

Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Directors of Western Michigan Unit 195 of the American Contract Bridge League, Inc., held at YMCA Camp Arbutus, 1380 East Arbutus Lake Road, Traverse City, MI 49696, on Saturday, September 10, 2016.

The meeting was called to order by the President, Dennis Carman, at approximately 6:15 p.m. Along with Dennis Carman, the Board Members present were:

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

Board Members absent were:

Precinct 1 – Joe Manhart

Others present were:

Unit 195 Secretary/Treasurer/Tournament Coordinator Catherine Gay
Guests: Jonathan Fleischmann, Paul Christ, Larry Simon, Margaret Malenka, Kathy Jernigan, George Van Amburg, Wayne Hascall, Susan Bailey Carman, Chelane Priller and Ken VanAlstine

Minutes

Joanne Molt presented information about the proposed Regional to be held in Grand Rapids in 2019. She is still negotiating with the hotel and hopes to get the site cost to \$4200 and also get three hotel rooms comped for the directors. Dennis Carman informed us that he has signed a contract with the Kalamazoo Fairgrounds for \$3,300 for the week of the 2018 Regional. He is also working with the nearby hotels to secure a good room rate. We will be able to bring in coffee and snacks at both of these locations.

As the next order of business, the President asked for a motion to accept the minutes of the April 29, 2016 Board Meeting. Bob Korten moved that the minutes be accepted as written. This motion was seconded by Diane Schafer and passed unanimously.

Installation of New Board Members

President Carman welcomed new Board Member Ben Broughton. Ben is replacing Duane Little, who retired this year as Board Member from Precinct 1. Speaking on behalf of the entire Board, Dennis thanked Duane for his many years of service to the Unit.

Election of Officers

Bill Northrop moved to re-elect all of the current officers of Unit 195. This motion was seconded by Mark Hess and, when there were no other nominations, the motion passed unanimously. Dennis Carman will again serve as Unit president, Joanne Molt will continue to serve as the Vice-president and Catherine Gay will be the Unit Secretary/Treasurer/Tournament Coordinator until 2018.

Financial Report

President Carman presented the financial reports of the Unit and noted that the Petoskey Regional was very successful with about 970 tables and that our tournaments will probably total more than 2000 tables by the end of the year. Treasurer Catherine Gay informed the Board that even with

expenses of around \$7,000 for the remainder of the year, the Unit will have a balance of about \$30,000 at year end. Bill Northrop moved to accept the financial reports, Alan Bau seconded and all approved.

President's Report

Dennis Carman informed the Board that there are three pending disciplinary cases in our Unit. In one of these cases, a player has already been excluded from a local club, and cannot participate in STaC, NAP or any other special games. This player has the right to appeal to the Unit 195 Disciplinary Committee. The Unit By-Laws state that the Disciplinary Committee is made up of the entire Board or a subset of same. Dennis sought information from the ACBL and was told by Sam Witten that we need a small odd number of Board Members to serve on the Unit Disciplinary Committee.

Bob Houtrow asked if the committee's decision would be binding. It was determined that all decisions made by the Disciplinary Committee will be effective immediately and will be binding, though the player still has the right to appeal to the District 12 Disciplinary Committee. Ben Broughton asked if the committee members had to be present at the same site. This is not required, but the player who brings the appeal will be allowed to present evidence to the committee, either in person or in writing. Lynn Larson said that she believes the committee's decision should be presented to the full Board for their approval. Mark Hess stated that he thinks it is unlikely that the Board would disapprove of the committee's ruling. Walt Casper asked if the committee's votes would be confidential, and he was told that they would not be. President Carman informed us that the ACBL Code of Disciplinary Regulations and the Recorder Regulations were updated this past August.

Ben Broughton moved that the Unit Disciplinary Committee consist of Dennis Carman, Joanne Molt, Catherine Gay (the Unit Officers) as well as Board Members Mark Hess, Bob Houtrow and Walt Casper. This will be the standing committee for two years, until the election of new officers in 2018. President Carman will select five of the six to serve on the committee for any given hearing. Bob Korten seconded this motion and all Board Members voted in favor.

Tournament Scheduling 2017

Joanne Molt said that she would have information finalized about the 2019 Grand Rapids Regional within a week or two and that she would forward that information to Catherine Gay. Catherine mentioned that most of the people she spoke with really like it when we hold the Regional in Petoskey. Considering the large profit we make in Petoskey, she suggested that we contemplate holding the Unit 195 Regional there every year. Mark Hess said that the Petoskey players want to host the Regional every other year because he thinks the enthusiasm would wear thin if it was held there every year. After additional comments and discussion, Alan Bau suggested that we table this issue until after the Kalamazoo Regional next year.

All tournaments are sanctioned for 2017 with the exception of the NLM Sectionals and the 2018 Jackson Sectional. The District 12 STaCs for 2017 are scheduled for May 22nd through May 28th and October 30th through November 5th. In an effort to increase participation, the District 12 GNT Finals have been moved from a Saturday/Sunday event to Friday and Saturday, May 12-13, in Southfield.

Dennis said that the ACBL Nationals planner met with the Grand Rapids contingent, but there is nothing new to report about the proposed NABC in Grand Rapids. Catherine Gay informed the Board that Debbie Sears told her that many country clubs are experiencing financial difficulty and they might, therefore, be open to hosting our sectional tournaments.

Schedule 2017 Board Meetings and Membership Meeting

The next Unit 195 Board Meeting will be held Friday, April 28, 2017 after the second session of bridge at the Grand Rapids Sectional. The Unit Membership Meeting will be held between sessions in

Grand Rapids on that same day. The second Unit Board Meeting will be held after the second session of bridge at the Grand Haven Sectional, on Friday September 29th.

Old Business

Because the Petoskey Regional was very successful, the Unit's finances are in excellent condition so there is no need to increase our Sectional card fees for 2017. Bill Northrop moved to keep Sectional fees at \$9.00 per session for 2017. Bob Korten seconded and all voted in favor.

Secretary Catherine Gay asked the Board if they thought the Unit Tournament Brochure was needed anymore, now that most players get their tournament information from the ACBL website. The majority of the Board felt that the brochure was still worthwhile.

New Business

The Petoskey Regional was very well attended early in the week and the three ACBL directors needed extra help for the first four days. They pressed Paul Christ into service as a Tournament Assistant. Paul has also agreed to help Ken VanCleve at the District 12 NAP finals in Lansing. We try to hire local players as TAs so we do not have to pay mileage or hotel costs. Unit 195 currently has two qualified Tournament Assistants, Paul Christ and Duane Little, but Duane no longer has interest in working at our tournaments.

A newer Unit 195 player has passed the TA test and has asked the Unit to hire her to help train her to become a qualified Tournament Assistant. She said that she eventually wants to become an ACBL Tournament Director because Dennis said that Ken is the only director available to us within 800 miles. Most of our tournaments are small enough that we do not need Tournament Assistants, but we agreed that it would be smart to have qualified people ready to help when needed. Bob Houtrow then moved that the Board go into executive session to discuss this issue further. Bob Korten seconded this motion and all approved.

The Board then discussed the Unit By-Laws covering our Board Meetings, with Mark Hess stating that only Board Members (not their partners) should be present for the transactional business of the Board. President Carman suggested changing the By-Laws to limit meetings to Board Members and invited guests. It was determined that our meetings will be open except for special executive sessions.

Dennis explained that Tournament Assistants are hired by the Unit, not the ACBL, and that the Unit also determines the level of compensation. The Tournament Assistant test is available to anyone who has previously been certified as a club or certified director. Candidates must be current with their ACBL dues. We were informed that the test is an open book, take-home test and the candidate has sixty days to complete it. Catherine Gay and Bill Northrop have both offered to take the T. A. test to be ready to help with the 2017 Kalamazoo Regional if needed.

Adjournment

With no further business to be brought before the Board, Bob Korten moved that the meeting be adjourned. This motion was seconded by Walt Casper and all voted in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Catherine Gay
Unit 195 Secretary/Treasurer/Tournament Coordinator