

Minutes of a General Meeting of the Board of Directors

District 2, ACBL

March 26, 2016

MINUTES of a General Meeting of the Board of Directors of District 2 of the American Contract Bridge League held at the International Plaza Hotel, 655 Dixon Road, Toronto, Ontario on March 26, 2016 at 9:00 a.m.

Directors present:

Ontario 166	David Halasi, Wiebe Hoogland, Andy Risman, 1 proxy for Carol Bongard
Manitoba 181	Shirley Galler
Sault International 212	Arlene Smith
Northwestern Ontario 228	Francis Gaudino
Northeastern 238	Marc Langevin, 1 proxy (Brian Thomas)
Trent Valley 246	Linda Lord, 1 proxy (Evelyn Caroline)
Southwestern Ontario 249	Tom Ramsay, Jed Drew, Hazel Hewitt
Bermuda 198	no member present

Being a quorum of Directors of the Corporation.

Also present:

Paul Janicki, ACBL District 2 Director
Gary Westfall, District 2 Auditor
Martin Hunter, NAP, GNT Coordinator
Nader Hanna, CBF
Graham Warren, Tournament Coordinator
Carol Thomas, Unit 212
Flo Belford, District 2 Executive Assistant

The President, Tom Ramsay took the Chair, and Flo Belford acted as Secretary of the meeting.

The Chair stated that in accordance with the by-laws of the Corporation, notice of the meeting had been e-mailed to all members of the Committee and a quorum of the members of the Committee being present (in person or by proxy), he declared the meeting properly called and constituted for the transaction of business.

Tom Ramsay welcomed everyone to the meeting, and introductions were made.

1. Minutes of 2015 Meeting

Moved by Shirley Galler, seconded by Linda Lord,
That the minutes of the General Meeting of the Board of Directors held on April 4, 2015 be approved. Carried

2. Business Arising from the Minutes

a) Motion made at April 18, 2014 meeting regarding lowering of table fees at Regionals when Nationals are held in Toronto (this motion was tabled at the 2014 meeting)

This item was discussed. Following are the comments/questions:

- Unit 212 Sault Ste. Marie is looking to change the date of their 2017 regional
- How often do we have a NABC – Paul Janicki did not know
- Linda Lord would like to see decrease in table fee from \$3.00 to \$1.50 or \$2.00, or pro rate it on % that table count is down
- Effect on regionals is difficult to determine – tournaments are lower in numbers without nationals
- Suggestion to try and reduce costs of regionals when anticipate lower table count
- Can District receive some funds from the NABC – this event is run by Unit 166 so they are responsible for profit or loss

Moved by David Halasi, seconded by Francis Gaudino,

That we take no action and stop further discussion at this meeting on the issue of lowering table fees at Regionals. Carried

3. President's Report

Tom shared his President's Report with the Board. (Report was included in the meeting package) Some of the highlights were:

- Some good things are happening in the District, but some tough ones as well
- We attract new members but balances with ones that drop out
- Biggest concern is financial

Concern over weak Canadian dollar – Paul Janicki advised that there had been a motion at the Reno NABC meetings regarding the exchange rate but it was withdrawn because they wanted to improve the wording and include clubs. The motion had only dealt with capping director fees.

- The motion should deal with exchange rate on all expenses, not just director fees
- Feel directors who are Canadian and working in Canada should be paid in Canadian funds

4. Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer's Report was included in the meeting package.

Shirley Galler advised that we did have a profit of \$613. The Grass Roots income was down. Niagara Falls tournament was well attended. There was an increase in GNT participation. The disciplinary hearing expenses were \$1,700. This is not an expense that we anticipated and so was not included in the budget.

Moved by Shirley Galler, seconded by Wiebe Hoogland,
That the Financial Reports be accepted. **Carried**

a) Shirley presented the proposed 2017 budget figures.

Moved by Shirley Galler, seconded by Marc Langevin,
That the 2017 budget as presented be approved. **Carried**

Action: Flo Belford will send out the 2017 budget.

b) Honoraria for Treasurer and Secretary will be dealt with later in the meeting.

5. a) 2015 Regional Tournament Reports

The 2015 Tournament Reports were reviewed.

Moved by Francis Gaudino, seconded by Arlene Smith,
That the 2015 Regional Tournament Reports be accepted. **Carried**

5. b) 2016 Regional Tournament Budgets

The 2016 Tournament Budgets were reviewed. Marc Langevin will send the North Bay Regional budget.

Moved by Arlene Smith, seconded by Francis Gaudino,
That the 2016 Regional Tournament Budgets be accepted. **Carried**

Action: Marc Langevin will send out the North Bay Regional budget.

Francis Gaudino expressed his opinion that the District does not really need the Regional Tournament Budgets. The projected table count would be sufficient information for the District to develop the budget.

5. c) Tournament Scheduling

The Tournament Schedule was included in the meeting package.

Moved by Francis Gaudino, seconded by Linda Lord,
That the Regional Tournaments for 2019 be awarded to Sault Ste. Marie, Trent Valley, Niagara Falls, Toronto and Bermuda. **Carried**

6. ACBL Director Report – Paul Janicki

Paul's Report included the following items:

- The ACBL was not prepared to handle the cheating issue
- They have increased the number of cameras on players
- ACBL has had some bad publicity - some magazines (i.e. Vanity Fair) have published articles about how bridge is a game of cheating
- ACBL has established a commission to deal with the cheating issue – there is a new system where you can report suspected cheating and your name is not published
- The cooperative advertising program has been reduced from 75% to 50% - the reason for this is that it was open-ended so the ACBL did not know what the cost would be each year
- Appeals at the NABC level were previously heard by peers, will now be heard by Directors
- There have been several motions to curb president and director spending, possible change to decrease board members to 13 people
- There is a moratorium on changes in master points
- ACBL needs to improve computer technology
- There have been some concerns/complaints about expense of running Longest Day events
- Grassroots month is May
- Election for Board of Governors is in May
- The trend at the NABCs is the spring and fall are generally lower table counts
- ACBL will be looking in the future to hold the fall NABC earlier (before American Thanksgiving)
- The issue of the motion regarding the exchange rate was noted earlier in the meeting

Concern was raised about the money being spent to deal with the cheating issues. Feeling was that the ACBL should not be spending money for equipment to monitor players. Question about how many people play in the NABC Plus events.

Concern was raised about the increase in the number of gold points (50 points from 25) required to become a life master. Response was that the ACBL has created games for newer players to win gold points. These games need to be promoted.

7. CBF Report – Nader Hanna

Nader Hanna's report was included in the meeting package. Some of the highlights were:

- CBF has an improved website and magazine
- ACBL perks do not pertain to Canadians – trying to introduce perks for Canadians

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- ACBL allows the CFB to have one tournament a year, and this is approved by the District
- Longest Day funds are going directly to Canadian organization
- CFB is trying to bring the World Championships to Niagara Falls in 2020 – would be in September – this should not effect our regionals as the event is not open to everyone – will need volunteers and funds
- New events at CBF champions

Question asked if the magazine could be sent out automatically. It is usually sent to members only. Nader will look into this.

8. North American Pairs

The NAP report was included in the meeting package. District final will be November 13, 2016.

9. Grand National Teams

The Grand National Teams 2015 Report was included in the meeting package.

David Halasi reported that other Districts seem to have lots of teams competing in this event. We have 7 teams in 3 flights. He proposed that we have a \$5.00 entry fee per person per session next year. The District would cover the director and sanction fees. The event will be played at the Toronto Regional next year. Since the NABC is in Toronto there will be no travel subsidy provided. This would hopefully increase the number of teams participating.

The ACBL pays the table fees for the first two days at the NABC. After second day the District covers fees. So there is no entry fee once you qualify. We need to advertise this well ahead.

10. Education Coordinator Report

This report was included in the meeting package.

11. School Bridge Report – Flo Belford

Flo Belford reported that we had 87 tables and 24 volunteers at the School Bridge Tournament on Monday, March 22, 2016.

Nader Hanna advised that under 19 teams play for free at CBF events

12. Recorder – Paul Cronin

This report was e-mailed to the Board members.

13. Webmaster Report

Tom Ramsay advised that David Cohen does not really want to continue being the District 2 Webmaster. Tom has someone who is interested in looking after our website. Discussion regarding the future of our website included the following points/comments:

- We need to redesign our website
- We need more of an editor to contribute time and content
- Question whether we need a website or could we use unit sites to provide info
- We should put a counter on it so we know how many hits we get
- The minutes of the District meetings go on site when they are approved, could put them on website prior to approval with note that they are not approved until next meeting

Motion by David Halasi, seconded by Shirley Galler,
That we appoint Allison Burkett as Webmaster.

Carried

David Cohen will put a counter on the site immediately. Allison will redesign the site. We will visit this issue at next year's meeting. David Cohen will help Allison with the transition.

14. Board of Governors' Report

Action: Flo Belford will send out Jonathon Steinberg's report when she receives it.

15. Honoraria

Motion by Francis Gaudino, seconded by David Halasi,
That the following honoraria be awarded:

<i>Treasurer</i>	<i>700.</i>
<i>Secretary</i>	<i>1600.</i>
<i>Auditor</i>	<i>500.</i>
<i>NAP Coordinator</i>	<i>500.</i>
<i>GNT Coordinator</i>	<i>500.</i>
<i>Tournament Coordinator</i>	<i>250.</i>
<i>Webmaster</i>	<i>250.</i>

Carried

16. Other Business

a) **NABC Toronto 2017** – No report. The Toronto banner was on display at the Reno NABC.

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b) STAC Fees and Procedures

The STAC table fees are increasing to \$10. \$1.00 for increase in fee and \$1.00 for exchange rate. Planning Committee decided fee should be \$10.00. This is effective May 1, 2016.

David Halasi advised that Unit 166 passed a motion that anyone who has access to the hand records is not eligible to play in the event. This was discussed at the Planning Committee Meeting and decision was that this would be too difficult to impose across the District. David will ask Unit 166 to rescind their motion. Local clubs can enforce the rule, but there will be no action by the District.

17. Election of Officers for 2016-17

Tom Ramsay called for nominations for President.

Moved by Arlene Smith, seconded by Marc Langevin,
That Francis Gaudino be nominated for president.

There being no other nominations for President, **Francis Gaudino was declared President.**

Nominations for Vice-President were requested.

Moved by Francis Gaudino, seconded by Linda Lord,
That David Halasi be nominated for Vice-President.

There being no further nominations for Vice-President, **David Halasi was declared Vice-President.**

Nominations for Treasurer were requested.

Moved by Francis Gaudino, seconded by Arlene Smith,
That Shirley Galler be nominated for Treasurer.

There being no further nominations for Treasurer, **Shirley Galler was declared Treasurer.**

18. Appointment of Executive/Planning Committee

The following members were appointed to this Committee.

Shirley Galler 181	Tom Ramsay 249	Marc Langevin 238
David Halasi 166	Linda Lord 246	Francis Gaudino 228
Arlene Smith 212		

Paul Janicki, ACBL District 2 Director and Gary Westfall, Auditor are invited to the Executive/Planning meeting.

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19. Appointments

The following appointments were made:

Appellate Chair	Paul Cronin
Disciplinary Chair	Lew Richardson
Recorder	Paul Cronin
Tournament Coordinator	Graham Warren
Legal Counsel	Jordan Cohen
Educational Coordinator	Hazel Hewitt
School Bridge Coordinator	Flo Belford
Conditions of Content	
Webmaster	Allison Burkett
Executive Assistant	Flo Belford
GNT Coordinator	Martin Hunter
NAP Coordinator	Martin Hunter

20. The Executive/Agenda Planning Meeting, Annual Meeting of the Board of Directors (Agenda A), and Annual Meeting of the Members (Agenda B) will be held on Friday, April 14, 2017 at the Sheridan Hotel in Toronto.

The General Meeting of the Board of Directors will be held on Saturday, April 15, 2017 at the Sheridan Hotel in Toronto.

Room rate \$114.00. Parking under city hall \$5.00 on weekend, \$20.00 during week.

21. Moved by Shirley Galler, seconded by Arlene Smith,
That the meeting be adjourned. **Carried**

Chairperson

Secretary of Meeting