

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Directors of Western Michigan Unit 195
of the American Contract Bridge League, Inc., held at Pietro's Italian Restaurant,
Grand Rapids, MI 49506, on Friday, April 28, 2017.**

The meeting was called to order by the President, Dennis Carman, at 6:50 p.m. Along with Dennis Carman, the Board Members present were:

Precinct 1 – Paul Christ (for Mark Hess), Bob Korten and Lynn Larson
Precinct 2 – Walt Casper, Lee Conklin, Joanne Fiedler, and Joanne Molt
Precinct 3 – Phil Reynolds, Diane Schafer and Kathy Jernigan (for Helen Van Amburg)
Precinct 4 – Alan Bau, Bob Houtrow, Bill Northrop and Allen Schwenk

Board Members absent were:

Precinct 1 – Ben Broughton and Joe Manhart

Others present were:

Unit 195 Secretary/Treasurer/Tournament Coordinator Catherine Gay
Guests: Darryl Harrison, John Molt, Mel Waisanen, Brenda Bau, Lowell Seyburn,
and John Koschik

Minutes

Bob Korten moved to accept the minutes of the September 10, 2016 Unit 195 Board Meeting. This motion was seconded by Bob Houtrow and passed unanimously.

Financial Report

President Carman presented the financial reports of the Unit, and noted that the treasury is about \$4000 more than our balance from the same time last year. Treasurer Catherine Gay informed the Board that the Unit had an additional \$568 from the profit of the Spring Lansing NLM Sectional. In response to a question from Joanne Fiedler about the almost \$1000 increase in dues returned to our Unit from the ACBL, Catherine replied that this was the result of many of our snowbirds keeping their Unit 195 addresses instead of changing to their southern addresses. Bill Northrop moved to accept the Financial reports, seconded by Bob Korten, and all voted in favor.

President's Report

Dennis Carman informed the Board about his efforts to bring the Spring NABC to the Unit/District in the spring of 2022 or 2024. He said the number of hotel rooms available and the airplane flights into Grand Rapids are acceptable, but conflicts with other events over the use of convention center space in Grand Rapids are proving difficult. Dennis mentioned the small chance that the ACBL might buy out Orlando, the host city for the Fall National in 2022, and that Grand Rapids could apply to hold that event.

Bob Houtrow noted that attendance at NABC's held in Las Vegas is always very good and he suggested that the ACBL hold Nationals there more frequently. Dennis informed us that Las Vegas already has two NABCs scheduled, but that the difficulty with holding them in Las Vegas more often is that there are not enough volunteers to run them.

President Carman reported that he is on the committee to select the new CEO of the ACBL. He has been involved in meetings and interviews with the candidates, with the goal of having a new CEO in place by the Toronto NABC this summer.

Tournament Scheduling 2018

President Carman informed the Board of a change to the 2017 tournament schedule concerning the Midland Sectional. It will be held after the Farmington Hills Regional and before the Sectional in Toledo in October. See the District 12 website for details.

Bob Korten told the Board that this is his last year as chair of the Frankfort Sectional, and that he has yet to find a replacement so this might also be the last year of the Frankfort Sectional. Diane Schafer suggested that Traverse City might host Sectionals in both the Spring and the Fall to help replace losing Frankfort. Dennis Carman said that we should not cancel the sanction for the Frankfort Sectional because we might still find someone willing to chair it. Dennis also suggested that the event start times for the second and third days of our sectionals should be the same to avoid confusion.

Grand Rapids will host the 2019 Unit 195 Regional during the fourth week in August. This is a change from our traditional dates of the third week in August, thanks to the cooperation of the MBA in moving their Sectional that week. The 2020 Regional will return to Petoskey, and the 2021 Regional was offered to the Lansing area if they wish to run it. Because the Unit Regional is scheduled to take place in Petoskey every other year, Mike Sears has asked that the Unit Board consider buying 25 more tables to keep in Petoskey for use at the Regionals. Lynn Larson moved that the Unit purchase 25 tables to leave in Petoskey. Paul Christ seconded and all voted in favor. Joanne Molt said that Meijer currently has tables on sale for \$23.99 and she would check on this for the Board.

Tournament Coordinator Catherine Gay asked the Board if we should keep printing Unit Tournament Brochures. Bill Northrop suggested printing fewer each year, but Catherine will check with the printer and make the final decision based on the cost.

The next Unit 195 Board Meeting will be held on Friday, September 29th, 2017, after the second session of bridge at the Grand Haven Sectional.

Old Business

Catherine Gay was congratulated by president Carman for successfully passing the ACBL Tournament Assistant test. She will now be available to work at Unit 195 Regionals, if needed. Dennis informed the Board that Ken VanCleve, Mike Roberts and Alex Bealles will staff the Kalamazoo Regional, with Catherine if needed.

Joanne Molt asked if there was any new information regarding ACBLscore and Dennis responded that the new ACBLscore should be available by the beginning of 2018.

The Disciplinary Committee which was formed at our last meeting to deal with upcoming player appeals has had no cases come before it.

Joanne Fiedler commented that the bracketed Swiss team event at the Grand Haven Sectional did not seem to have much support from many tournament players. Diane Schafer expressed the concerns of players who can no longer play in the Gold Rush, but do not feel they can compete with players with 2000+ points. Kathy Jernigan suggested that 1500 is too low for flight A. We were reminded that decisions about events and stratification are left to each tournament chair.

New Business

Secretary Catherine Gay informed the Board that we subsidize the Unit 195 clubs by about \$9,000 by paying all fees for the District 12 STaC weeks and by paying \$4.00/table for the first NAP qualifier run per session each month. The ACBL reduced STaC fees this year from \$7.00/table to \$6.00/table which should reduce this expense in 2017. Bob Korten suggested that we continue this policy until financial conditions make it untenable.

President Carman complimented Mike Curley for the excellent work he is doing on the District 12 website. He also urged Board Members to inform their players about the upcoming Grand National Teams event in Southfield, May 12th and 13th.

Adjournment

With no further business to be brought before the Board, Bill Northrop moved that the meeting be adjourned. This motion was seconded by Bob Korten and all voted in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Catherine Gay
Unit 195 Secretary/Treasurer/Tournament Coordinator