

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Directors of Western Michigan Unit 195  
of the American Contract Bridge League, Inc., held at Jack's Waterfront Bistro,  
Spring Lake, MI 49456, on Friday, September 29, 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 – Ben Broughton and Mark Hess  
Precinct 2 – Walt Casper, Lee Conklin, Joanne Fiedler, and Joanne Molt  
Precinct 3 – Diane Schafer and Helen Van Amburg  
Precinct 4 – Bob Houtrow and Bill Northrop

Board Members absent were:

Precinct 1 – Bob Korten, Lynn Larson and Joe Manhart  
Precinct 3 - Phil Reynolds  
Precinct 4 - Alan Bau and Allen Schwenk

Others present were:

Unit 195 Secretary/Treasurer/Tournament Coordinator Catherine Gay  
Guests: Dave Kamm, Darryl Harrison, John Molt and Susan Bailey Carman

***Minutes***

Bill Northrop moved to accept the minutes of the April 28, 2017 Unit 195 Board Meeting. This motion was seconded by Walt Casper and passed unanimously.

***Financial Report***

President Carman presented the financial reports of the Unit, and reported that the Unit is in good financial condition and that his estimates of table counts at our tournaments were close to those realized. The Kalamazoo Regional had almost 700 tables and earned \$6,748 after paying the 10% profit sharing to the Kalamazoo Bridge Club.

Treasurer Catherine Gay informed the Board that the Unit expects an additional \$1,000 in Membership dues from the ACBL, \$1,000 in profit from the Petoskey Sectional, and small profits from the Grand Haven Sectional and the Lansing NLM Sectional. She also expects to pay about \$2000 for STaC subsidies, \$1400 for the Board Meeting meal and travel expenses, and \$200 for three years of bonding insurance. She predicted a treasury balance of about \$27,000 at year end.

Catherine then explained that the large increase in equipment costs this year include the purchase of 25 new card tables for the Petoskey Regional, twelve dozen decks of cards for Ken Vancleve, and \$466 to clean and recondition the Unit dealing machine. Bill Northrop moved to accept the Financial reports, seconded by Walt Casper, and all voted in favor.

***President's Report***

Dennis Carman informed the Board about the status of Northern Indiana Unit 154's request to leave District 8 and join us in District 12. Unit 154 would continue to hold their three Sectionals, but would give up hosting their Regional in Fort Wayne. The National ACBL Board will not make any decision about this change until at least the NABC in Philadelphia next spring, and Unit 154's current District may fight this change.

Mark Hess asked the president about outgoing ACBL CEO Hartman's comments concerning the size of the current ACBL Board of Directors being too large. Dennis Carman replied that he agreed that the board is too large, and that reducing the number of Board Members would allow them to accomplish more while also reducing expenses.

Dennis informed the Board that the National Board of Directors decided to eliminate the STOP card from bid boxes at tournaments beginning January 1, 2018. He also reported that Ken Vancleve was attending training sessions for Field Directors at ACBL headquarters which is why he was not the director in Grand Haven.

Ben Broughton told the Board about the generous donation (a lot in downtown Muskegon which sold for \$78,000) to the Grand Haven bridge club from deceased local player Suleyman Cotal. Suleyman requested that these monies be used to promote bridge to newer players in the Grand Haven area. Some of this money was used to allow Flight C teams to play free at the Grand Haven Sectional this year. Catherine Gay stated that she does not like the Bracketed Swiss team format and that she thinks it discourages both Flight A and Flight B teams from attending.

Bob Houtrow and Joanne Molt commented that the ACBL's support for the Junior Program seems to produce very little for the league except for helping to create the next generation of professional players. They suggested that the money might be better spent targeting new retirees and baby boomers. Advertising ideas, limited MP games, bridge classes at colleges, and the goals of newer players were all discussed.

Mark Hess reported that open table counts in Petoskey are way down, but that the 199er tables are currently offsetting this. He said that many of these players have no desire to improve their game or to play against expert players, so if we offered more 199er events Petoskey players might travel to more of our tournaments. Bob Houtrow also suggested that strength based ratings might be helpful in keeping older players active at the table as their skills decline.

### ***Board Member Elections 2018***

Nominations for the Board Member election in 2018 are due by May 1, 2018. Current Board Members not up for election make up the nominating committees of each precinct. In precinct 1, those Board Members are Ben Broughton and Lynn Larson. In precinct 2, Walt Casper and Joanne Fiedler. In precinct 3 Diane Schafer and in precinct 4 Bill Northrop and Allen Schwenk. Please contact these players if you are interested in serving on the Unit 195 Board of Directors. Mike Sears has expressed interest in returning to the board to serve precinct 1. Election of Officers will also take place in 2018.

Secretary Catherine Gay asked all Board Members to review their contact information and inform her if there are any changes. She also asked Board Members to inform her if they did not want this information made public on the District 12 website.

### ***Schedule 2018 Board Meeting and Membership Meeting***

The Unit 195 Membership Meeting will be held Thursday, April 26th, at 12:45pm, before the start of play at the Grand Rapids Sectional at the tournament site. The first Unit 195 Board Meeting of 2018 will be held Thursday, April 26, between sessions at the Grand Rapids Sectional. Our second Unit Board Meeting will be held after the second session of bridge at the Traverse City Sectional on Saturday, September 8th.

### ***Tournament Scheduling 2018***

Tournament Coordinator Catherine Gay provided Board Members with the current 2018 tournament schedule. She noted that everything has been scheduled except the Lansing NLM Sectionals, the Petoskey NLM Sectional and the 2019 Jackson Sectional.

### ***New Business***

Secretary Catherine Gay reported that Ken Vancleve would like two new sets of boards to replace two sets that include many broken boards. Walt Casper moved to buy two sets of boards for Ken. Diane Schafer seconded the motion and all voted in favor. Joanne Fiedler requested that she receive the old boards from Ken for her teaching efforts in Grand Rapids.

Discussion of Sectional card fees and stratifications followed. Joanne Molt indicated that Ken Vancleve could easily tell us what the optimum strata are for each of our tournaments. Each tournament chair should discuss this with Ken after their tournament, to be prepared to make changes to the strata for the next year.

Treasurer Catherine Gay noted that there is no need to raise Sectional card fees based on the financial condition of the Unit, but that Nancy Colbert in Petoskey wanted to charge \$10 and was prevented from doing so by the Unit policy. Mark Hess moved to increase card fees at all Unit 195 Sectionals to \$10 per session and this

motion was seconded by Ben Broughton. Catherine Gay informed the Board that Lynn Larson told her that she did not wish to increase Sectional card fees unless we reinstated free plays for Board Members on Board Meeting days. After discussion about the half price 299er pairs offered by the Grand Rapids Sectional, Mark amended his motion to charge \$10 for all open events at our Sectionals, and that lower fees may be charged for limited events at the discretion of the tournament chair. This motion was again seconded by Ben and was passed with two opposed.

President Carman reminded us that Ken will be retiring sometime in the next several years, and that we need to find a good replacement. Joanne Molt said that she knows of a newer player who might be an excellent candidate and that she will contact this player and inform the board if he has interest.

Walt Casper noted that Bill Northrop gives much of his time and effort to all of our Unit tournaments. He therefore moved to allow Bill to play for free one day at each Unit 195 Sectional and receive mileage for transporting tables. This motion was seconded by Ben Broughton and passed with two opposed.

Mark Hess asked if we could allow some Board Members to attend our meetings remotely by using speaker phones, Skype, or similar technology. Joanne Molt said that she would contact David Whitehouse to see if he can help us with this.

### ***Adjournment***

With no further business to be brought before the Board, Bill Northrop moved that the meeting be adjourned. This motion was seconded by Walt Casper and all approved. The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Catherine Gay  
Unit 195 Secretary/Treasurer/Tournament Coordinator