

DINO

The District Nineteen Organization of The American Contract Bridge League

District 19, ACBL, Board Meeting Minutes, March 29, 2024, Zoom

1. President Karen Rise called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m., March 29, 2024. 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, J. P. Weber. Also present: Matt Koltnow, Tournament Coordinator and Tim White, Region 13 Director. Absent: Nick Stock; note, Marv Norden left the meeting at 6:00pm.
2. Meeting Agenda was approved as is.
3. The minutes of the January 8, 2024 Zoom meeting were approved.
4. Ann moved and Marla seconded to formally appoint Dean Altschuler as Treasurer and Karen Rise as assistant for Accounts Payable. JP to update the District Website.
5. Also approved, with one opposed, to continue the 18 Free Plays per Tournament for Dean, and those Free Plays to be transferrable to Dean's wife.
6. Reports:
 - a. Treasurer – Dean
 - i. The Financial Report has been pieced together, as best Dean could, with the limited information at hand since David Schmidt's death. Slight changes may occur with GNT/NAP information from Matt.
 - b. Budget – Dean
 - i. The Budget looks good with additional savings this year due to Zoom Board Meetings, and taking advantage of Grant monies. (Note, In October 2023 the board stopped the subsidies paid to the GNT teams; however, the Conditions of Contest had already been published for the 2024 cycle, so those subsidies will be paid.)
 - c. Elections –Karen (for Dudley)
 - i. It was noted that the following board members need to file their intent to run again in the next election with the Secretary: Ray Miller, Gilliam Schramm, Dean Altschuler, Karen Rise
 - d. Region 13 - Tim
 - i. The Newsletter is waiting to go out, pending material from the Communications Committee.
 - e. D19 Tournament Coordinator – Matt
 - i. Matt feels the tournament attendance has reached a plateau post-Covid. Discussion followed
 - ii. About increasing attendance by enticing players back to tournaments by offering free plays to those attending their first tournament or who have not been to a recent tournament and also a mentorship program. Karen asked the committee (Dean, JP, and Ann) present a recommendation for consideration to the board.
 - f. Multi-level Events – Ray an Ann
 - i. Costs of qualifiers was discussed. Having them co-locate at Sectionals or Regionals reduces expenses. Also, Online would save on costs, but many players are resistant to the idea.
 - ii. Ann is looking at a reasonable venue in Skagit Valley.

7. There was no Unfinished Business discussed.
8. New Business:
 - a. Committees – The positions of Disciplinary Chair and Appellate Chair at the district level have been eliminated by the National Board. The District Recorder will continue to take Player Memos, but escalation will now be handled at the national level.
 - b. Don moved and Ann seconded that monthly audits would not be necessary as there is a checks and balances between Karen, Dean and JP. This year’s audit can be done internally, and future audits will be done outside, but not necessarily by a firm. Motion passed.
 - c. Renae Gunstone-White and Ann Romeo volunteered to be our Advisory Council delegates (previously Board of Governors). Tim will submit their names to the Council.
 - d. Marilyn moved and JP seconded our Entry Fees for anyone under 26 years old will be 50% effective immediately. Motion passed.
 - e. District 19 will receive a grant from the ACBL Charity Foundation in 2024 in the total amount of \$10,000 to distribute to no more than five separate 501©3 non-bridge related charities in the District. The distribution of the \$10,000 does not have to be evenly divided among the selected charities. These suggestions for disbursement to these charities were made: Mary’s Place (Seattle), Bean’s Café (Anchorage) (feeding the hungry) and Meals on Wheels (Bellingham). It was discussed that money should go to local non-profits with which we have a personal relationship, not the mega-national types. The board would like another suggestion for a charity in Canada. Karen will contact the absent board members for nominations and conduct an email vote next week.
 - f. Ray Miller has offered to become our National Goodwill Committee; Western Zone Rep. Tim will submit his name to the national committee for consideration.
9. Tournament Oversight Committee:
 - a. 2024 Lynnwood – contract needs to go to Dudley via USPS
 - b. 2025 Victoria – contract has been given to Dudley, Co- Chair: Shelly Burnham.
 - c. 2025 Whistler – Marv to keep working with the Chateau to improve the terms they are offering, including granting free parking for those reservations made 30 days in advance, not 60.
 - d. Currently, there is no regional scheduled for Fall 2025, Spring 2026, Spring or Fall 2027. We are supposed to be contracted for all regionals several years in advance, so these need to be addressed. Possible venues include: Ferndale, Langley BC area, Tri-Cities and Leavenworth is still an option. Nick is pursuing alternatives in the Vancouver area for Spring 2026. Tri-Cities may be a good site for Fall 2027 because it is geographically separated from Seattle NABC.
 - e. It was noted that decisions need to be made early enough to allow for applications for grant monies before the window close.
10. Next Meeting: To be determined.

There being no further business, the President adjourned the meeting at 7:30 p.m. March 29, 2024

Respectfully submitted
Marilyn Olson