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The District Nineteen Organization of The American Contract Bridge League

District 19, ACBL, Internet Board Meeting Minutes, March 17, 2020

1. The meeting was called to order at 4:08 p.m. President Chris Cookson declared a quorum with the following Board members present on line: Chris Cookson, Ron Krueger, Brian Maksymetz, Marv Norden, Marla Patterson, Karen Rise, Eric Sieg, Julie Smith, Nick Stock, Tim White and Ralph Wilhelmi. Kathie Hoehne was absent. Also present were Dudley Brown, Secretary, and for part of the meeting David Schmidt, Treasurer.

2. Due to government restrictions, the Board recognized that the Burnaby Regional must be cancelled.

a. Burnaby Liaison Stock reported that the Delta Hotel was cooperating with the cancellation and he expects District 19 will have no obligation to the hotel. Individual players will be responsible for cancelling their own rooms. Stock estimates that hospitality costs to date are around \$5600 but that much of these purchases can be used at other District regionals. He will provide more details by email. At this time it appears that the only significant unrecoverable cost is flyer printing. Stock read a draft message to go to the membership detailing the cancellation with instructions on how members should cancel their rooms. The Board approved the message. Stock will work with District Webmaster J.P. Weber to notify the membership via Pianola.

b. Stock moved and Rise seconded to cancel the Burnaby Regional. Motion carried unanimously.

c. Stock moved and Patterson seconded that in appreciation of work already done for the Burnaby Regional, the Co-Chairs will receive a \$250.00 prepaid credit card. Motion passed unanimously.

d. The tournament Liaison, Stock, will report back to the Board with a recommendation for free plays for other volunteers.

3. Patterson recommended that if the current (Covid-19) situation continues, the Board should consider extending the “life” of all free plays held by Board members and others set to expire December 31, 2020.

4. The advance paid to TournTables for Burnaby will applied against the Lynnwood 2021 Regional. Should future regionals need to be cancelled the Board will move the advance forward to the next District regional.

5. White said that the Seattle Bridge Center would be willing to hold the NAP District finals on a weekend later if that becomes feasible. Marv Norden said that it would be possible to hold the

event during the Penticton Regional should that regional be allowed but that he recommended against it as holding the event during a regional has been unpopular in the past.

6. After further discussion, **White moved and Smith seconded to cancel face to face GNTs for this year's cycle.** Motion passed unanimously. White will notify the Vancouver Bridge Centre that the District GNT finals scheduled to be held April 18th and 19th at that facility are cancelled.

7. Eric Sieg explained the possibilities and problems of transferring the District GNT finals to an online event. If it is to be done, a decision must be made soon and a Director-In-Charge obtained and the capability of Bridge Base On Line to help host the event established. The Board asked Sieg to continue researching online GNTs and to update the Board via email next week on his progress.

8. District 19 National Director Smith advised that Multi Level events are on the agenda for later this week. Smith will report back via email next week.

a. As a result the Board rescinded the previous motion to cancel face to face GNTs pending Smith's report.

b. White asked Smith to please notify the District if the ACBL intends the ACBL finals of the North American Pairs to be on line as some qualified pairs had dropped out of the Columbus finals, others acceded to their Q (and subsidy) position. Top qualifying pairs from District 19 NAP Finals should be given priority opportunity to represent District 19 in a re-planned NAP Finals.

9. Norden requested that the Board decide by May 1st whether the Penticton Regional will be cancelled. This decision will be taken up at the next on line Board meeting tentatively scheduled for 4:00 p.m., Tuesday, April 21st. If that date becomes unworkable, the meeting would be a week later on Tuesday, April 28th.

10. Rise asked if the District or ACBL could send out email blasts for units cancelling their sectionals with the expense to be borne by the unit involved. Cookson advised he would be able to help any unit navigate Pianola with assistance from J.P. Weber.

11. There being no further business, the President adjourned the meeting at 5:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

DUDLEY BROWN
Secretary