

BY-LAWS OF THE
LOWER MICHIGAN / NORTHWEST OHIO BRIDGE DISTRICT

ARTICLE I :NAME, MEMBERSHIP ELIGIBILITY, OFFICE AND OBJECTIVES

Section 1. The name of the organization shall be "**LOWER MICHIGAN / NORTHWEST OHIO BRIDGE DISTRICT**, a Michigan Non-Profit Corporation". The organization may also conduct business under the assumed name "ACBL DISTRICT 12". The organization shall be referred to in this document as "the DISTRICT."

Section 2. In these By-Laws the American Contract Bridge League is referred to as the LEAGUE; the whole of District 12 as defined by the LEAGUE, as the DISTRICT; the voluntary organization of UNITS within the District as DISTRICT 12; and the ACBL Units as UNITS.

Section 3. DISTRICT 12 includes all UNITS in the geographical boundary of the DISTRICT in good standing. A UNIT is deemed to be in good standing if it has paid its annual membership dues or most recently assessed dues assessed by a majority vote of DISTRICT 12 pursuant to Article IV, Sec. 5. Such dues and assessments are payable annually on or before January 1st of each year to DISTRICT 12's Secretary-Treasurer.

The UNITS now in District 12 are Eastern Michigan Bridge Assn. No. 200; Michigan Bridge Assn. No. 137; Southern Michigan Bridge Assn. No. 203; Northwestern Ohio Bridge Assn. No. 105; and Western Michigan Bridge Assn. No. 195. DISTRICT 12 may invite other UNITS to attend meetings as observers. The DISTRICT 12 secretary shall have authority to extend such invitations at the direction of the DISTRICT 12 Board of Directors.

Section 4. OBJECTIVES

- a) To foster and promote the growth and improvement of contract bridge(particularly duplicate or tournament bridge) with special emphasis upon the enhancement of ethical standards of play, and providing the best of facilities and playing conditions, at reasonable fees, to encourage greater active participation in tournaments by LEAGUE members.
- b) To provide member UNITS the broadest bases for their representation in all matters of their relationship with the LEAGUE.
- c) To nominate candidates for all National Official positions allocated to the DISTRICT by the LEAGUE.
- d) To create a centralized body for negotiations with the LEAGUE in the matter of securing for the DISTRICT its proper allotment of tournaments having Regional and National status.
- e) To discuss and decide upon the allocation and scheduling of Regional and National tournaments to cities within the DISTRICT.
- f) To provide counsel and assistance to UNITS in all matters including:
 - 1) Selection of tournament dates and elimination of conflicts therein between member UNITS.

- 2) Promotion of all tournaments sponsored by the UNITS.
 - 3) Cooperation on Tournament scheduling with adjacent DISTRICTS.
 - 4) Liaison assistance between the UNITS and the LEAGUE.
- g) To mutually assist UNITS in the promotion of the LEAGUE CHARITY GAMES.
- h) To establish District Disciplinary and Appellate Committies to function as outlined in Article X. [** Amended based on "repeal by implication" due to the amendment of Article X in June, 2015*]

ARTICLE II: ORGANIZATION

Section 1. Affiliation: DISTRICT 12 is affiliated with the LEAGUE and, as such, shall abide by the Charter, By-Laws, and Rules and Regulations of the LEAGUE, except where such Charter, By-Laws, Rules, and Regulations conflict with the law of the State of Michigan..

Section 2. Fiscal year: The fiscal year of DISTRICT 12 shall be identical with that of the LEAGUE, as nearly as possible.

ARTICLE III: MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. Membership in DISTRICT 12 is outlined in Article I, Section 3. Geographic boundaries of the DISTRICT are determined by the LEAGUE. Membership and privileges in DISTRICT 12 are governed by these By-Laws, Rules and Regulations.

ARTICLE IV: ADMINISTRATION

Section 1. Governing Body: The Administrative authority of DISTRICT 12 shall be vested in the Board of Directors comprising the following:

- a) Presidents of all member UNITS, or temporary alternates designated by the UNIT President.
- b) Secretaries of all member UNITS, or their temporary alternates.
- c) The President.
- d) The Vice President.
- e) The Executive Secretary-Treasurer.
- f) Such other representatives as the Board of Directors may designate.

Section 2. Elections of Officers: The Board of Directors of DISTRICT 12 shall elect the following officers for three (3) year terms:

- 1) President
- 2) Vice President
- 3) Executive Secretary-Treasurer

Election will be held in 1995, 1998, 2001, etc. during a Spring or Summer Regional.

One year prior to each election year, a committee shall be appointed by the President to nominate one or more candidates for each office. All DISTRICT 12 members in good standing with both the LEAGUE and DISTRICT 12, including past and present officers, are eligible for

selection by the nominating committee. Other candidates may be nominated from the floor. In all cases, candidates shall be checked in advance on their willingness to take office.

Section 3. Duties of Officers:

- a) DISTRICT 12 President shall be the presiding officer at all meetings of DISTRICT 12
- b) In the absence of the President, the Vice President shall be the presiding officer.
- c) If both the President and the Vice President are absent, an attending quorum may select a chairman.
- d) Under the direction of the Board of Directors, the Executive Secretary-Treasurer shall act as Business Manager; initiate, set up and maintain permanent records of DISTRICT 12 including record of minutes of all Board meetings; maintain a register of all UNIT officers, DISTRICT 12 officers, NATIONAL officers from DISTRICT 12, and all representatives and members of the Board of Directors; send written notices of Board meetings to all members of the Board, such notices shall include a written agenda of matters of business for such meetings; prepare and distribute to member UNITS a listing of Sectional, Regional and National Tournaments in the DISTRICT; receive, disburse and account for all funds of DISTRICT 12; have responsibility for any publication that may be issued by DISTRICT 12. The Executive Secretary-Treasurer may be paid such compensation as may be determined by the Board of Directors.

Section 4. Voting Members: The UNIT President, or his or her designated delegate, shall cast the votes for each UNIT.

Section 5. Unit Votes: In DISTRICT 12 matters each UNIT shall have one (1) vote for each five hundred (500) of its members, or major fraction thereof, but no UNIT shall have less than one (1) vote nor more than three (3) votes. Membership in each UNIT shall be based on the ACBL Fall Cycle of Rosters mailed to each UNIT Secretary. At the request of any member, voting will be by roll call with the vote of each member recorded in the minutes. A quorum consists of at least one representative from at least 3/5 of the UNITS in good standing.

Section 6. Notices. Any notice required under these By-Laws may be sent by mail, fax, or e-mail, at the discretion of the Secretary.

ARTICLE V: NATIONAL OFFICERS

Section 1. Election of National Officers: DISTRICT 12 shall nominate candidates for National Officers, following procedures established by the LEAGUE.

ARTICLE VI: MEETINGS

Section 1. DISTRICT 12 shall hold two regular meetings each year, one at a Spring or Summer Regional and one at the Motor City Regional. The expense of any meal provided at these meetings will be paid for by the District. Officers will be nominated and elected during a Spring or Summer

Regional as the first order of new business in the order as listed under Article IV, Section 2. Terms of office start when elected at this meeting. For regular meetings, fifteen (15) days notice shall be given in writing.

Section 2. Special meetings may be called upon fifteen (15) days written notice by DISTRICT 12 President or upon written request of not less than one-half of the Board Members or by the Presidents of more than one-half of the member UNITS. Notification of such meetings will be accompanied by an Agenda stating the item(s) to be discussed, and the meeting shall be limited to such Agenda.

Section 3. On 15 days' written notice, the board may vote by email on any matter except an amendment to these bylaws, which requires 30 days' written notice. The exact wording of all the proposed motions must be included in the notice, and no amendments will be allowed, except by unanimous consent of the voting members. A motion will be deemed to have passed only if it receives a majority of the total number of votes allocated to the voting members, except for bylaws amendments, which require a 2/3 majority vote.

ARTICLE VII: SCHEDULE OF REGIONALS

Section 1. The minutes of each meeting shall indicate the dates of four (4) Regionals assigned by the LEAGUE to the DISTRICT 12 three (3) years in advance if possible. Every effort shall be made to schedule Regionals three years or more in advance. Only by advance scheduling can conflicts be avoided and good attendance be maintained.

Section 2. The four (4) Regionals shall be named by the host UNIT.

Section 3. Regionals are assigned annually to the Michigan Bridge Assn. No. 137, the Western Michigan Bridge Assn. No. 195 and the Southern Michigan Bridge Assn. No. 203. The other Regional will alternate between Northwestern Ohio Bridge Assn. No. 105 (even numbered years) and the Eastern Michigan Bridge Assn. No. 200 (odd numbered years).

Section 4. If any of the five (5) UNITS is unable to hold its assigned Regional as outlined in Section 3, one of the other four (4) UNITS may hold the Regional provided approval is granted by the DISTRICT Board. This will not deprive the UNIT giving up a Regional to its rights to a regional at its next scheduled turn, or to trade its scheduled Regional for one scheduled in another UNIT if a mutual agreement can be worked out and also approved by the DISTRICT board.

ARTICLE VIII: RULES OF ORDER

Section 1. All DISTRICT 12 meetings shall be conducted under Roberts Rules of Order, except as otherwise provided for in these By-Laws.

ARTICLE IX: AMENDMENT TO THE BY-LAWS

Section 1. These By-Laws may be amended by action of the Board of Directors, with or

without a meeting, provided that the amendment to be considered is discussed at a Board meeting, is delivered in writing to each member UNIT at least 30 days prior to the voting on the amendment, and that a 2/3s majority vote of all of the allocated UNIT votes is achieved. The UNIT representatives shall keep their UNITS abreast of current By-Laws and By-Law changes.

ARTICLE X: DISTRICT 12 DISCIPLINARY AND APPELLATE COMMITTEES

Section 1: DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE

- A. The District shall maintain a Disciplinary Committee, which will have full authority to hear and decide matters assigned to District Disciplinary Committees by the ACBL Code of Disciplinary Regulations.
- B. The District Board shall appoint a member of the District as standing Chairperson of the Disciplinary Committee for a term of approximately three (3) years, ending at a semi-annual meeting of the Board. The Chairperson must be a member or retired member of the legal profession. There is no limit to the number of terms that a district member may serve as Chairperson. If a vacancy occurs in the chairperson position for any reason, the District President shall appoint an interim Chairperson who shall serve until the next meeting of the District Board, at which time the Board shall appoint a district member as Chairperson for a new three year term. The Chairperson may be removed for cause by a 2/3 vote of the District Board.
- C. When a case arises, the Chairperson shall appoint, with concurrence of the District President, two additional district members to serve with the Chairperson on the panel that will hear and decide that case. If for any reason the Chairperson cannot hear the case, the District President will appoint a third district member to replace the Chairperson for that case. At least one member of the panel so created must be a member or retired member of the legal profession. Once the members of the panel (including the standing Chairperson) have been chosen, they may not be removed from that case, except by reason of resignation, death or disability.
4. The Disciplinary Committee panel constituted under paragraph 1.C shall follow the procedures and have full powers as set forth for such a panel in the ACBL Code of Disciplinary Regulations.

Section 2: APPELLATE COMMITTEE

- A. The District shall maintain an Appellate Committee, which will have full authority to hear and decide matters assigned to District Appellate Committees by the ACBL Code of Disciplinary Regulations.
- B. The District Board shall appoint a member of the District as standing Chairperson of the Appellate Committee for a term of approximately three (3) years, ending at a semiannual meeting of the Board. The Chairperson must be a member or retired member of the legal profession. There is no limit to the number of terms that a district member may serve as Chairperson. If a vacancy occurs in the chairperson position for any reason, the District President shall appoint an interim Chairperson who shall serve until the next meeting of

the District Board, at which time the Board shall appoint a district member as Chairperson for a new three year term. The Chairperson may be removed for cause by a 2/3 vote of the District Board.

- C. When a case arises, the Chairperson shall appoint, with concurrence of the District President, two additional district members to serve with the Chairperson on the panel that will hear and decide that case. If for any reason the Chairperson cannot hear the case, the District President shall appoint a third district member to replace the Chairperson for that case. At least one member of the panel so created must be a member or retired member of the legal profession. Once the members of the panel (including the standing Chairperson) have been chosen, they may not be removed from that case, except for reason of resignation, death or disability. In no event may a member of the panel be a member of the committee or other entity that heard the original case.
- D. The Appellate Committee panel constituted under paragraph 2.C shall follow the procedures and have full powers as set forth for such a panel in the ACBL Code of Disciplinary Regulations.

RATIFICATION OF BYLAWS

These By-Laws shall be ratified by the affirmative vote of 2/3 of votes present and eligible to vote at the DISTRICT 12 Board Meeting following incorporation of DISTRICT 12.

These bylaws were last amended on January 4 , 2016.