

Litigation Report

The report on the status of litigation was received. (Attachment B)

Information Technology Report

Jay Whipple reported on the status of Information Technology and ongoing efforts to manage system maintenance and implement membership recruitment and retention initiatives.

The meeting adjourned at 11:56 a.m. CT. The committee meetings were held in the afternoon session.

* * * * *

The meeting was called to order by President Joann Glasson on Tuesday, July 11 at 9:06 a.m. CT.

Present: Same as July 10

Also Present: Advisory Council Chair Doug Couchman, Executive Director Bronia Jenkins, Director of Finance Jennifer Webster, Administrative Coordinator Sabrina Goley and ACBL Educational Foundation President Robert Todd

State of the ACBL

ACBL President Joann Glasson welcomed Executive Director Bronia Jenkins and Director of Finance Jennifer Webster to their first NABC and reported on the status of ACBL. She also recognized Paul Cuneo for his service to the organization in the role of Interim Executive Director, Jay Whipple for his continued volunteer service as an IT consultant, and the Executive Director Search Committee (Chair Margot Hennings, Dennis Carman, David Lodge, Mark Aquino, and Robert Todd) for their many hours of dedication.

Educational Foundation

Educational Foundation President Robert Todd reported on the status of the Boost Face-to-Face Bridge program which was launched in September of 2022. He also announced that Educational Director Kristen Frederick was retiring in three months. Bronia added that the ACBL submitted four grant applications to the Educational Foundation, three for pilot programs and one for Bridge Connect.

Director of Finance Report

Director of Finance Jennifer Webster reported on the financial state of the ACBL. The report was received. (Attachment C)

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Lodge, (C)
Goodgold, Heth, Liddy, Muñoz, Overby, Steinberg

As reported by Committee Chair

The Finance Committee reported on, and the Board supported, the following proposals by Management:

DI232-FN02: Increase fees for membership, club sanction, annual cruise ship, and NABC entries - in addition to increases, Management is working on the development of a monthly subscription option. Management will prepare communication to the membership regarding the increases that will take effect January 1, 2024.

DI232-FN03: Establish a tiered structure for Patron members - Management will obtain feedback from current patron members and develop a structure based on the feedback received.

DI232-FN04: Create a Social Membership for individuals that are primarily interested in the social aspects of the game of bridge - Bronia presented Bridge4friends which will be released soon. Bridge4Friends will be a landing page on the ACBL website for “new to bridge” and “bridge curious” individuals. It will provide a simpler way to access beginner content and teachers.

Item 232-FN01: Accounts Payable

Appendix 2-A Accounts Payable and Check Cashing Policies and Procedures, to Codification Chapter II - Business Management, A. Finance, was revised. (Attachment D)

Effective immediately

Carried Absent: D3 Muñoz

BYLAWS COMMITTEE

Goodgold (C)
Heth, Couchman

As reported by Committee Chair

SECOND READING

Bylaws Article III was amended and Article XII was added.

Article III:

3.5 Arbitration. The following shall be subject to binding and compulsory arbitration in cases and controversies involving ACBL: all members, including members not in “good standing”; former members raising any issue related to their time as members; and non-members entering or participating in any ACBL-sponsored competition or otherwise availing themselves of the services of ACBL.

This Section shall serve as sufficient notice of compulsory arbitration to all ACBL members as may be required by any court of law. The ACBL may provide notice of such compulsory arbitration through other methods. Specifics regarding arbitration are found in Article XII of these Bylaws.

ARTICLE XII ARBITRATION

- 12.1 Arbitration. For purposes of this Article, the members and ACBL agree that both duplicate bridge competition under ACBL auspices and the general operations of ACBL constitute “commerce” of an interstate or foreign nature as defined in Section 1 of the Federal Arbitration Act, 9 U.S.C. §1, and that, in relation to all disputes subject to arbitration under this Article otherwise subject to Canadian, Mexican, or Bermudian law, as a matter of contractual choice of law, the Federal Arbitration Act shall apply, including time limitations for review or confirmation of arbitration awards.
- 12.2 Procedure. Where any part of this Article provides for arbitration, arbitration shall be conducted exclusively under the rules of the Institute for Bridge Arbitration or, if such rules are for any reason not in existence or not, even by analogy, applicable to a particular controversy subject to arbitration, under the U.S. Federal Rules of Civil Procedure construed to address the arbitration context, *e.g.*, references to "judge", "court", “jury”, or "jury trial” shall be understood as meaning "arbitrator(s)" or "arbitration panel" as the case may be.
- 12.3 Exhaustion of Internal Processes. After the exhaustion of internal processes, including review by the Appeals and Charges Committee if available, any disciplinary matter as between the League or any subsidiary agency, committee, or official on the one hand and any member on the other, shall be subject to arbitration as provided in this Article.
- 12.4 Ethical Matters. Any dispute concerning a disciplinary determination arising under Part 301 of the Code of Disciplinary Regulations (or any replacement), as adopted by the Board of Directors and as amended from time to time thereafter, shall be arbitrated before a panel of three (3) arbitrators assigned by the Institute for Bridge Arbitration.

12.4.1 Scope of Arbitration.

12.4.1a When Internal Disciplinary Process Has Occurred. When a disciplinary hearing and determination has been initially made by the Ethical Oversight Committee, the Online Ethical Oversight Committee, a District Disciplinary Committee, or any duly authorized disciplinary committee, the arbitrators’ review shall be limited to whether

- (1) the determination was procured by corruption, fraud, or undue means;
- (2) there was evident partiality or corruption in the adjudicators, or any of them;
- (3) the adjudicators were guilty of misconduct in refusing to postpone the hearing, upon sufficient cause shown, or in refusing to hear evidence pertinent and material to the controversy, or of any other

misbehavior by which the rights of any party were substantially prejudiced; or

(4) the adjudicators exceeded their powers, or so imperfectly executed them that a proper decision upon the subject matter submitted was not made.

The established principles of harmless error shall apply.

If satisfied that any of grounds (1)-(4) have been clearly established and that such error(s) is (are) not harmless, the arbitrators shall remand for a new determination, and may additionally direct that one or more of the initial adjudicators shall not participate in further proceedings, and the arbitrators, in their discretion, may retain jurisdiction to review the remand proceedings. If no grounds (1)-(4) have been clearly established, the arbitrators shall confirm the determination.

12.4.1b Where Internal Disciplinary Process Has Not Occurred. Where a disciplinary hearing and determination have not been initially made by the Ethical Oversight Committee, the Online Ethical Oversight Committee, a District Disciplinary Committee or any duly authorized disciplinary committee, the arbitrators shall, on the basis of the competent evidence submitted, and after applying the test of comfortable satisfaction, render a written award determining all matters in dispute.

12.5 Costs and Fees.

12.5.1a Initial Costs and Fees. The party invoking arbitration shall initially be obligated to pay associated costs and fees.

12.5.1b Arbitrators' Authority Over Costs and Fees. The arbitrators may, in their discretion, direct that either party shall pay, or reimburse the other party for having paid, all or any portion of the associated costs and fees. The arbitrators may also, in their discretion, require either party to pay all or any portion of the other party's reasonable attorney fees relating to the arbitration, whenever the arbitrators determine that any issue or argument was raised or asserted without substantial basis in law or fact. For purposes of this Bylaw, "reasonable attorney fees" shall be evaluated according to the standards utilized by the United States federal courts for cases applying 42 USC §1988.

12.5.1c Payment of Costs and Fees Prerequisite to Reinstatement: Whenever a member of ACBL is required by the arbitrators to pay any costs or fees, including attorney fees, such costs or fees must be paid in order for such member to seek reinstatement (if expelled), or to regain good standing and the restoration of membership rights (if suspended or placed on probation).

- 12.6 Venue. The arbitrators shall designate a place for the arbitration to be conducted, which may be virtual, and shall be reasonably convenient to the parties and witnesses.
- 12.6.1a Virtual Hearings. When arbitration is to be conducted virtually, any location shall be deemed “reasonably convenient to the parties and witnesses.”
- 12.6.1b Approved Locations. The site of a North American Bridge Championship, during such event, or a location within ACBL Headquarters or within a 10-mile radius thereof, shall also be deemed “reasonably convenient to the parties and witnesses”.
- 12.7 Conduct and Administrative Matters. Any dispute concerning a disciplinary determination arising under Parts 302, 303 or 304 of the Code of Disciplinary Regulations (or their replacements), as adopted by the Board of Directors and as amended from time to time thereafter, shall not be subject to arbitration unless the Board of Directors shall, by a 2/3 vote, so provide by regulation.

Effective immediately upon ratification by the Advisory Council

Carried unanimously

MEMBERSHIP BUILDING TASK FORCE
Shoemaker (C) Liddy, Heller, Zayac

As reported by Task Force Chair

The task force is actively analyzing existing ACBL membership building programs, determining synergies and ensuring measurability. Additional initiatives include a member referral program, expanding digital presence and creating a process for identifying, collecting and sharing best practices that relate to membership building. The Membership Building Task Force will continue to collaborate with Management on new initiatives to attract and retain new players.

The Board discussed the purpose of the 11 percent payments (DI232-ME01) provided to Units. In March 2022, the Board unanimously passed Motion (Item 221-GV02) which eliminated the requirement for units to hold at least one sectional every two years, and clarified that the 11 percent of full dues payments and life master service fees paid by their members was intended to supplement unit funds for activities related to membership building and retention. Former Strategic Committee Chair Paul Cuneo reported that a survey was sent to the Units in the summer of 2020 to determine how the funds were being used. Management suggested obtaining updated information. It was also suggested that Unit Boards quite often have turnover, and many new Unit Boards may not be aware of the stipulation on how to direct the money; therefore, an education process should be developed and provided to the Units. Management and the Board both agree that the use of funds should be reported to ensure compliance with the intended purpose of membership building. The Membership Task Force will compile the feedback provided at this meeting and obtain feedback from the Units and report the results to the Board.

Item 232-ME01: CAP

Appendix 1-E2 Cooperative Advertising Program to Codification, Chapter I – Membership Operating Guidelines, E: Marketing, was amended as follows:

The Cooperative Advertising Program (CAP) reimburses ACBL teachers, clubs and Units for advertising expenses for programs and lessons designed for newcomers and/or to recruit ACBL members. Submission of a proposed CAP campaign and written results of the CAP campaign are required for full payment. CAP will refund 50% of eligible advertising costs with a maximum reimbursement of \$500.

- Qualifying advertisements are date-specific ad campaigns for beginner bridge lessons, newcomer programs, social bridge recruitment events and ACBL member recruitment. A listing of all types of advertising media used for the campaign is required.
- Qualifying advertisements must use one of the approved ACBL CAP logos.
- If the event is one day, such as Learn Bridge in a Day, a list identifying where each attendee heard about the event must be submitted with the list of all types of advertising media used for the campaign to receive up to the \$500 maximum reimbursement.
- If the event is held over multiple weeks, the following requirements must be met:
 - A list of all types of advertising media used and where each attendee heard about the event must be submitted to receive the CAP reimbursement up to a maximum of \$500.
 - The attendees must be offered an ACBL guest membership by the last meeting date of the class or event. If the attendee declines the guest membership, a reason why should be stated.
- If the CAP campaign receives zero attendees, please provide information as to why the CAP campaign initiator thinks that the campaign was unsuccessful along with a request for reimbursement.
- ACBL reserves the right to refuse reimbursement for any reason for CAP submissions.
- Submissions by a person who has any ownership, management or conflict of interest in the media outlet in which they are advertising (e.g., personal websites, online publications and/or print publications) will not be approved for CAP reimbursement.

For more information on CAP guidelines and requirements visit the ACBL website:
acbl.org/marketing

Effective January 1, 2024

Carried unanimously

The Board of Directors convened into executive session from 2:54 p.m. –5:11 p.m. CT. Bronia Jenkins, Sabrina Goley, and Doug Couchman were also present.

* * * * *

The meeting was called to order by President Joann Glasson on Wednesday, July 12 at 9:05 a.m. CT.

Present: Same as July 10

Also Present: Advisory Council Chair Doug Couchman, Executive Director Bronia Jenkins, Director of Finance Jennifer Webster, and Administrative Coordinator Sabrina Goley

APPEALS AND CHARGES COMMITTEE

White (C), Sealy (VC)
Carman, Heth, Liddy

As reported by Committee Chair

Item 232-AC01: Report on Hearings

Bill and Ann Nutting (Automatic Review)

In the Matter of Bill and Ann Nutting, the Committee upheld the finding of the OEOC Panel that they violated CDR 3.20 Cheating and other Ethical Violations (CDR effective January 1, 2020).

The Committee also upheld the discipline imposed by the OEOC panel.

Accordingly, Bill Nutting was suspended for a period of five years and Ann Nutting was suspended for a period of four years. Each will serve a period of ten years probation following their suspension, a condition of which is they are prohibited from playing with each other during the entirety of the probationary period. Each will forfeit 10% of their total Masterpoint® holding. They will be members “Not in Good Standing” during the period of their discipline.

Linda Daniel and Linda Thornton (NR Review)

In the Matter of Linda Daniel and Linda Thornton, the Committee approved the Negotiated Resolution entered into by the parties and ACBL Management in which the parties admitted to a violation of CDR 3.20 Cheating and other Ethical Violations (CDR effective January 1, 2020). Ms. Daniel agreed to a 6-month suspension to begin on March 12, 2023, followed by two years probation. She is prohibited from playing in ACBL online games with Linda Thornton for the entire probationary period; she is prohibited from playing ACBL face to face games with Linda Thornton for the first year of the probationary period. Ms. Daniel forfeits 8% of her current Masterpoint® total. She further agreed that If she plays in any ACBL sanctioned games between March 12, 2023 and when this agreement is accepted by Appeals and Charges, this agreement is voidable by ACBL.

Ms. Thornton agreed to a 6-month suspension to begin on January 10, 2023, followed by two years probation. She is prohibited from playing in ACBL online games with Linda Daniel for the entire probationary period; she is prohibited from playing in ACBL face to face games with Linda Daniel for the first year of the probationary period. Ms. Thornton forfeits 10% of her current Masterpoint® total. She further agreed that If she plays in any ACBL sanctioned games between January 10, 2023 and when this agreement is accepted by Appeals and Charges, this agreement is voidable by ACBL. Ms. Daniel and Ms. Thornton will be members “Not in Good Standing” during the period of their discipline.

Jacqueline Shasha, Michele Shahrabani and Lily Yousfan (NR Review)

In the Matter of Jacqueline Shasha, Michele Shahrabani and Lily Yousfan, the Committee approved the Negotiated Resolution entered into by the parties and ACBL Management in which the parties admitted to a violation of CDR 301(A)(2) Collusive Cheating: Online (CDR effective August 1, 2021).

Ms. Shasha and Ms. Shahrabani agreed to 6-month suspensions to start on January 8, 2023.

Ms. Yousfan agreed to an 8-month suspension to start on January 8, 2023.

All three parties agreed to two years probation to follow their suspensions. The parties are prohibited from playing in ACBL face to face games with one another for the duration of their probations and in ACBL online games with one another for the first year of their probations. Each forfeits 150 Masterpoints[®].

All agreed that if they play in any ACBL sanctioned games between January 8, 2023 and when this agreement is accepted by Appeals and Charges, this agreement is voidable by ACBL. They will be members “Not in Good Standing” during the period of their discipline.

Report received

Item 232-AC03 Delete References to AAA from CDR

Remove all references to the American Arbitration Association from the Code of Disciplinary Regulations.

Effective immediately
Carried unanimously

Item 232-AC04 Re-consider EOC/OEOC/A&C Disciplinary Limits

Revise CDR 403(C)(3) **Suspension**, “Maximum of Six Months” to “Maximum of Twenty-four Months”

Effective immediately
Carried unanimously

The Board of Directors convened into executive session from 9:53 a.m. – Noon CT. Doug, Bronia and Sabrina were also present.

GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

Hennings (C),
Belford, Goodgold, Heller, Overby, Shoemaker, Zayac

As reported by Committee Chair

The Governance Committee Chair led a discussion on Board Operations and Governance with the focus on managing the transition to a smaller board in 2024 (DI232-GV01). The emphasis was on coordination, collaboration, and communication, both within the Board and across the Board with Management and Staff. The Governance Committee will distribute Interim Guidelines for Board Operations for the full board to review based on the feedback received during the Chicago meeting. These Guidelines will be in effect for the upcoming fall meeting in Atlanta.

Item 232-GV01: Member Not in Good Standing

Codification Chapter 1 – Membership, Section 2 – Definitions and Rights of ACBL Membership, 2.3.2, be revised as follows:

2.3.2 A member who is not in good standing (as defined herein) shall not be entitled to:

- a. serve in any elected or appointed position in the ACBL;
- b. receive any subsidy or remuneration from the ACBL;
- c. participate in and receive recognition for achievement in masterpoint races;
- d. receive recognition for achievement in masterpoint rank promotion;
- e. have an article published on the ACBL website or in any ACBL publication;
- f. vote in any election in which the general membership is the electorate;
- g. serve as a club manager, ~~or~~ Director, **or in any other club administrative capacity**;
- h. participate in events where such participation is prohibited by the conditions of contest;
- i. vote in a Hall of Fame election; and/or
- j. membership on the Goodwill Committee.

Failed Yay: R1 Steinberg, R4 Hennings, R6 Heller, R7 Sealy, D2 Belford, D8 Heth

Item 232-GV02: Bulletin (on Consent)

Codification Chapter II - Business Management - D. ACBL Bulletin was revised as follows:

Section 1 - Name

- 1.1 The Bridge Bulletin is designated as the official publication of the ACBL (hereinafter referred to as the Bulletin).

Section 2 - Content and Editorial Policy

- 2.1 Subject to the following, the Editor of the Bulletin will be the sole judge of its content and editorial policy.
 - 2.1.1 The final decision to publish or to not publish content that involves personnel and/or content that could affect the welfare of ACBL shall rest with the Executive Director.
 - 2.1.2 The Board of Directors Meeting page(s) contained in the Bulletin shall include a condensation of major enacted motions, actions and ACBL elections and appointments. Publication of the complete minutes is not required. The ACBL President (or designee) shall prepare the content and approve the layout before publication.
 - 2.1.3 The Editor must follow regulations regarding specific actions /notices that are detailed in other sections of the Codification and are required to be included in the Bulletin.

Effective immediately

Item 232-GV03: International Bridge

The following revisions were made to the Codification Chapter VII - International Bridge A. Zone 2 National Bridge Organizations (NBOs), Chapter VII – International Bridge B. WBF Representatives and NABF Board Members, Chapter VII – International Bridge C. International Fund and to Chapter VII – International Funds D. World Junior Championships.

Chapter VII - International Bridge A. Zone 2 National Bridge Organizations (NBOs)

Section 1 – Zone 2 International Regulations

....

- 1.2 The Bermuda Bridge Federation (BBF), while maintaining ACBL affiliation as Unit 198 in District 2, competes internationally through WBF Zone 5 based on prior WBF approval to do so.
- 1.3 The Virgin Islands Bridge Federation while maintaining ACBL affiliation through District 9, competes internationally through WBF Zone 5 based on prior WBF approval to do so.

....

Chapter VII – International Bridge B. WBF Representatives and NABF Board Members

Section 1 – Policy Regarding ACBL Nominees to the WBF Executive Council and Appointments to the NABF Board.

Current regulations of the NABF allow the ACBL to name two people to the NABF board of directors, and to nominate one or more people from whom the NABF will select one person to serve as one of its representatives on the World Bridge Federation Executive Council.

- 1.1 To facilitate communication between the organizations, the ACBL nominee(s) to serve as a representative of the NABF to the WBF Executive Council must be elected from among members of the ACBL Board of Directors. If the nominee selected by the NABF resigns from the ACBL Board of Directors while serving on the WBF Executive Council, it is strongly recommended that the nominee also resign from serving as the WBF representative. The ACBL appointees to the board of directors of the NABF may be selected from among the members of the ACBL Board of Directors or from any ACBL member in good standing.
- 1.2 Reports shall be periodically submitted to the ACBL Board of Directors from the ACBL Zone 2 Representative to the WBF Executive Council and from the ACBL appointees to the NABF Board. Reports shall include but not be limited to the following information:
 - a. Any actions taken by the WBF or the NABF regarding World or Zone 2 bridge that are important to current ACBL policy.
 - b. The agenda or any actions expected to come before the WBF or the NABF at their next meeting(s)
 -
 - e. Any compensation, reimbursement (excluding economy transportation and hotel rooms and per diem for the length of the Executive Council meetings and one or two days before and after said meetings) or benefits from the WBF or the NABF to any member of the ACBL Board of Directors.
- 1.3 Reports/notifications are required in advance of scheduled WBF and NABF meetings in time for input from ACBL to be addressed as appropriate. Reports are required within 30 days of the conclusion of WBF and NABF meetings.
- 1.4 WBF and NABF Representatives from the ACBL are expected to maintain communications with the ACBL Board President or their designee regarding initiatives and best practices pertaining to topics of interest to the ACBL, NABF and WBF members.

Section 2 – Election of the ACBL Nominees to the WBF Executive Council and Appointments to the NABF Board

One or more persons shall be nominated by the ACBL Board of Directors for the one Zone 2 Representative to the WBF Executive Council position that has been allotted to the ACBL by the NABF. If only one person applies to be nominated, then that person shall be deemed to be the nominee. If more than one person applies to be nominated, the ACBL Board may choose to present multiple nominees to the NABF Board and the NABF Board will elect the representative. The ACBL Board may limit the nominee(s) to be presented to the NABF Board using the election procedures stipulated in Chapter IV - Board Procedures, A. Administration, Section 3 Elections.

Two NABF Board members, one of which may be a non-Board member, will be appointed by the ACBL Board of Directors using the election procedures stipulated in Chapter IV - Board Procedures A. Administration, Section 3 Elections.

Chapter VII – International Bridge C. International Fund

....

Section 2 – International Fund Monies

....

- 2.5 ACBL provides \$50,100.00 annually to the NABF for the sole purpose of contributing to the WBF dues paid by the USBF, CBF and MFB. This amount may be adjusted at the discretion of ACBL, and will be adjusted if the money is used for any purpose other than payment of the three NBOs’ WBF dues.

....

Chapter VII – International Funds D. World Junior Championships

....

Section 2 – USBF and CBF

....

- 2.2 Junior funds must be used for the purpose of promoting Junior bridge.
- 2.3 The USBF and CBF must provide a detailed annual report on Junior/ Youth activities from the prior twelve months at the fall ACBL board meeting. The report must include how junior funds were utilized.

....

Effective immediately

Carried

Abstain: R1 Steinberg

Absent: R7 Sealy, R11 Lodge

Item 232-GV04: Vetting of All Candidates for ACBL Awards and/or Honors

Chapter I - Membership Operating Guidelines F. Discipline and the ACBL Code of Disciplinary Regulations, Section 3 – Disciplinary Administrative Policies was revised as follows:

- 3.6 The disciplinary records and any current/ongoing investigations for all proposed candidates for all ACBL awards and/or honors shall be reviewed. These awards include but are not limited to the ACBL Hall of Fame (including the VonZedtwitz, Blackwood, and Sydney Lazard Jr Sportsmanship Awards); the ACBL Honorary Member of the Year; the Aileen Osofsky ACBL Goodwill Member of the Year; and the President’s Nadine Wood Volunteer Member of the Year Award.

The ACBL Executive Director and/or their designee shall be responsible for the review of candidate ethics and conduct to determine if a candidate should be rejected. The ACBL will notify the respective Committee Chairs, ACBL Board, or any other official as appropriate to recommend that the proposed names be removed from consideration.

Effective immediately
Carried Absent: R2 Aquino

Item 232-GV05: Untable 231-GV05

Motion 231-GV05 was removed from the table by unanimous vote.

The amended Hall of Fame Committee Operating Procedures, described in the Codification Appendix 4-D2 was accepted. (Attachment E)

Effective immediately
Carried Absent: R2 Aquino

CHARITY FOUNDATION

Charity Foundation President Jackie Zayac reported on the financial status of the Foundation and the development of a new giving strategy. The revised giving strategy includes awards to each region (excluding R1) over the next two years and the continuation of an award to a local charity at each NABC; individual grant awards for 2023 are suspended. A restricted Catastrophic Relief Fund will be created and a minimum balance of \$50K will be maintained.

There will be an election at the Foundation Membership Meeting to fill the two Trustee positions. Declarations are due by October 15, 2023.

BRIDGE COMMITTEE

Carman (C)

Aquino, Belford, Heller, Sealy, Steinberg, Zayac

Staff: Weinstein

As reported by Committee Chair

The Bridge Committee Chair reported on the following discussion items:

DI232-BR01: Listing of top lifetime MP holders – The Bridge Committee supported changing the Codification to reflect proper inclusion and removal of names on the list. The Governance Chair will prepare a motion with the recommended language changes to Codification Chapter I – Membership, A. Membership, Section 2 – Definitions and Rights of ACBL Membership, 2.2 Classes of Membership, 2.2.2 Life Master: 2.2.2.1 for the next board meeting.

DI232-BR02: Strength of Field – The original motion was effective January 1, 2021 or as soon thereafter as Management could implement. Management has developed a plan for implementation that is more cost effective than what was originally expected.

DI232-BR04: NAP-GNT Grass Roots Funding – The Bridge Committee is in favor of a possible revision to the funding structure that would provide subsidies for GNT as well as the NAP. Dennis will discuss further with his committee and collaborate with Management.

DI232-BR05: Virtual Online Calendar – The majority of the Board was in favor of (i) allowing virtual clubs the opportunity to run Club Appreciation games in October 2023 just as F2F clubs do and (ii) allowing virtual and F2F clubs the opportunity to run an extra “giving” week of Charity games during November and December 2023 with the funds going to Charity Foundation. Management will prepare communication that will be sent to the clubs.

Item 232-BR01: Codification Clean Up - Sectionals

Codification Chapter X - Sectionals was amended. (Attachment F)

Effective September 1, 2023
Carried unanimously

Item 232-BR02: GNT Conditions of Contest

The 2023-2024 Grand National Teams Conditions of Contest were approved (attachment G) and Chapter XI - Special Events, A. Residency Requirements, Section 1 - Grand National Teams and North American Pairs was revised as follows:

....

1.5 Guidelines for Exceptions

- 1.5.1 A player seeking an exception must obtain permission in writing from the District Director representing the District in which the member has a principal residence and from the District Director of the District in which the member wishes to play. Both District Directors must approve the request for the exception to be granted.

“District Director” shall be the Regional Director (RD) when the RD is from the involved District, and when not, a person from the involved District designated by the RD to resolve the issue(s) at hand. Such designee shall be the actual District Director if a person is still serving in that capacity.

....

1.5.4.1 Any player seeking an exception for this reason must document the reasons why an exception should be considered and send it to both District Directors involved, as described above. This application must be made before the start of the event's qualifying period. The District Director of the District in which the player is a member must confirm the fact that the player has been an active volunteer in the District (or Unit) where the player does not live before forwarding such requests to ACBL management (Championship Flight only.) “District Director” shall be the Regional Director (RD) when the RD is from the involved District, and when not, a person from the involved District designated by the RD to resolve the issue(s) at hand. Such designee shall be the actual District Director if a person is still serving in that capacity.

....

Effective September 1, 2023
Carried unanimously

VIRTUAL CLUB PRESENTATION

Paul Cuneo presented the history of the visitor policy and the benefits of eliminating it as of August 1, 2023. Jay reported on the advantages of eliminating the policy: (i) provides players with the opportunity to play wherever they want; (ii) small clubs will no longer be restricted from access to players, and (iii) it will be a significant reduction of administrative resources that is required to manage the policy.

The majority of the Board supported the elimination of the visitor policy. As of August 1, 2023, clubs may choose which players to accept or exclude and the ACBL administration of pooling will end. Management will prepare the proper communication to the membership.

The meeting adjourned at 4:37 p.m. CT.

* * * * *

The meeting was called to order by President Joann Glasson on Thursday, July 13 at 9:04 a.m. CT.

Present: Same as July 12

Also Present: Same as July 12 except Jay Whipple was present. Chris Weigand and Montie Hamblen were also present during the NABC Site Selection Report.

Aquino, Sealy

NABC SITE SELECTION

The NABC Site Selection Committee recommended Seattle, WA for the Fall 2027 NABC site selection. The site visit to the Summit Convention Center and Hyatt Regency (host hotel) was conducted on June 21-22, 2023. The committee reported the financial projection and the benefits of the space: (i) great location with many nearby restaurants, bars and attractions, (ii) the Hyatt is located 200 steps from the lobby door to the entrance of the Summit, (iii) walk score: 99; and (iv) the room rate is \$189. The Board unanimously supported Seattle, WA for the 2027 Fall NABC.

COMPETITION AND CONVENTIONS MINOR CHANGE

Larry Sealy presented the proposed schedule changes to the NABC events on behalf of the Competition and Conventions (C&C). The majority of the Board supported the following schedule changes and agreed that this was a minor change which permits C&C to move forward without any additional approval by the Board.

Schedule Changes (as of Spring 2024)

Spring:

- Switch IMP and Silver Ribbons
- Move Fast Pairs to Summer (was 2nd Weekend)
- Added 1st Saturday/Sunday Open Pairs
- Added Women's Swiss -- Experimental, with less deep cut, two years

- Add Senior Mixed Pairs to 1st Weekend (was Fall)

Summer

- Add Fast Pairs (moved from Spring) – 2nd Sat/Sun
- Move 2500 Spingold to Wednesday start
- Move Red Ribbon to 2nd Saturday start
- Add an Open Pairs to 1st Sat/Sun
- Move 10K Pairs to Thu/Fri

Fall

- Move 10K Fast to Wed Thu
- Moved Senior Mixed Pairs to Spring and Replace with Mixed Pairs

Cuts

CoC will be changed to allow fewer cuts (i.e., more pairs/teams qualifying) in small NABC+/NABC events (especially for events that are restricted by MPs, gender, or age). Carryover formula will need to be revisited.

NABC+ Status

Criterion for NABC+ status (field size) will be revisited in light of post-pandemic attendance and newly added, gender restricted events.

IT REPORT

Jay presented the IT update to the Board. (Attachment H)

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The open session of the meeting adjourned at 10:48 a.m. CT. The Board of Directors reconvened into executive session immediately. Doug Couchman, Bronia Jenkins, Jennifer Webster, and Sabrina Goley were present.

Executive session adjourned at 11:48 and the Board reconvened immediately into open session.

CLOSING REMARKS

It was moved by Georgia Heth and carried unanimously that the Board expresses its thanks to District 13 and its units, Regional Director Dennis Carman and Tournament Chair Suzi Subeck and all of the numerous volunteers. We also wish to thank Sheraton Grand Chicago for its fine cooperation.

The Board adjourned sine die at 11:53 a.m. CT.