

**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 8, 2018.**

The meeting was called to order by the President, Dennis Carman, at 6:10pm. Along with Dennis Carman, the Board Members present were:

Precinct 1 – Ben Broughton, Mark Hess, Lynn Larson, Mike Sears and Louis Slyker
Precinct 2 – Walt Casper, Lee Conklin, Joanne Fiedler, and Joanne Molt (Vice-President)
Precinct 3 – Phil Reynolds, Diane Schafer and Kathy Stepanovich
Precinct 4 – Catherine Gay (Secretary/Treasurer/Tournament Coordinator), Bob Houtrow,
Bill Northrop and Emily Subers (for Allen Schwenk)

Others present were:

Guests: Cristi Nelson, Paul Christ, Mike Morrice, Scott Roland, Karen Cornelius, Darryl Harrison, John Molt, Dee Miller, Fred Sill, Elaine Mickelson, Kathy Jernigan and District 12 Secretary/Treasurer Susan Bailey Carman.

Minutes

Joanne Molt moved to accept the minutes of the April 26, 2018 Unit 195 Board Meeting. This motion was seconded by Joanne Fiedler and passed unanimously.

Installation of New Board Members

President Carman welcomed four new Board Members to the Unit 195 Board of Directors: Mike Sears and Louis Slyker from precinct 1, Kathy Stepanovich from precinct 3, and Catherine Gay from precinct 4. Secretary Catherine Gay asked all Board Members to check their contact information and inform her about any corrections.

Election of Officers

Lynn Larson moved to nominate the current slate of Unit 195 officers to serve another two year term. President Carman asked if there were any other nominations, and there were none. Bob Houtrow seconded Lynn Larson's motion and all voted in favor. President Dennis Carman, Vice-President Joanne Molt, and Secretary/Treasurer Catherine Gay will continue to serve until 2020.

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 150 tables from the 2017 total. This decrease was compensated for financially by the increase in Unit 195 sectional card fees to \$10 per session. The Regional in Petoskey was successful, but the attendance was closer to 2014 levels and we staffed the tournament according to the needs of 2016. This meant less revenue and more expenses.

Dennis estimated that the Unit will have about \$12,000 in expenses for the remainder of the 2018. These expenses include the NAP and STaC fee subsidies to our clubs, the secretary's salary, the Board Meeting expenses, and replacement cards for some Unit 195 bid boxes. The Unit will have income from the Traverse City Sectional, the Lansing NLM Sectional, the Grand Haven Sectional and the St Joseph Sectional. We will also receive income from the ACBL for Membership dues. This means that the Unit should have approximately \$30,000 at year end.

Treasurer Catherine Gay reported a loss of \$420 from the deposit of the proceeds of the Kalamazoo Sectional. For two months she attempted to get PNC bank to reimburse this loss, but when they refused, she moved the Unit's accounts to Fifth Third bank.

Bill Northrop moved to accept the Financial reports, this motion was seconded by Louis Slyker and was passed unanimously.

President's Report

President Carman informed the Board about the unfortunate situation involving the Flint Regional in our District. Their uncommunicated change of date required the rescheduling of two sectionals. Dennis stressed the need to get sanctions for our tournaments in on time.

Tournament Scheduling 2019

Tournament Coordinator Catherine Gay provided Board Members with the current 2019 tournament schedule. As this is the last year for the Grand Haven Sectional, that slot has been offered to Holland. Joanne Molt stated that she is working on this and she will forward information about the date and site to Catherine Gay as soon as possible.

The Grand Rapids Sectional has been moved to May 9 - 11, 2019, to avoid a conflict with the Gatlinburg Regional. Lynn Larson reported that she has contacted 18 different sites in the Traverse City area about hosting her Sectional. She found that these sites were either not available on her dates, too expensive, or not handicapped accessible. We will therefore be at the YMCA camp again next year. The District 12 NAP Finals will be held in Lansing on September 15, 2019.

Catherine Gay reported that some players have asked about increasing the Flight A masterpoint limit at our tournaments. This is an issue that is controlled by each tournament chair, but Catherine requested that all tournament chairs review their tournament and consider raising the Flight A limit.

Joanne Molt informed us that we have a very nice facility for the 2019 Grand Rapids Regional. It will be held at the Crossroads Conference Center and the host hotel will be the Holiday Inn Express. She has negotiated a \$92 bridge rate and has also secured rooms for the directing staff.

Schedule 2019 Board Meetings and Membership Meeting

The Unit 195 Membership Meeting was scheduled for Friday, May 10th, between sessions at the Grand Rapids Sectional.

Unit secretary Catherine Gay noted that Unit affairs seem to be running smoothly, so she suggested that the Unit 195 Board consider meeting only once per year at the Unit Regional. Mark Hess recommended that Unit Board Members be allowed to play free on board meeting days. Unit president Dennis Carman objected to holding the meetings at the Petoskey Regional every other year because of the greater expenses for mileage and hotel rooms for Board Members.

Catherine Gay then moved to hold one 2019 Unit 195 Board Meeting on Friday, August 23rd, after the second session of bridge at the Grand Rapids Regional. She further moved that Board Members would play free on that day and that the Board Members would decide at that time when the next meeting would occur. Joanne Molt seconded these motions and all voted in favor.

New Business

Tournament Coordinator Catherine Gay requested an inventory of Unit 195 card tables at all sites. Each site will count their tables and report back to Catherine. Dennis Carman reported that Ken Van Cleve asked that the Unit consider purchasing clocks to use at our tournaments. Mike Sears said that this would not work at our Regional, because different events running at the same time have different numbers of board in play. He did suggest that having the directors on the floor calling the rounds and moving boards would help. Joanne Molt said that there have never been any problems due to the lack of a clock in Grand Rapids.

Dennis Carman noted that the cost of directing staff at our tournaments is rising, particularly at our Regional. We have a growing concern that directors have to come from farther away with the resulting increase in travel costs. Dennis also stated that Ken VanCleve is nearing 70 years old and is considering retirement, so our Unit is in need of a new tournament director.

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 voted in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 6:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Catherine Gay
Unit 195 Secretary/Treasurer/Tournament Coordinator