

**ACBL Board of Directors
March 11-13, 2024**

The meeting was called to order by President Margot Hennings on Monday, March 11, 2024 at 8:58 a.m. ET.

Present: Jonathan Steinberg R1, Mark Aquino R2, Joann Glasson R3, Margot Hennings R4, Dennis Carman R5, Barbara Heller R6, Larry Sealy R7, Jeff Overby R8, Paul Cuneo R9, Cindy Shoemaker R10, David Lodge R11, Jackie Zayac R12, Tim White R13

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

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Consideration of Non-Agenda Item

Item NA241-01 2027 NABC Site Selection was approved as a non-agenda item by unanimous vote.

NA241-02 Goodwill Chair was approved as a non-agenda motion from the floor and was approved by unanimous vote to accept Lamya Agelidis as the Chair of the Goodwill Committee to complete the remaining term of the vacancy which ends on December 31, 2024.

Item 241-BD01: Board Minutes

The following minutes were approved:

January 12, 2024 Special Meeting
January 25, 2024 Email Vote
February 2, 2024 Email Vote
March 4, 2024 Executive Committee Email Vote

Carried unanimously

Item 241-BD02: Competition and Conventions Appointments

Danny Sprung was appointed for a three-year term from the end of 2024 Spring NABC through the end of the 2027 Spring NABC.

Effective March 25, 2024
Carried unanimously

Item 241-BD03: Hall of Fame Appointments

Lynn Baker, Josh Donn, and Paul Lewis are appointed for a three-year term from the end of the Spring 2024 NABC through the end of the Spring 2027 NABC.

Effective March 25, 2024
Carried unanimously

Item 241-BD04: Ethical Oversight Committee Appointments

Bart Bramley, Lesley Davis, Craig Kavin, Alex Kolesnik, and Karen Walker are appointed for a three-year term from the end of the Spring 2024 NABC through the end of the Spring 2027 NABC.

Effective March 25, 2024
Carried unanimously

Item 241-BD05: ACBL Disciplinary Committee Appointments

Craig Allen, Mitch Dunitz, Dana Berkowitz, and Howard Engle are appointed for a three-year term from the end of the Spring 2024 NABC through the end of the Spring 2027 NABC.

Effective March 25, 2024
Carried unanimously

Item 241-BD06: Laws Commission Appointments

Robb Gordon, and Oren Kriegel, and Eric Rodwell are appointed for a five-year term from the end of the Spring 2024 NABC through the end of the Spring 2029 NABC.

Effective March 25, 2024
Carried unanimously

Item 241-BD07: Masterpoint Committee Appointments

President appointments: Dennis Carman as Chair of Bridge, Jeff Overby appointed with terms ending March 2025.

Management appointments: Rob Maier, David Metcalf; Sol Weinstein (NV Advisor) appointed with terms ending March 2025.

At-Large appointments: Alex Hudson appointed with term ending March 2027. Bob Heller appointed with term ending March 2026. All appointed by President in consultation with the AC Chair.

Additional At-Large appointments: Doug Couchman, Meyer Kotkin appointed by President with terms ending March 2025.

Effective March 25, 2024
Carried unanimously

The Board convened into Executive Session at 9:16 a.m. and reconvened into open session at 9:48 a.m. Doug Couchman, Bronia Jenkins, Jennifer Webster, Sabrina Goley, and Jay Whipple were present during the Executive Session.

Executive Director Report

The report of Executive Director Bronia Jenkins was received. (Attachment A)

NA241:02 NABC Site Selection 2027

In accordance with Codification Chapter VIII – North American Bridge Championships, B. Sites Section 1 – Site Selection § 1.1, a motion to select Chicago or Las Vegas as the site for the 2027 Summer NABC was submitted.

Larry Sealy presented the financials for Chicago (Sheraton) and Las Vegas (Caesars) for the Board to consider. The Board, by a majority straw poll vote, approved both locations and provided the Executive Director with the discretion to choose the final location in consultation with the NABC Site Selection Committee.

The Board of Directors adjourned at 11:30 a.m. for committee meetings for the remainder of the day.

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The meeting was called to order by President Margot Hennings on Tuesday, March 12 at 9:00 a.m. ET.

Present: Same as March 11, 2024

Also Present: Director of IT Marcin Waslowicz, (Jay Whipple departed after the Strategic Planning Report)

STRATEGIC PLANNING

Hennings, Cuneo, Aquino, Heller, Zayac
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The Strategic Planning discussion was introduced by Planning Lead Margot Hennings, and included presentations from Paul Cuneo on overall strategic from direction, Barbara Heller on club strategy, Jackie Zayac on membership recruitment and retention, and Mark Aquino on NABC strategy.

The Board convened into Executive Session from 11:16 a.m. – 12:15 p.m. Doug Couchman, Bronia Jenkins, Jennifer Webster, Sabrina Goley, and Jay Whipple were present during the Executive Session. The Board reconvened into open session at 1:30 p.m.

<p style="text-align: center;">FINANCE COMMITTEE Lodge, (C), Glasson, Heller</p>

Jennifer Webster presented the financial report. (Attachment B)

David Lodge stated that the committee's primary objective is to provide the Board with up-to-date reports to assess the yearly investment in marketing projects and programs. Additionally, Lodge presented initial findings concerning the tournament director's revenue and the costs related to tournament directors.

<p style="text-align: center;">GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE Shoemaker (C), Cuneo Zayac</p>

Item 241-GV01: Board Expenses and Meetings (Motion Divided)

The original motion contained changes to Codification, Chapter IV – Board Procedures, B. Expenses, and Chapter IV – Board Procedures, C. Meetings. The motion makers did not accept a friendly amendment to separate the two issues of meeting virtually in the Fall and increasing the Board stipend for an overall savings of approximately \$20,000. Overby made a motion to divide the original, thereby creating two distinct motions: Motion 1 pertaining to the section on expenses, and Motion 2 to address the section on meetings. Aquino seconded the motion to divide, and it carried 10-3-0 (nays: Glasson, Hennings, Lodge). Following are the motions:

Chapter IV – Board Procedures, B. Expenses
Section 2 – Board of Directors Expenses

~~This policy pertains to Board members and Chair of the Advisory Council for ACBL meetings or functions.~~ The ACBL will reimburse the following expenses for Board members and the Chair of the Advisory Council for ACBL meetings or functions:

2.1 Travel via Air

- 2.1.1 Actual ticket price using advance non-refundable ticketing, reflecting the lowest direct service fare available for travel at reasonable times for the travel dates. Travelers may upgrade to premium economy/business/first class at their own expense.~~so long as no additional expense is incurred by ACBL.~~

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2.2 Travel via Automobile and Rail

2.2.1 Subject to advance approval of the Treasurer, Board members will be reimbursed at the applicable United States IRS rate for automobile travel, ~~if provided that~~ it is a reasonable amount not to exceed the price of round-trip equivalent airline ticket at the rates listed above.

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2.3 Hotel

2.3.1 Board members will be reimbursed at the ACBL host hotel ~~negotiated~~ room rate incurred, beginning with the night before their first officially scheduled meeting and continuing through the night the Board meetings conclude.

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2.4 Per Diem Meals

2.4.1 Per diem for meals will be paid ~~at on the basis of~~ the applicable IRS meals only per diem rate for travel within the 48 continental United States (including the District of Columbia) (“CONUS”). For travel outside CONUS, meals-only per diem will be paid at the applicable IRS per diem meals-only rate for the highest cost CONUS city.

2.4.2 Per diem will be paid beginning ~~with~~ the day before the first officially scheduled meeting through the day after the last reimbursable hotel night.

2.4.3 Board member per diem may be reduced by up to 25% by the ACBL Treasurer based on the availability of concierge privileges for breakfast.

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2.5 Additional Reimbursable Expenses

2.5.1 Attendees will be reimbursed for the ~~reasonable~~-actual costs of baggage handling and storage expenses. Attendees will also receive the allowable daily incidental expense amount included in the daily per diem allowance.

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2.6 ~~Entry Fees.~~ Each Board member will receive complimentary entry fees to all events at NABCs, except on the first day of the NABC (usually Thursday) when proceeds from the games are designated for the International Fund, Educational Foundation or Charity Foundation.

2.7 ~~Request for Reimbursement.~~ Reimbursement requests by ACBL Board members and the Chair of the Advisory Council will be submitted to ACBL within 30 days of the completion of the tournament at which the expense occurred. Failure to do this will incur a penalty of 1/2 of the trimester stipend payable prior to the next Board of Directors meeting. Reimbursement requests must include a copy of air ticket(s) showing name, dates of travel, and price and paid hotel bill if reimbursement is requested for hotel stay. Receipts are also required for any individual expenditure equal to or greater than \$75.

2.8 The Director of Finance, in consultation with the President and the Treasurer, will adjudicate any disputes as to whether travel expenses are eligible for reimbursement.-

Section 34 – Board of Directors’ Stipend

- ~~3.4.1 The President of the ACBL, e~~Each member of the Board of Directors, ~~and the Chair of the Advisory Council~~ will receive an amount of ~~\$2,000~~ ~~\$1,000~~ three times per year to reflect travel to Region, District and Unit events, hosting events to honor Volunteers, ~~telephone expenses, mailings~~ and miscellaneous business expenses connected with their office as a member of the Board of Directors ~~or Chair of the Advisory Council.~~
- 3 4.2 The Chair of the Advisory Council will receive an amount of \$1,000 three times per year to reflect travel and miscellaneous business expenses connected with their office. ~~Extraordinary expenses incurred as a committee member will be considered for additional reimbursement.~~

Section 4 5 – Other Expense Reimbursement

- ~~5.1~~ Expenses for non-Board members and Board members traveling on ACBL business other than Board meetings will be reimbursed on the same basis as travel to Board meetings. Except for ~~With the exception of~~ guests of the President described in subsection 1.3 4 above, there will be no reimbursement for expenses of guests.

Effective March 13, 2024

Carried Nay: R1 Steinberg, R3 Glasson, R4 Hennings, R6 Heller, R7 Sealy

Chapter IV – Board Procedures, C. Meetings

The Board of Directors will meet prior to each NABC, either online or at the site of the NABC. The Spring and Summer Board meetings shall be held face-to-face; the Fall Board meeting shall be held online. It is expected that each meeting will be no longer than three-and-a-half full days in duration, with committee work being done in advance. The length of each meeting will be determined by the ACBL President in consultation with ACBL management.

~~Section 6 – Evaluation of Meeting~~

- ~~6.1 At least annually, the Board should rate its own performance in terms of what went well (and why) and what didn’t go well (and why) by using a Board evaluation form or some other method as determined by the Board.~~

Failed Aye: R3 Glasson, R4 Hennings, R13 White

Item 241-GV02: ACBL President Expenses

Codification, Chapter IV –Board Procedures, B. Expenses, Section 1. ACBL President Expenses was amended as follows; and Appendix 4-A, Duties, Responsibilities and Authority of the ACBL President was deleted in its entirety:

Chapter IV – Board Procedures, B. Expenses

Section 1 – ACBL President Expenses

~~The image of the ACBL is paramount in all of the activities of the President. In keeping with such premise, the following statement of policy sets forth the duties, responsibilities and restrictions by which the President will be guided:~~

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1.2 In addition to the usual Presidential administrative functions, ~~which the President of most organizations performs~~ there are additional ~~special~~ responsibilities ~~required~~ of the office of ACBL President, which are funded appropriately from the annual President's expense allowance. These include, but are not limited to:

1.2.1~~2~~ Hosting committee meetings and social functions at NABCs involving the members of the Board of Directors and special groups in his suite. ~~and holding special committee meetings in his suite~~. The President will host a welcoming buffet/reception for Board members and special guests in his suite.

1.2.2~~1~~ Attending Regional and Sectional tournaments ~~of his choosing~~ to bring the ACBL to its members. ~~In addition~~, When attending ~~at those~~ tournaments, the President is expected to host local volunteers in his suite or at a meal function.

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1.4 The President is expected, within reason, to travel the most economical way to ~~any~~ tournaments, meetings or ~~for~~ other ACBL business. Airfare, using advance non-refundable ticketing, will reflect the lowest direct service fare available for travel at reasonable times for the travel dates. ~~whenever possible~~.

1.5 The ACBL will reimburse the expenses for no more than one representative annually to a WBF tournament. The ACBL President may attend only if the Executive Director chooses not to attend. ~~The President will be reimbursed for travel to only one bridge event outside Zone 2 per year. The ACBL will reimburse no more than one non-WBF Representative for travel to the same tournament, if located outside Zone 2. The Executive Director will be the first choice to attend such, and the President may only attend if the Executive Director cannot/will not attend.~~

1.6~~5~~ Travel and other expenses related to a specific activity (incl. special committee meetings) will be charged to Board expenses and not to the President's expenses.

1.7~~6~~ In addition to serving as ACBL President, the President also continues to serve as his Region's ~~District's~~ representative on the Board of Directors and, therefore, will receive the trimester expense reimbursement identical to that provided all other Board members.

1.8~~7~~ Per diem will be paid at the appropriate IRS acceptable rate to the President and traveling companion per subsection 2.4 below.

1.9~~8~~ Travel to and from the NABC will be paid for up to two individuals acting as hosts at the President's suite during each NABC. One-half of this expense will be charged to Board expenses and one-half to President's expenses.

1.~~10~~9 Any additional expense shall be charged to the President's budget.

Appendix 4-A: Duties, Responsibilities and Authority of the ACBL President

Deleted this appendix in its entirety.

Effective March 13, 2024

Carried unanimously

Item 241-GV03: Life Member

Codification, Chapter I – Membership, A. Membership; Chapter VI – Club Sanctioned Games, D. Club Championships and Special Events; and Appendix 4-D2, Hall of Fame Operating Procedures was amended as follows:

Chapter I – Membership, A. Membership

Section 2 – Definitions and Rights of ACBL Membership

2.2 Classes of Membership-

In addition to those rights and obligations listed in subsection 2.1 above and in accordance with Article III, Membership and Fees, Section 3.2 of the ACBL Bylaws, and Article XII, Arbitration, additional voting rights, term, characteristics, rights, limitations, and obligations shall attach to each class of membership as follows:

2.2.1 General Member:

2.2.1.1 Shall be a member as long as his or her dues are current, and receive the following services:

~~2.2.2 Life Master:~~

~~2.2.2.1 Shall be required to remit an annual service fee or dues in order to.~~

- a. receive the Bridge Bulletin;
- b. participate in some ACBL-sanctioned events;
- c. receive any subsidy or remuneration from the ACBL;
- d. participate in and receive recognition for achievement in masterpoint races; and/or
- e. have an article published on the ACBL website or in the Bridge Bulletin

~~2.2.3 Life Member:-~~

~~2.2.3.1 Shall be a member through the member's lifetime.-~~

~~2.2.3.2 Those members who joined or rejoined ACBL prior to January 1, 1996, and continuously maintained their membership, who achieve Life Master shall be subject to an annual service fee. The rights and obligations of Life Members are the same as those for Life Masters.-~~

2.2.~~24~~ Honorary Member:

2.2.~~24~~.1 Shall be a member as long as his or her dues are current.

2.2.~~34~~.2 Shall have benefits as stated in Chapter I—Membership, H. Awards and Trophies, Section 4—Awards

2.2.~~35~~ Junior Member:

2.2.~~35~~.1 Shall be considered a Junior through their 25th birthday

2.2.~~35~~.2 Shall be a member as long as his or her dues are current.

2.2.~~46~~ Youth Member:

2.2.~~46~~.1 Shall be considered a Youth through their 19th birthday.

2.2.~~46~~.2 Shall be a member as long as his or her dues are current.

2.2.~~57~~ Foreign Member:

2.2.~~57~~.1 Any member whose residency is outside ACBL territorial boundaries and assigned to Unit 999.

2.2.~~57~~.2 Shall be a member as long as his or her dues, established by ACBL management, are current.

2.2.~~68~~ Patron Member:

2.2.~~68~~.1 Patron membership dues will be established by ACBL management.

~~2.2.8.2 ACBL management will add to the Patron Member Membership and Renewal Form check-off boxes for contributions to the ACBL Charity Foundation or CBF Charity Fund and the ACBL Educational Foundation. 12 Revised January 26, 2024~~

2.2.~~68~~.2 Patron membership benefits shall be determined by ACBL management, subject to approval by the Board of Directors.

2.2.~~79~~ Century Club:

2.2.~~79~~.1 The Century Club will be established for members who reach 100 years of age, and an appropriate mention will be made in the Bridge Bulletin of this achievement.

2.2.~~810~~ Guest Member: (Effective June 15, 2020)

2.2.~~810~~.1 May join the ACBL at no cost.

2.2.~~810~~.2 Former or current ACBL members may not join as guest members.

2.2.~~810~~.3 The guest membership benefits shall be defined by ACBL management policy.

Section 4 – Unit Voting Power

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4.1.1 The Unit membership divided by 100 and computed to the second decimal place.

4.1.1.1 The membership of a Unit is the number of its dues-paying members ~~and those who are active Life Members~~ as recorded by ACBL on June 1.

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Chapter VI - Club Sanctioned Games, D. Club Championships and Special Events Section 3 – Membership Games

3.2 Only ~~Life Members and~~ paid ACBL members are eligible to play in Membership Games.

Before the game begins, the director should make it clear to all participants that if an ineligible player enters, neither the player nor their partner will receive point awards.

Appendix 4-D2: Hall of Fame Operating Procedures

5. Election

Electors

The Electors for the Hall of Fame are determined according to the criteria in Appendix II Hall of Fame Electors. They must also be members in good standing and permanent residents of Bermuda, Canada, Mexico or the United States, including any territories. ~~Life Members must be current on all fees.~~ If an elector does not vote for two consecutive years, the elector shall be removed from the electors' list. The elector may be reinstated by requesting of the ACBL to be reinstated. No member who has been suspended for six months or more for ethical violations shall be an elector.

APPENDIX II to Hall of Fame Operating Procedures

D. ACBL Grand Life Masters (~~Life Members must have paid their service fees~~).

Effective May 1, 2024

Carried unanimously

Item 241-GV04: Educational Foundation Bylaws

Codification, Chapter V – Charity, Foundations, Special Funds, D. Educational Foundation, Section 1 was amended; and Appendix 5-D Current Bylaws of the American Contract Bridge League Educational Foundation was deleted:

Chapter V - Charity, Foundations, Special Funds, D. Educational Foundation Section 1 - Educational Foundation Games at NABCs

1.1 The NABC opening night (Thursday) games, including continuing rounds of KO games, shall be designated as Educational Foundation Games with all net proceeds from the games going to the ACBL Educational Foundation.

~~See Appendix 5-D Educational Foundation Bylaws~~

Appendix 5D: Bylaws of the American Contract Bridge League Educational Foundation

Deleted this appendix in its entirety.

Effective March 12, 2024

Carried unanimously

Item 241-GV05: Codification of AC Clubs and Teachers Committee

Codification be updated to create the Teachers and Club Managers Committee of the Corporation to advise Management and the Board of Directors on matters that materially affect clubs and teachers. The additional text:

Chapter IV - Board Procedures, D. Committees, Section 2, Committees of the Corporation

2.9 Teachers and Club Managers Committee

2.9.1 The Teachers and Club Managers Committee will coordinate communication, alignment to objectives, and work priorities with respect to teachers and clubs.

2.9.2 The Committee shall be composed of 2 or 3 members of the Board of Directors, 1 to 3 Members of Management, 3 to 5 active bridge teachers, and 3 to 5 owners of bridge clubs representing both in-person and online businesses. Each committee members should have a proven track record recruiting and retaining new members and running successful clubs and lessons. Representatives from the Board of Directors should have experience with club- and teacher-related decisions.

2.9.3 The Board of Directors shall appoint members of the Committee in accordance with § 2.9.2, choosing where applicable the number of each category of member. Terms shall not be fixed but rather all memberships shall continue until the Board of Directors dictates otherwise.

Failed Aye: None

DI241-GV01: Update COVID Protocols

The Board supported the elimination of Covid Vaccination requirements for all ACBL tournaments and elimination of a tournament safety officer presented by Management.

DI241-GV02: A&C Committee

The Board discussed whether the A&C Committee should continue to be designated as a Committee of the Board. It was expressed that due to the reduction of the board and the size of the committee, it is inadvisable to have only 2 to 3 board members binding the board on any matter. The Governance Committee acknowledged that if a member of the committee was absent for any reason and could not participate in a disciplinary proceeding that this could create procedural issues. Therefore, they recommended adding one or more board members to the committee. A&C members unanimously opposed the elimination of the committee as being designated as a Committee of the Board. As a solution to the concerns that the Governance Committee addressed, A&C added language to the Codification to approve all Board members to serve on the committee if a panel of three cannot be seated for any reason.

AI241-01: Regional Director Email Removal

The Board proposed, and Management agreed, to a standard procedure for the transfer of an email address from an outgoing Regional Director to a newly elected Regional Director. The following policy was adopted:

Regional Directors’ emails shall be removed from their email accounts to the cloud by ACBL Management on their last day in office. If a board member resigns (or for any reason is no longer serving on the board) prior to a replacement being elected, access (to the email address and contents) will be assigned to the Board President until a replacement is elected. The emails shall be retained for a time period specified by management, but no more than two years.

The Board of Directors adjourned the meeting at 4:53 p.m.

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The meeting was called to order by President Margot Hennings on Wednesday, March 13 at 9:01 a.m.

Present: Same as March 12, 2024. Heller arrived at 9:40 a.m.

Also Present: Marcin Waslowicz, and Jay Whipple were not present for the meetings.

BRIDGE/EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR INITIATIVES COMMITTEE
Carman (C), Aquino, Steinberg

Item 241-BR01: Sectional Tournaments

Codification, Chapter X –Sectionals was replaced with the following:

**Chapter X – Sectionals, A. Sectional Tournaments – Scheduling, Sanctioning and Events
Section 1 - Sectional Tournament Allocations**

- 1.1 Sectionals may be Open (Championship), Open (Local), Senior, limited by masterpoints (specifically, 0-100; 0- 200; 0-300; 0-500; 0-750), Junior, Youth, Collegiate, Progressive or STaCs.
- 1.2 Sectionals are allocated to Units. There are no restrictions as to the number of Open Sectionals a Unit may conduct. A Unit may not schedule more than six one-day Limited or Local Sectionals in any calendar year. One-day Sectionals must include at least two sessions of play. A District has the right of approval for Sectionals conducted by its Units. A Unit must abide by the decision of the District.
- 1.3 A Unit may join with another Unit(s) to run a Sectional or a STaC. A Unit may, with permission of the other Unit and the District(s), hold a Sectional in a contiguous Unit.
- 1.4 An Open Sectional may be run concurrently with a Regional restricted by age or masterpoints with the permission of the Unit in which the Regional is being held.
- 1.5 Senior, Youth or Junior Sectional tournaments may be combined with limited by masterpoint tournaments. In these instances, the higher sanction fee will apply.
- 1.6 A Sectional may schedule up to four sessions of championship-rated events per day with no decrease in masterpoint awards.
- 1.7 Sectionals-at-Sea and Bridge Camps are allocated only by the ACBL.
- 1.8 ACBL management is authorized to award a Sectional sanction to a non- ACBL sponsor to conduct a tournament in other than ACBL territory as long as:
 - a. the NBO (if no NBO, the appropriate WBF zonal representative) gives written permission;
 - b. Tournament Directors meet ACBL standards;
 - c. normal per table sanction fees are paid to ACBL;
 - d. the sponsoring organization abides by all ACBL regulations then in effect; and
 - e. the host country's laws are not contrary to ACBL regulations then in effect.
- 1.9 A Unit not running at least two 99er Sectional tournaments per year is encouraged to grant approval to any club within its jurisdiction that applies for a sanction to run such a tournament. Sanction notification/application per existing regulations will be forwarded to the District's Tournament Coordinator for his or her approval.

Section 2 – Sectional Tournament Scheduling

- 2.1 Championship Sectionals must be at least two days and no more than five days in duration. A Championship Sectional is defined as an open sectional with an anticipated attendance of 25 or more tables per session.
- 2.2 Local Sectionals must be at least one day and no more than three days in duration. A Local Sectional is defined as an open sectional with an anticipated attendance of fewer than 25 tables per session.

- 2.3 Limited/Junior/Collegiate Sectionals must be at least one day and no more than five days in duration. A Limited Sectional is defined as a sectional with a 750 masterpoint limit.
- 2.4 STaCs must be at least two days and no more than seven days in duration. A Unit may not attempt to circumvent this rule by scheduling back-to-back sanctions that run consecutively.

Section 3 – Sectional Tournament Sanctioning

- 3.1 A sanction application to hold a Sectional will be acknowledged immediately upon receipt by the ACBL Tournament Department. The process is as follows: the Unit Tournament Coordinator will submit an online sanction application to ACBL headquarters that shall automatically be forwarded, without review, to the District Tournament Coordinator for approval. Upon the District Tournament Coordinator approval, the application will be reviewed for sanctioning by the ACBL Tournament Department.
- 3.2 A Sectional may be scheduled and sanctioned at any time, provided the tournament can be included in the tournament listings in the Bridge Bulletin at least one month prior to the tournament and all rules and regulations regarding conflicts are met.
- 3.3 Approval of Sectional sanction applications will be made at least one year out or immediately upon approval if received less than one year out.
- 3.4 If a sanction application is submitted less than one year in advance, the Unit loses its claim to the dates.
- 3.5 When a Unit perceives a conflict between its Sectional and a tournament in another District, the Unit Tournament Coordinator shall work through his District Tournament Coordinator to initiate the processes of conflict resolution in the same manner that Regional conflicts are resolved.
- 3.6 Questions concerning scheduling and other conflicts for Sectionals will be resolved by the Unit(s) and the District organizations involved.
- 3.7 Districts and Units perceiving a conflict with other Units or Districts must notify ACBL management in writing within thirty (30) days of the tournament posting on the website.
- 3.8 When sanctioning Sectionals, ACBL management will notify the Tournament Chair and the District President (or his/her designee) when proposed events or masterpoint ranges seem inadvisable or inappropriate.

Section 4 – Championship Sectionals

- 4.1 Championship Sectional tournaments will be staffed by Tournament Directors who are ACBL employees. Championship Sectionals are defined as open sectionals with an anticipated attendance of 25 or more tables per session.
- 4.2 At Sectional tournaments, events which are unrestricted in any way (completely open) shall be credited with all tables in play in totally concurrent events (pairs, swiss teams or individual but not knockouts or side pairs) for the purpose of computing overall awards up to a maximum total of three times the number of tables in play in the unrestricted event. In the event that a concurrent NLM Regional is held at the same site, the unrestricted event shall be

credited with 65% of any pair or Swiss tables in the NLM Regional held during the same session for the purpose of calculating overall awards.

- 4.3 For the purpose of awarding masterpoints, a restricted event that is two sessions, morning and afternoon, is deemed to be totally concurrent with a two-session event that is afternoon and evening. However, if a restricted event is scheduled horizontally, it is not deemed to be totally concurrent with a two-session vertical event.
- 4.4 Strata-flighted events at Sectionals may be advertised and run with a combined Flight A and Flight B flight in one group playing together and Flight C playing separately.
- 4.5 Senior events may be held with minimum age restrictions defined in Chapter XIII – Tournament Events and Restrictions, F. Events. Such events may be stratified by masterpoints. The masterpoint awards will be 80% for 60+ years of age and 70% for 75+ years of age.

Section 5 – Local and NLM Sectionals

- 5.1 Local Sectionals, which are defined as open sectionals with an anticipated attendance of fewer than 25 tables per session, may be staffed by Tournament Assistants or club directors who have been certified for Local Sectional staffing.
 - 5.1.1 Masterpoints awarded: 80% Silver, 20% Black, 100% Sectional rating.
 - 5.1.2 No more than two events in any one session: only single session pair games; swiss Team games will be allowed to be one or two sessions.
 - 5.1.3 Maximum two sessions per day and six sessions in total.
 - 5.1.4 ACBL will provide a specific ACBL Tournament Director to work remotely with each Local Sectional's club director, assisting with rulings, movements, and other questions, as well as immediately posting session results online. Note: One ACBL TD would work with 3-6 Local Sectionals at a time
- 5.2 For tournaments not staffed by an ACBL employee, the Sectional surcharge applies. This Sectional surcharge is to offset the cost of processing at ACBL Headquarters that would normally be done on site by a Tournament Director.
- 5.3 NLM Sectionals with an upper masterpoint limit of 750 masterpoints or fewer may be run by Tournament Assistants or club directors who have been certified for Local Sectional staffing.
- 5.4 Regardless of staffing, all tournaments are expected to follow ACBL policies and regulations relating to permitted methods, use of bidding boxes, and non-member eligibility and charges.
- 5.5 ACBL will produce educational content for those club directors and Tournament Assistants that want to be eligible to run our Local Sectionals and Non-Life Master Sectionals or assist at larger tournaments. This content will be made available at no charge to these directors. These club directors and Tournament Assistants would need to pass a test on directing skills once every two years to continue working at those tournaments.

Section 6– StaCs

- 6.1 A STaC may be scheduled for up to seven consecutive days but may include only one weekend.
- 6.2 A sanction application must be sent to the appropriate District Tournament Coordinator at least 12 months prior to the scheduled tournament date. The ACBL may sanction a STaC when it receives the sanction application with fewer than 12 months advance notice if there are no scheduling conflicts.
- 6.3 While only Units may apply for a sanction to hold a STaC, there is no objection to a Unit nominating a District or Districts to conduct the tournament. In District-wide STaCs, all clubs within the District(s) must be offered the opportunity to participate. Participation is at the club level when sponsored by a District. If a Unit outside of the sponsoring District chooses to participate, all clubs within that Unit must be invited to participate.
- 6.4 A sponsor may schedule morning, afternoon and/or evening sessions. The standard club session designations should be used for the purpose of determining in which session a club should participate. The local sponsor must designate the sessions to be scheduled. For example, morning games would be those starting prior to noon local time, afternoon games would be those starting prior to 6 p.m. local time, and evening games would be those starting at 6 p.m. and later. Morning and afternoon games may not be combined as day games.
- 6.5 When a club wishes to participate in a STaC for a session other than their regularly scheduled game, the Unit may decide the case. This authority to disallow a club from participating in a STaC extends only to games which conflict with another game for that session and only to games being conducted at other than their regularly scheduled time. Any club desiring to participate at their regularly scheduled time must be permitted to do so.
- 6.6 To be eligible for overall awards in a STaC, or any event that is scored across more than one club, the minimum number of boards played is twenty (20) except for events restricted to players with fewer than 199 masterpoints whose minimum number of boards played is eighteen (18).
- 6.7 Playing directors, and their partners, in STaC games are ineligible to receive overall STaC masterpoint awards (silver masterpoints) but are eligible to receive section awards. At the sponsor's option, the above restriction may be waived. Such waiver shall be noted on the sanction application submitted to ACBL Headquarters.

Section 7 - Sectionals-at-Sea

- 7.1 A sanction application for a Sectional-at-Sea should be submitted to the ACBL at least three months in advance.
- 7.2 The application must contain the following information:
 - 7.2.1 Ship's name and cruise line, departure/arrival dates, and ports plus the sponsor or Unit/District name, address and email.
 - 7.2.2 A schedule of all ACBL events with scheduled lectures.
 - 7.2.3 The schedule must meet the same criteria as for a land-based Sectional.

7.2.4 The schedule and any advertising must be approved by ACBL.

7.2.5 A list of directors who will be operating the games.

a. Directors must be approved by ACBL.

b. ACBL may require the director(s) to take a certification test.

7.3 Masterpoint awards will be:

a. 80% of an Open Sectional if an active ACBL Tournament Director is requested and assigned.

b. 65% of an Open Sectional (non-championship) if an active ACBL Tournament Director is not utilized.

7.4 There should be adequate playing space for all sessions scheduled as well as for the expected attendance.

7.5 The SAS Bridge Package (required to participate in the Sectional-at-Sea) may be purchased by passengers in advance or on board the ship, albeit at different prices, subject to available playing space and staffing.

7.6 A Sectional-at-Sea sanction fee per table is payable to the ACBL.

7.7 If an active Tournament Director is assigned, the Tournament Director per session fee will also be payable to the ACBL. There will be no Sectional surcharge. The sponsor will be responsible for the Tournament Director(s) transportation costs.

7.8 Sectionals-at-Sea will be subject to the same general conflict rules as land-based Sectionals. No Sectional-at-Sea may depart from a port within 25 miles of a concurrent land-based Sectional or Regional.

Section 8 - Progressive Sectional

8.1 A Progressive Sectional tournament consists of one week of qualifying sessions in participating clubs, with a single-session final held at a central site after completion of club play. The sponsoring Unit should hold the one-session final within two weeks after completing the last club qualifying game. Two separate qualifying events may be held, with the single-session final of each event held on the same day.

8.2 Each Unit will be permitted to hold no more than one Progressive Sectional per calendar year.

8.3 All masterpoint awards for Progressive Sectionals will be based on Sectional rating. All masterpoints awarded will be silver.

8.4 During the qualifying rounds, there will be no overall masterpoint awards in either Pair events or Swiss Teams.

8.5 During the final, masterpoints will be calculated as though it were a two-session game (S=1.50). The table count for each stratum will be equal to 1.50 x actual tables in the final.

Credit will be given for tables in a lower strata/flight in accordance with normal rules for Sectionals.

8.6 The finals may be open, with or without stratification, or flighted. The finals may only be stratified or flighted if the qualifying rounds were also stratified or flighted.

8.7 Concurrent non-championship events shall not be considered in masterpoint calculation for the progressive finals.

Section 9 – Bridge Camps

9.1 Definitions and Parameters

9.1.1 A Bridge Camp is a special instance of a Local Sectional, where a residential program of bridge instruction incorporates games which award Silver masterpoints. Similar to tournaments-at-sea, attendees purchase a comprehensive package which includes lodging, bridge instruction, sanctioned games, and potentially other amenities such as meals.

9.1.2 Bridge Camps must be at least three and not more than seven days in length.

9.1.3 Bridge Camps may be located anywhere within ACBL territory. As with tournaments-at-sea, sanctioning is done through District 99 rather than the “home” District and Unit.

9.1.4 Bridge Camps are subject to the same rules regarding conflicts with other tournaments as any other Sectional.

9.2 Bridge Play

9.2.1 Bridge Camps may include up to two sessions of sanctioned play per day.

9.2.2 Each session must be directed by a certified ACBL club director.

9.2.3 Each session must include at least 18 boards to qualify for masterpoint awards.

9.2.4 As part of the bridge instruction, sessions may include supervised play, “chat bridge”, or similar features.

9.3 Bridge Logistics

9.3.1 Masterpoints awarded are the same as for a non-championship Sectional at Sea: 65% of Sectional rating, all Silver.

9.3.2 Bridge data will be handled the same as for Local Sectionals

9.3.2.1 A tournament schedule will be created and viewable online

9.3.2.2 Hand records will be generated and files sent to the sponsor for duplication

9.3.2.3 Game results will be sent to an ACBL Tournament Director for posting on ACBL Live

9.4 Financials

9.4.1 Bridge Camps will be billed the same per-table sanction fee as an Open Sectional.

9.4.2 The full Sectional Surcharge also applies; this covers file processing at ACBL.

9.4.3 Bridge Camps are exempt from the \$4-per-player nonmember surcharge.

9.4.4 Sponsors will be invoiced at the conclusion of the Bridge Camp.

Chapter X – Sectionals, B. Finance

Section 1 - General

1.1 Sponsoring organizations are required to pay all funds due to the ACBL at the conclusion of the tournament.

1.2 All participants in any ACBL-sanctioned Sectional tournament are required to have a valid ACBL member number (even if inactive).

1.3 The ACBL strongly recommends Units and Districts make student discounts available at Sectionals and Regionals.

Section 2 – Fees and Charges

2.1 Sectional tournaments are charged a surcharge in lieu of the transportation cost of the nearest Tournament Director of highest rank in addition to the usual table sanction fees and Tournament Director fees. The surcharge does not apply to Progressive Sectionals, STaCs, Sectionals-at-Sea, or Sectionals held at the same site as a restricted Regional.

2.2 STaC sanction fees are calculated by management.

2.3 The sanction fee will be waived for Sectional and Regional tournament events which are designed to introduce new players to tournaments and those which do not charge entry fees.

2.4 No sanction fees will be charged for free fill-ins.

2.5 Except for charity events, events limited to players with fewer than 20 masterpoints, and active members of the American Bridge Association, at all Sectionals, the sponsoring organization will charge a mandatory additional fee for inactive members. This fee will be determined by ACBL management. For tournaments that are hosted in Canada, the fee will be collected in Canadian dollars.

a. It is suggested that the sale signage present this as a discount to members.

b. The additional fee shall be remitted to the ACBL. Fees collected in Canadian dollars will have that amount converted to US dollars before being remitted.

2.6 The added fee per player that is required to be collected at Sectionals from non-members or non-service fee paying Life Masters is waived for STaCs and Bridge Camps.

2.7 Sectionals-at-Sea have a unique schedule of fees and charges.

2.8 All of these fees are subject to annual review by ACBL Management as part of the budgeting process and are posted on the ACBL website under Prices and Fees.

Effective April 15, 2024

Carried

Absent: R6 Heller

Item 241-BR03: Codification Ch VI Amendment

Codification Chapter VI – Club Sanctioned Games was amended as follows:

Chapter VI – Club Sanctioned Games

A. ACBL Sanctions for Club Masterpoint Games, Section 3 - Cost of a Sanction

....

3.4 Fines for non-compliance. ACBL Management may levy fines for non-compliance.

B. Types of Club Masterpoint Games, Section 5 - Other Club Games

....

5.8 Pupil Games

5.8.1 A bridge teacher may apply for a special sanction to conduct a pupil game.

The sanction will be free of charge if: (1) the applicant is an ACBL member, (2) the game is restricted to bona fide students of the sanction holder, (3) the lessons run for a minimum of ~~30~~⁴⁵ minutes, and (4) at least six boards are to be played.

....

D. Club Championships and Special Events

Section 1 - Allocation of Club Championship Game Sessions

....

1.4 Weekly Clubs. ~~1.4.1~~ Each regularly scheduled weekly game is entitled to ~~eight~~ ^{four} Club Championship sessions per year. These may be scheduled as ~~eight~~ ^{four} one-session Club Championships, ~~two~~ ^{four} one-session championships and ~~one~~ ^{two} two-session championship, or ~~four~~ ^{two} two-session championships.

1.5 Non-Weekly Clubs. ~~1.5.1~~ A regularly scheduled club game held at a frequency other than weekly is entitled to one session with Club Championship rating for each 12 meetings of

its regular game. In all other respects, ACBL regulations for the use of the Club Championship sessions by non-weekly games are the same as they are for weekly games.

....

Section 2 - Scheduling Club Championships

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2.2 Calendar Quarter Scheduling. ~~2.2.1~~ A club must hold two ~~each~~ of the ~~eight~~ four Club Championship sessions ~~for one weekly game~~ during a different calendar quarter of the year ~~except for an event it conducts in two sessions~~. A club may not carry over a Club Championship from one quarter ~~year~~ to the next. ~~for the purpose of conducting a two-session event~~

2.3 Playing Site Changes. ~~2.3.1~~ A club may change the playing site of a Club Championship session from that of its regular game to accommodate increased attendance or the serving of refreshments. To change the site, the club must obtain prior written approval from the Unit that has jurisdiction over the area in which the championship is to be held.

2.4 Playing Time Changes. ~~2.4.1~~ Once a year a club may hold a one- or two-session Club Championship at a time other than that of the game it represents. To do so, the club must obtain written permission from all other clubs holding sanctioned games within a 25-mile radius that hold games on that day of the week.

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Effective March 13, 2024

Carried Absent: R6 Heller

Item 241-BR04: NAP 2024-2025 Conditions of Contest

Conditions of Contest for 2024-25 North American Pairs were approved. (Attachment C)

Effective June 1, 2024

Carried Nay: R9 Cuneo R12 Zayac Absent: R6 Heller

Item 241-BR05: GNT 2024-2025 Conditions of Contest

Conditions of Contest for 2024-25 Grand National Teams were approved. (Attachment D)

Effective September 1, 2024

Carried Absent: R6 Heller

Competition and Conventions Major Change

The Competition and Conventions Committee approved a proposal to reach GLM via multiple high-placings rather than only via a win. The committee discussed whether Trial events that qualify for GLM now should have a minimum entry to qualify. This proposal would grant GLM-qualifying status to the winners of the Senior and Mixed trials starting in 2024 provided a minimum of six entrants and with the stipulation that these events cannot be held entirely online.

By majority vote, the major change failed before the Board. The Board specified that they support providing a minimum of six entrants and the stipulation that it cannot be held online; however, they do not support a change in 2024.

APPEALS AND CHARGES COMMITTEE

Sealy (C), White, Zayac

Item 241-AC01: Report on Disciplinary Proceedings

Barbara Shnier (Appeal of D9 Appellate Committee Decision)

In the Matter of Barbara Shnier, the committee unanimously upheld the decision of the D9 Appellate Committee that she violated CDR 302(C)(6) Rudeness of Conversation, Gesture, or Behavior (CDR effective July 15, 2022).

The committee finds that the record supports the decision of the Appellate Committee that Ms. Shnier is responsible for a violation of CDR § 302(C)(6). The decision is based on consideration of the statements of each of the witnesses who testified to events involving the complainant that took place at the Charged Party's table. In its determination, it found that the threshold of Preponderance of the Evidence was met.

Following its determination to uphold the finding of responsibility for a violation of CDR § 302(C)(6), the committee reviewed the discipline imposed by District 9 disciplinary bodies. CDR § 302(C)(8) provides Recommended Discipline applicable to a violation of CDR § 302(C)(6): "Reprimand up to 60 days Suspension, and/or up to 90 days Probation." CDR § 402(D) authorizes the disciplinary body to depart from the recommended discipline, if it explains the departure in its hearing report.

The District 9 Disciplinary Committee imposed discipline of 90 days Suspension and 6 months' Probation based on "past behavior as documented by recorder" - referring to the Charged Party's prior disciplinary record. The District 9 Appellate Committee modified the discipline, due to an irregularity in the original hearing, commuting the period of Suspension to time served (10/9/23 through 11/1/23) and eliminating Probation. The A&C Committee affirmed the discipline imposed, as modified by the District 9 Appellate Committee.

Woodrow Ban, Bud Fawks, and James Lewis (Automatic Review)

In the Matter of Woodrow Ban, Bud Fawks, and James Lewis, the committee unanimously upheld the finding of the OEOC Panel that they violated CDR 301(A)(2) Cheating and other Ethical Violations (CDR effective December 16, 2020).

The committee also upheld the discipline imposed by the OEOC Panel. Accordingly, they will each be suspended for a period of two years beginning November 27, 2023, and will serve a period of two years' probation following their suspensions. Mr. Ban will forfeit 25% of his current (838.88) Masterpoint® total. Mr. Fawk will forfeit 25% of his current (382.01) Masterpoint® total. Mr. Lewis will forfeit 25% of his current (444.56) Masterpoint® total. They will be members "Not in Good Standing" during the period of their discipline.

Marc Bompis And Giorgio Duboin (NR Review)

In the Matter of Marc Bompis and Giorgio Duboin, the committee approved the Negotiated Resolution agreed to by the Parties in which 1) the Charging Party agrees to withdraw the single charge submitted December 13, 2023, against the Charged Party, CDR 301(D) Ethical Violation Not Otherwise Specified (CDR effective July 12, 2023); 2) the Charged Parties agree that the charge submitted on December 13, 2023 is dismissed with prejudice; 3) the Charged Parties and the Charging Party agree to bear their own costs related to the charge submitted on December 13, 2023; 4) The Charged Party and the Charging Party waive their rights to a hearing before the ACBL Online Ethical Oversight Committee; 5) The Charged Parties waive their rights to further litigate, arbitrate or appeal this matter.

It should be noted that the initial charge was based on a mistake made when reviewing video of play. There is no indication of any malfeasance by Messrs. Bompis and Duboin.

Arlene Feldman And Nancy Orovitz (NR Review)

In the Matter of Arlene Feldman and Nancy Orovitz, the committee approved the Negotiated Resolutions agreed to by the Charged Parties and ACBL Management, in which the Charged Parties admitted to violation of CDR 301(A)(2) Cheating and other Ethical Violations (CDR effective July 12, 2023).

Ms. Feldman and Ms. Orovitz agreed to 6-month suspensions to begin on January 17, 2024, followed by 2 years' probation. They are prohibited from playing with each other in ACBL online games during the first year of their probations. Ms. Feldman forfeits 10% of her current (1,504.11) Masterpoint® total; Ms. Orovitz forfeits 10% of her current (1,598.01) Masterpoint® total. Each further agreed that If they play in any ACBL sanctioned games between January 17, 2024, and when the agreement is accepted by the Appeals and Charges Committee, the agreement is voidable by the ACBL. Both will be members "Not in Good Standing" during the period of their discipline.

Bob Rosenblatt (NR Review)

After charging Mr. Rosenblatt and his partner, the Charging Party became aware that Mr.

Rosenblatt was signing into both BBO accounts and playing both hands. The charge against his partner was dropped and an amended charge was made against Mr. Rosenblatt.

In the Matter of Bob Rosenblatt, the committee approved the Negotiated Resolutions agreed to by the Charged Party and ACBL Management. The original charge (dated January 4, 2024), CDR 301(A)(2) Cheating and Other Ethical Violations (CDR effective July 12, 2023) was dismissed without prejudice. On the amended charge (dated January 16, 2024), the Charged Party admitted to a violation of CDR 301(D) Ethical Violation Not Otherwise Specified. Mr. Rosenblatt agreed to an 18-month suspension, followed by 2 years' probation. He is prohibited from playing in ACBL online games during the duration of the probation. Mr. Rosenblatt forfeits 50% of his current (410.95) Masterpoint® total. He will be a member "Not in Good Standing" during the period of his discipline.

Cathi Freedman And Elinor Borsook (NR Review)

In the Matter of Cathi Freedman and Elinor H. Borsook, the Committee approved the amended Negotiated Resolution agreed to by the Charged Parties and ACBL Management, in which the parties admitted to a violation of CDR 301(A)(2), Collusive Cheating Online (CDR effective July 12, 2023). Ms. Freedman and Ms. Borsook both agreed to 6-month suspensions, followed by 2 years' probation. Ms. Freedman will forfeit 10% of her Masterpoints® (147.74, as of January 6, 2024). Ms. Borsook will forfeit 10% of her Masterpoints® (1,097.40, as of January 6, 2024). They will be members "Not in Good Standing" during the period of their discipline.

Item 241-AC02: Codification Revisions-Discipline

Codification revisions related to discipline were approved. (Attachment E)

Carried unanimously

The Board convened into Executive Session at 10:10 a.m. Doug Couchman, Bronia Jenkins, Jennifer Webster, and Sabrina Goley were present during the Executive Session. The Board reconvened into open session at 10:54 a.m.

<p style="text-align: center;">CHARITY FOUNDATION</p>
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<p style="text-align: center;">Shoemaker (Trustee)</p>
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Cindy Shoemaker reported that ACBL Charity Foundation Trustees are re-evaluating the goals and objectives of the Foundation and are interested in revising its bylaws. As part of its planning process, the Trustees wanted to first request input from its auxiliary membership, the ACBL Board of Directors, regarding the Foundation becoming a separate corporation independent of the ACBL Board of Directors. By straw poll vote, the majority of the Board supported the Charity Foundation presenting a change to the bylaws to obtain independence.

CLOSING REMARKS

Carman

The Board expresses thanks to District 11 and its Units Regional Director Larry Sealy and Tournament Chairs Joanne Travers and all the other chairpersons and volunteers. We also wish to thank the Galt House – Louisville.

The Board adjourned open session and convened into Executive Session from 2:50 p.m. – 3:52 p.m.