

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Directors of Western Michigan Unit 195
of the American Contract Bridge League, Inc., held at Crossroads Conference Center,
6569 Clay Avenue SW, Grand Rapids, MI, 49548, on Friday, August 23, 2019.**

The meeting was called to order by the President, Dennis Carman, at 7:00pm. Along with Dennis Carman, the Board Members present were:

Precinct 1 – Ben Broughton, Mark Hess, Lynn Larson, 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)

Board Members absent were:

Precinct 1 - Mike Sears

Others present were:

Guests: Paul Christ, John Molt, Mel Waisanen, Helen VanAmburg, Bob Korten, ACBL Tournament Director Mike Roberts and District 12 Secretary/Treasurer Susan Bailey Carman.

Minutes

Joanne Fiedler moved to accept the minutes of the September 8, 2018 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 we have a deficit of around \$9,000 for the year so far, and still have about \$6,000 to pay out before the end of the year in STaC and NAP Fee Subsidies and the Secretary's salary. Table counts are down for our Sectionals and Dennis hoped that the table count for the GR Regional would be near 700. We still expect income from the Regional and the Sectionals in Traverse City, Petoskey, Holland and the Lansing NLM, so Dennis anticipates a \$20,000 balance at year end.

Dennis stated that rents at most Sectionals have increased along with higher director costs. Joanne Fiedler asked how Ken's loss will affect tournament expenses and was told that expenses will very likely increase. Phil Reynolds asked how our tournament entry fees compare with other Units. Dennis replied that our \$10 card fees are lower than average for the area. Bob Houtrow moved to increase Sectional card fees to \$12/session beginning in January 2020. This motion was seconded by Lou Slyker and was passed with Lynn Larson and Joanne Molt opposed.

Bill Northrop moved to accept the Financial reports, seconded by Joanne Fiedler, and passed unanimously.

President's Report

President Carman informed the Board that the ACBL is considering changes to player ratings, to be based more on the strength of the fields at Sectionals and Regionals and more recent play, rather than just the total number of Masterpoints. This will be part of the ACBL Board agenda in Montreal next summer, and would begin at tournaments, not at the club level in 2021.

Dennis reported that the ACBL has had a good year financially, with successful Nationals in Memphis and Las Vegas. Bob Houtrow asked why the ACBL board doesn't use the more successful tournament sites more frequently. Dennis replied that ACBL policy is to hold one national in the east, middle and west part of the ACBL each year.

The president noted that the new directors at our tournaments do not know our players and therefore the seeding of the fields has been very poor. He asked that local tournaments have someone at the entry table, with the director's approval, to offer help in the seeding and strength of our players.

Tournament Scheduling 2020

Tournament Coordinator Catherine Gay provided Board Members with the current 2020 tournament schedule and noted that the NLM Sectionals and the Holland Sectional (if they will want to run another one) have yet to be scheduled. Joanne Molt encourages all Board Members to promote the new Sectional in Holland and reports that the site is beautiful.

Phil Reynolds informed the Board that the 2020 Jackson Sectional will be the last one he will chair.

The 2020 Petoskey Regional will run from Monday through Saturday, and Board Members asked questions about possible changes to some of the events. Ben Broughton thought that a two session pairs game on the first day would be more successful than single session events. President Carman replied that it is District 12 policy to run two one session events and that these games support the Grassroots Fund.

Dennis asked the Lansing area Board Members if they were willing to host the Unit Regional in 2021. Diane Schafer replied that she would be willing. The Unit therefore plans to run our Regionals in Lansing in 2021, Petoskey in 2022, Kalamazoo in 2023 and Petoskey again in 2024. Dennis then reported that there was an issue with the ACBL sanctioning a Regional in Toronto against a District 12 Regional. He also informed us that the 2020 District 12 GNT finals will be held on April 19th or 26th.

Elections 2020

Catherine Gay reminded the Board that elections will take place next June. Board Members whose terms expire should contact the other Board Member(s) in their precinct if they wish to run again in 2020. The Board Members not up for re-election are the nominating committee and should seek candidates to replace any retiring Board Member. Nominations are due to Catherine by May 1st. Ballots, if necessary, will be sent out June 1st and will be due back to Catherine by July 1st.

Catherine also asked all Board Members to take note of her new address: 17959 8th Street, Gobles, MI 49055, and her new phone number (713) 371-8941.

Schedule 2020 Board Meetings and Membership Meeting

The Unit 195 Membership Meeting was scheduled for Friday, May 8th, between sessions at the Grand Rapids Sectional.

The first Unit 195 Board Meeting of 2020 will be held on Friday, May 8th, after the second session of bridge in Grand Rapids. The second 2020 Board Meeting will be held on Saturday, September 12th after the second session of bridge at the Sectional in Traverse City.

Old Business

At our last meeting, Catherine Gay requested that each site report the number of Unit 195 tables they currently have. Traverse City has 53 tables, Petoskey has 25, Kalamazoo has 48 and Lansing has 50. Lynn Larson asked how the Unit pays for moving tables to different Unit tournaments. She was informed that there is no Unit policy. Bill Northrop sometimes receives mileage costs for table delivery and he also receives free plays for all of his help at Unit tournaments.

New Business

President Carman informed the Board that Unit 195 will receive \$8,700 out of the \$30,000 of ACBL Charity Funds given to District 12 this year. Because our Unit has more members than any other Unit in District 12, we can receive two checks to distribute to charity. Two proposals were submitted for Board consideration. Joanne Fiedler proposed supporting Family Promise of Grand Rapids. Mike Sears of Petoskey proposed supporting Northwest Michigan Habitat for Humanity. Discussion followed and Phil Reynolds moved to split the \$8,700 evenly between these two charities. This motion was seconded by Lee Conklin and was passed unanimously.

Lynn Larson made a motion to support one student next year at the Michigan Youth Bridge Camp in honor of Ken VanCleve. The estimated cost would be about \$500. Lou Slyker seconded this motion and all voted in favor.

Lynn Larson, with advice from Mark Hess, moved to allow alcohol to be served in moderation at Unit Board Meetings at no cost to the Unit or District. After discussion, this motion was seconded by Lou Slyker. The motion was passed with Bill Northrop in opposition.

Adjournment

With no further business to be brought before the Board, Bill Northrop moved that the meeting be adjourned. This motion was seconded by Mark Hess and all voted in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Catherine Gay
Unit 195 Secretary/Treasurer/Tournament Coordinator