

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Directors of Western Michigan Unit 195
of the American Contract Bridge League, Inc., held at the East Congregational Church,
1005 Giddings SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49506, on Thursday, April 26, 2018.**

The meeting was called to order by the President, Dennis Carman, at 4:50pm. Along with Dennis Carman, the Board Members present were:

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

Board Members absent were:

Precinct 1 – Mark Hess, Bob Korten and Joe Manhart

Others present were:

Unit 195 Secretary/Treasurer/Tournament Coordinator Catherine Gay
Guests: Scott Roland, John Molt, Mel Waisanen, Lowell Seyburn, Sheryl Miller and Susan Bailey
Carman

Minutes

Allen Schwenk moved to accept the minutes of the September 29, 2017 Unit 195 Board Meeting. This motion was seconded by Bill Northrop and passed unanimously.

Financial Report

President Carman presented the financial reports of the Unit, and stated that the Unit is in good financial condition even though table counts at our tournaments were down about 300 tables from the 2016 total, and down 150 tables from 2015, when the regional was held in Lansing. He is concerned about the falling table counts as well as the decrease in participation at the District NAP and GNT events.

Bill Northrop moved to accept the Financial reports, this motion was seconded by Paul Christ, and all voted in favor.

President's Report

President Carman informed the Board about Northern Indiana Unit 154 leaving District 8 and joining us in District 12. Unit 154 includes the Fort Wayne, South Bend and Kokomo areas, and adds about 600 new members to District 12. This Unit will continue to hold their three Sectionals in Fort Wayne, South Bend and Highland, but will give up hosting their Unit Regional in Fort Wayne. Ben Broughton asked why there would be no Regional for Unit 154, and Dennis replied that it had become too expensive to run the Fort Wayne Regional. Dennis also informed us that different Districts have varying power over how Regionals are run and which entities benefit from the profits (or suffer the losses) of these tournaments.

Dennis then told the Board that the Toledo Regional will be held at a new site this year, the Toledo/Sylvania Elks Lodge. He also stated that table counts at the Philadelphia Nationals this spring were up, with the National events becoming more popular, and the Regional events drawing fewer tables.

Board Member Elections 2018

President Carman stated that the Unit 195 By-Laws do not address the possibility of the Secretary/Treasurer serving on the Unit Board. He was concerned that there may be a conflict of interest. Comments from several Board Members indicated that they did not believe this to be an issue.

Secretary Catherine Gay expressed concern that we had no players come forward wanting to serve on the Unit Board of Directors. We had just enough people offer to serve to replace the people who are retiring from the Board this year. We will, therefore, have no competitive elections in any of our precincts. Mike Sears will replace Bob Kortzen, and Louis Slyker will replace Joe Manhart in precinct 1. Kathy Stepanovich will replace Helen Van Amburg in precinct 3, and Catherine Gay will replace Alan Bau in precinct 4.

The Unit 195 Board wishes to express their thanks to Bob, Joe, Helen and Alan for their years of service to the Unit. The new Board Members will be seated at our next Board Meeting, which will be held after the second session of bridge at the Traverse City Sectional on Saturday, September 8th. We will also elect officers at this meeting.

Tournament Scheduling 2018

Tournament Coordinator Catherine Gay provided Board Members with the current 2019 tournament schedule. She noted that everything has been scheduled except for the Grand Haven Sectional, the Lansing NLM Sectionals, the Petoskey NLM Sectional. The 2019 Grand Rapids Sectional has been moved the second weekend of May to avoid a conflict with the Gatlinburg Regional. The St. Joseph area players met and decided to run their Sectional every other year, alternating with the Petoskey Sectional.

The GNT event will be run during Mother's Day weekend this year and is scheduled to be held the Friday and Saturday of Easter weekend in 2019. Some Unit Board Members expressed concern about these dates, but the District 12 tournament schedule is so full that there are few alternate dates available. Catherine Gay asked if we could change the format of the GNT event to make it a one day event for flights B and C. She thought that this might make it easier for more teams to participate.

New Business

Joanne Fiedler wished to thank Ken Van Cleve for the two sets of old Unit 195 Boards and cases that he gave her for use in her bridge classes in Grand Rapids. Joanne would also like all tournament chairs to consider raising their flight A stratification to 2000 points, to encourage more flight B players to come to our tournaments. Diane Schafer added that she has noticed a general lack of interest of Unit players in attending our tournaments.

Joanne Molt asked Dennis about the new scoring program from the ACBL, and President Carman said that there has not been any change.

Walt Casper suggested that our tournaments use the thirty-point VP scale for our team events, to try to reward victories over simply the Victory Point total. Dennis replied that local tournament chairs decide the policy for their tournament, but he worried that this change would confuse too many players. Catherine Gay suggested that all tournament chairs consult with Ken Van Cleve after their tournament for advice about how to set the strata for 2019.

The Regional in Grand Rapids in 2019 will be held the fourth week of August at the Crossroads, with the Holiday Inn Express as the host.

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 5:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Catherine Gay
Unit 195 Secretary/Treasurer/Tournament Coordinator