Koltnow for implementation by the Directors-In-Charge of our regionals.** Motion passed unanimously.
 - f. **Miller moved and Bladow seconded to set a policy that late entries in a pair event would only be seated if it did not create a half table.** Motion failed with 3 Yes and 5 No votes.
 - g. No Board member had a nomination for a recipient for the national Charitable Awards recognition. The President will now ask units for suggestions.
 - h. **Norden moved and Weber seconded to allow David Taylor to sell TournTable's free plays back to the District instead of the current practice where he is allowed to sell them to others.** Motion failed with 1 Yes vote and 5 No votes and 5 Abstentions.
 - i. **Patterson moved and Miller seconded to approve Romeo as Chair for the 2027 Seattle NABC.** Motion passed with 10 Yes and 1 No Vote. Romeo will pursue a Co-Chair and Finance Chair along with other necessary committee personnel and keep the Board apprised.
 - j. **Norden moved and Romeo seconded to set 2024 regional game fees the same as this year: \$16.00 U.S. tournaments and \$18.00 Canadian tournament.** Motion passed with 8 Yes votes, 1 No vote and 2 Abstentions.
10. Tournament Oversight Committee actions:
- a. **Norden moved and Altschuler seconded that the District should continue to negotiate for an acceptable contract for a 2025 Whistler Regional. Norden will report at the next Board meeting when a decision will be made.** Motion passed unanimously.
 - b. **Norden moved and Romeo seconded to approve Irene Morrow as Chair and Audrey Hancock as Co-Chair for the 2024 Penticton Regional.** Motion passed unanimously.
 - c. **Olson moved and Altschuler seconded that Penticton Regional financial procedures should be the same as for all District regionals.** Motion passed with 9 Yes votes and 2 Abstentions.
 - d. Romeo reported that the 2023 Lynnwood Regional deficit could mainly be attributed to the Food and Beverage Requirement. She further reported that the proposed 2024 contract was nearly
 - e. double the 2023 contract and was unacceptable. If the contract can not be negotiated to a reasonable amount, another venue must be found. The Board will decide by December 15, 2023.
 - f. **Norden moved and Bladow seconded to stop paying a subsidy to teams going to the GNT finals.** Motion passed with 8 Yes votes and 2 No votes and 1 Abstention.
 - g. To reduce regional costs it was suggested that all regional chairs should negotiate a free room for staff in exchange for placing hotel information on the flyer. If a hotel will not help us, we should not be helping them by advertising their business. Further suggestions discussed were to reduce free plays, to shorten tournaments, and to hold Zoom Board meetings. **Bladow moved and Romeo seconded to have 2024 Zoom Board meetings.** Motion passed with 7 Yes votes and 1 No vote.
 - h. As stated in the Policy Manual, a Co-Chair must be named for every tournament. **Miller moved and Romeo seconded to allow regional chairs to select their own co-chair without confirmation from the Board.** Motion passed unanimously.

i. Rise reported on Tourism Grant Monies.

(1) Leavenworth: The decision to hold the 2023 tournament was made by the Board after the application window closed. No funds available.

(2) Lynnwood: \$7,500 was awarded to the event by Snohomish County. The city of Lynnwood does not offer funding at this time.

(3) Ocean Shores: Currently, it appears that \$7,500 has been awarded to the event but formal notification has not yet been received.

(4) 501(c)3 Status: The Board has failed to move forward establishing a 501(c)3 entity for the tourism grants. So far only the City of Leavenworth has required that status so with the Board's non-action, Rise reports she has is trying to get the City of Leavenworth to change their requirement to include our 501(c)7 designation.

11. The following 2024 officers were elected:

President – Karen Rise

Vice President – Ray Miller

Secretary – Dudley Brown

Treasurer – David Schmidt

12. The next meeting is set for 9:30 a.m., January 15, 2024, by Zoom.

13 There being no further business the President adjourned the meeting at 11:59 a.m., October 23, 2023.

Respectfully submitted,

DUDLEY BROWN

Secretary