

**ACBL Board of Directors
Kansas City, MO
March 7 – 9, 2017**

The meeting was called to order by President Bob Heller on Tuesday, March 7, 2017, at 8:30 a.m.

Present: Leo Weniger #1, Paul Janicki #2, Carlos Muñoz #3, Joann Glasson #4, Sharon Fairchild #5, Margot Hennings #6, Bob Heller #7, Georgia Heth #8, Jay Whipple #9, Russ Jones #10, AJ Stephani #11, Dennis Carman #12, Suzi Subeck #13, Sharon Anderson #14, Phyllis Harlan #15, Paul Cuneo #16, Bonnie Bagley #17, Claire Jones #18, Marv Norden #19, Merlin Vilhauer #20, Roger Smith #21, Ken Monzingo #22, Kevin Lane #23, Al Levy #24 and Mark Aquino #25.

Also Present: Robert Hartman, CEO and Kelley Trejo, Secretary.

Appointment of NABC Seeding and Appeals Chairmen

The Executive Committee ratified the presidential appointments of David Berkowitz as NABC Seeding Chairman for 2017.

Carried unanimously

The Board went into Executive Session from 8:35 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

The meeting was called to order by Bob Heller on Wednesday, March 8, 2017 at 1:00 p.m.

Present: Same as Tuesday, March 7

Also Present: Richard Popper, Chairman Board of Governors, Robert Hartman, CEO, Joe Jones Mitchell Hodus, Linda Dunn, Dan Storch, Carol Robertson, Sherry Terraciano, Stephanie Threlkeld, David Metcalf, Howard Weinstein and Kelley Trejo, Secretary.

The Board went into Executive Session from 1:00 p.m. to 2:17 p.m.

The Board had a moment of silence for Peter Rank.

Approval of Orlando, FL Minutes

The Fall 2016 Orlando, FL minutes are approved.

Carried

ACBL CEO Report

The report of CEO Robert Hartman is received. (Attachment A)

Litigation Report

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

Item 171-45: Executive Committee Minutes

The minutes of the Executive Committee meetings are received and ratified. (Attachment C)

- November 25, 2016
- December 9, 2016
- January 19, 2017

Carried unanimously

Item 171-48: Hall of Fame Committee Appointments

Paul Lewis is appointed for a one-year term through the end of the Spring 2018 NABC. Neil Chambers and Mitch Dunitz are appointed for three-year terms from the end of the Spring 2017 NABC through end of the Spring 2020 NABC.

Effective Spring 2017 NABC

Carried unanimously

Item 171-49: Competitions & Conventions Committee Appointments

Will Ehlers, Jeff Ford and Jeff Goldsmith are appointed for one-year terms from the end of the Spring 2017 NABC through end of the Spring 2018 NABC.

Chris Compton and Danny Sprung are appointed for three-year terms from the end of the Spring 2017 NABC through end of the Spring 2020 NABC.

Effective Spring 2017 NABC
Carried unanimously

Item 171-50: Ethical Oversight Committee Appointments

Cheri Bjerkan, Dennis Clerkin, John Fout, Bob Glasson and Kevin Wilson are appointed for three-year terms from the end of the Spring 2017 NABC through end of the Spring 2020 NABC.

Effective Spring 2017NABC
Carried unanimously

Item 171-52: ACBL Laws Commission Appointments

Allan Falk, Rebecca Rogers and Aaron Silverstein are appointed for five-year terms from the Spring 2017 NABC through end of the Spring 2022 NABC.

Effective Spring 2017 NABC
Carried Nay: 22

GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE	
Anderson (C), Hennings (VC)	
Cuneo, Fairchild, Glasson, Harlan, Lane, Muñoz	Staff: Trejo
As reported by Committee Chair	

Item 171-35: Relocation and Rescheduling of Fall NABCs Meeting

Item 163-21 Relocation and Rescheduling of Fall NABCs Meetings be reconsidered.

Chapter IV-Board Procedures, C. Meetings, and B. Expenses of the NABCs Codification are amended as follows:

C. MEETINGS

The Board of Directors shall meet prior to or at the start of the Spring and Summer NABCs at the sites of the respective NABCs. The Board ~~will~~ **shall** meet prior to the Fall NABC near ~~the site of~~ **ACBL** Headquarters **on dates to be approved by the Board during or prior to the summer NABC.** ~~during the 10 (ten) days of November.~~ If a Board of Governors' meeting is held at the site of the Fall NABC, the President and Treasurer shall attend. The goal of the ~~members of the~~ Board of Directors is to have shorter meetings **when possible**, with more work being done in advance **utilizing technological aides as appropriate.** ~~electronically and otherwise.~~ The length of each meeting will be determined by the ~~ACBL NABCs~~ **ACBL** President in consultation with management.

D. EXPENSES

Section 1 – ACBL President Expenses The image of the 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.

6.8 The president will be granted an annual president’s expense allowance of \$45,000
The president and the treasurer may, prior to the Spring NABCs, agree to increase this allowance by not more than \$5,000 based upon relevant circumstances

1.8 Travel to and from the Spring and Summer NABCs will be paid for up to two individuals acting as hosts at the president’s suite during NABCs. One-half of this expense will be charged to Board expenses and one-half to president’s expenses

Section 2 - Board of Directors Expenses

This policy pertains to board members, Chair of the Board of Governors, and General Counsel, for ACBL meetings or functions. The ACBL will reimburse the following expenses:

2.9 Pursuant to Chapter IV, C., if the President, Treasurer, Chair of the Board of Governors or In-House Counsel is required to attend a Board of Governors meeting at the site of the Fall NABC he shall be reimbursed for roundtrip travel, two hotel nights and appropriate per diem.

Motion failed Aye: 4, 7, 9, 10, 11, 12, 24

Item 171-36: Board of Directors Fall NABC Meeting

If reconsideration of Item 163-21 (having all fall BoD meetings at headquarters) fails, then it is moved that the 2018 Fall BoD meeting be held in the area of ACBL Headquarters.

Motion failed Aye: 4, 7, 9, 10, 11, 12, 16, 24

Item 171-37: CEO Succession Plan

Chapter II Business Management, B Employees and Consultants, Section 5 CEO Succession Plan is amended as follows:

Section 5 CEO Succession Plan

5.16 **Recommend at least two candidates to the Board of Directors, who will then select one to be the CEO.**

Effective immediately

Motion failed Aye: 1, 2, 3, 13, 16, 17, 22, 23, 24, 25

Item 171-38: Director of Elections Duties

Chapter III Administration, D. Election, Section 9 Return of Ballots is amended as follows:

- 9.2 The Director of Elections ~~will count ballots at ACBL headquarters~~ **and one additional member of the professional staff selected by the CEO will jointly be responsible for counting election and recall ballots.** Each candidate, or his representative, is entitled to witness the opening and counting. An ACBL employee may not represent a candidate for this purpose. **The rules for counting ballots for elections and recalls shall be the same.**

Effective immediately
Carried unanimously

STRATEGIC COMMITTEE	
Whipple (C), Anderson (VC) Cuneo, Glasson, Lane, Muñoz, Stephani, Vilhauer As reported by Committee Chair	Staff: Hodus/Storch

An oral report was given.

BRIDGE COMMITTEE	
Jones, R (C) Aquino, Bagley, Carman, Janicki, Jones, C., Lane, Levy, Norden, Smith, Subeck, Weniger (Popper, Weinstein, H.) As reported by Committee Chair	Staff: Weinstein, S.

Item 171-07: Subsidy 3rd Place and 4th Place NAP District Final

Item 163-49 Subsidy 3rd Place and 4th Place NAP District Final be reconsidered.

A \$200 subsidy be provided to all 3rd place NAP District Final individual finishers in each flight to help offset expenses associated with participation in the North American Pairs National Finals.

A \$100 subsidy be provided to all 4th place NAP District Final individual finishers in Flights B and C from each district in each flight to help offset expenses associated with participation in the North American Pairs National Finals.

Effective January 1, 2018

Motion failed Aye: 1, 7, 10, 11, 16, 17, 18, 20, 21, 24, 25 Abstain: 2

Item 171-09: Entry Fees

Item 161-91 be rescinded.

~~For team events held at an NABC in which all team entrants receive full overall masterpoint awards, entry shall be charged on a per person basis. For team events in which the overall award is calculated as a percentage of a players participation, entry fees shall be charged on a per team basis at a rate equivalent to four players on that team. Effective immediately Carried. Absent: 3~~

Motion failed Aye: 1, 2, 23

Item 171-11: Hall of Fame Operating Procedures

Chapter 4, ACBL Board of Directors, Appendix 4D-2: Hall of Fame Operating Procedures is amended as follows:

Table of Contents

1. Powers and Purpose	1
2. Committee Composition and appointment	1
3. Committee Records	2
4. Nomination Criteria, Rules and Procedures	2
5. Election Procedures	3
6. Timeline	3
7. Committee Operating Procedures	5
8. The Hall of Fame Award Ceremony	5
Appendix I — Hall of Fame Performance Chart Criteria	
Appendix II— Hall of Fame Electors	

1. Powers and Purpose

The ACBL Hall of Fame Committee (HoFC) is charged with the oversight of the Hall of Fame program, selection of the recipients of the Blackwood and von Zedtwitz Awards, and nomination of members in the Open category. It shall establish criteria for selecting nominees, establish nomination and election procedures, oversee the induction ceremonies at the Hall of Fame Award Ceremony and provide input to ACBL Management on the Hall of Fame Gallery at ACBL headquarters and Hall of Fame Online.

The HoFC shall report to the ACBL Board of Directors (Board) prior to the institution of any major change in any of the above areas, and shall generally keep the Board or its designated representative informed on all matters concerning the Hall of Fame. The Board shall have final approval on all matters except choosing nominees to be placed on the Hall of Fame ballot and choosing recipients of the Blackwood or the von Zedtwitz awards.

2. Committee Composition and Appointment

The ACBL President and HoFC Chair shall endeavor to employ a balanced approach to composing the Hall of Fame Committee, taking into account variations in age, gender and area of residency. At least one member of the HoFC shall be from Canada, Mexico or Bermuda.

However, suitable committee candidates shall not be eliminated from consideration merely because of the desire for a balanced committee.

The HoFC shall consist of nine voting members. Each member is appointed for a three-year term with three members being appointed every year. In addition, the ACBL President and CEO shall be permanent non-voting members of the HoFC.

A member of the HoFC must be an ACBL member in good standing who has been actively involved in bridge tournament activities (either as a player, in an administrative capacity, or as a member of the press) for at least 20 years and is familiar with the history and achievements of possible nominees.

A member may not serve for more than two consecutive full terms. A retired member or chair may be reappointed after a minimum one-year (1) hiatus. The chair must have at least one year of service on the committee prior to appointment as chair. In the event that no qualified replacement is available or willing to serve for a member who is otherwise term limited, then the ACBL President may reappoint such term limited member for a maximum of one year.

The three-year term of appointed members shall begin at the conclusion of the Spring NABC at which they are appointed and end at the conclusion of the Spring NABC three years later.

The HoFC shall recommend possible HoFC members and a chair to the ACBL President prior to the Spring NABC.

3. Committee records

ACBL Management will maintain a HoFC Document Archive that includes:

- a. Form letter to Open nominees
- b. Ballot template
- c. Performance chart template
- d. Biographical criteria
- e. Cover letter to electors
- f. List of previous inductees into the Hall of Fame
- g. Form letter to recipients of the Blackwood and von Zedtwitz Awards
- h. Minutes of previous meetings
- i. HoFC contact list which includes appointment terms.

The HoFC may amend the form or content of the above documents.

New committee members shall receive a copy of the operating procedures as well as the above documents.

4. Nomination Criteria, Rules and Procedures

Nomination Criteria

The ACBL Hall of Fame Award, in any category, shall be given to individuals who distinguish themselves by their ethics, deportment and sportsmanship, while residing in the territory administered by the ACBL. The primary basis for consideration in the Open and von Zedtwitz categories is the player's North American and international record and achievements as a member

and representative of the ACBL. An individual's personal history, whether good or bad, should be considered in nominating candidates or recipients. A proposed nominee's ACBL disciplinary record may be reviewed as part of the process of determining whether that person meets the criteria to be nominated for admission into the Hall of Fame. Upon request, the HoFC will be provided with information as authorized by ACBL Board Resolution 033-02 as amended. No current HoFC members shall be nominated or considered for nomination or selected as a recipient of any Award while serving on the HoFC.

Open Award

The ACBL Hall of Fame Open Award shall be given annually to living individuals who have achieved prominence in the game of bridge and have an outstanding tournament record. Nominees must have attained the age of 60 by January 1st of the year of the induction ceremony. They shall be elected by electors, as described in Section 5 herein.

von Zedtwitz Award

The von Zedtwitz Award shall be given to living or deceased individuals who have achieved prominence in the game of bridge and have an outstanding tournament record but who may not have been in the limelight for a significant period of time. A deceased person must be deceased for three years before becoming eligible for selection. This rule may be waived if at least six members vote to do so. Up to two (2) recipients may be selected per year by the HoFC.

Blackwood Award

The Blackwood Award shall be given to individuals who have contributed greatly to the game of bridge without necessarily meeting the qualifications required for the Open and von Zedtwitz Awards. Only one (1) recipient per year may be selected.

In either the von Zedtwitz and Blackwood category, in a year where the HoFC believes that an additional award is clearly warranted, the Board may, upon receiving appropriate rationale from the HoFC in advance, vote to allow an additional award for that year.

Individuals shall give their consent for nomination in the Open category and for selection for the von Zedtwitz or Blackwood Award. The HoFC will not replace an individual who has declined nomination in the Open category, but may replace an individual who declines to receive the von Zedtwitz or Blackwood Award.

Nomination Rules and Procedures

ACBL members may suggest names to be nominated in the Open, von Zedtwitz and Blackwood categories.

The HoFC shall select up to a maximum of 15 nominees in the Open category. Any person receiving less than 10% of the electors' votes for three consecutive years shall not be nominated for the next three consecutive years.

In selecting nominees and recipients, the HoFC may use such methods as are consistent with the intent of these operating procedures. However, no proxy voting by committee members shall be allowed. At a minimum, the Committee should:

- a. Discuss each proposed candidate
- b. Establish a voting procedure which ranks the proposed candidates from best to worst
- c. Determine the number of candidates to be placed upon the ballot and the recipients of the von Zedtwitz and Blackwood Awards if any.

5. Election

Electors

The Electors for the Hall of Fame are determined according to the criteria in Appendix II.

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.

Voting for Nominees

ACBL Management shall send all eligible electors a ballot package which shall include a cover letter, instructions on how to vote, a ballot, and an up-to-date biography for each nominee, a list of Hall of Fame members, and a performance chart showing the NABC and WBF performance history (See Appendix I) of each nominee while they were a member and representative of the ACBL.

Each nominee shall be considered separately by the electors. On the question of whether the nominee shall become a member of the Hall of Fame, the electors may vote yes, no, or abstention for each nominee. If no vote is recorded by an elector for any or all of the nominees, then the ballot shall not be counted in determining the total votes cast for a nominee. Any nominee who receives yes votes representing at least 67% of the total votes cast for that nominee, and having at least 50% of the electors voting having cast a ballot for the nominee, shall be elected to the Hall of Fame.

Campaigning

Campaign advertisements in the ACBL Bulletin, The NABC Daily Bulletin or other ACBL media will not be accepted for publication, nor is it permissible to distribute campaign flyers at ACBL Tournaments. The ACBL will not provide names or mailing lists for use either by or on behalf of candidates.

Candidates may mention that they have been nominated as a Hall of Fame candidate when being interviewed for a publication.

6. Timeline

The HoFC shall meet at every NABC either in person or by telephone or electronically and otherwise as needed.

Summer NABC

The committee will welcome and orient new members. Preliminary work begins on assembling a list of possible candidates in the Open and von Zedtwitz categories. ACBL staff shall place notices in the July and September ACBL Bridge Bulletins, the Summer NABC Daily Bulletin and the ACBL website informing eligible ACBL members that they may submit nominees for the three awards to the ACBL staff person assigned to the HoFC. Nominations shall include the ACBL player number of the person submitting the nomination.

The ACBL Hall of Fame Ceremony shall be held at the Summer ABC.

Fall NABC

The committee shall finalize the nominees for the Open category. The Chair, with the assistance of ACBL staff, shall provide a list of nominees with biographies and supporting letters of those proposed during the public nomination period. The Chair shall also report on its review of proposed nominee's disciplinary files.

Spring NABC

The committee shall select the recipients, if any, for the von Zedtwitz and Blackwood awards. Newly appointed members whose terms begin at the conclusion of the Spring NABC may be invited to attend the meeting.

7. Committee Operating Procedures

Agenda

The chair shall prepare and distribute an agenda prior to each meeting.

Minutes

Minutes of meetings shall be taken and presented for approval at the next regular meeting of the committee. Approved minutes shall be provided to the ACBL staff.

Subcommittees

he chair may appoint subcommittees consisting of committee members and/or non-committee members. Subcommittees are advisory only, and shall report directly to the HoFC as a whole.

Quorum

A quorum shall consist of six (6) or more of the members of the HoFC, including its Chair. A committee member connected by telephone shall be considered present in determining a quorum. If less than a quorum is present, motions may be discussed but not voted on.

Voting

A majority of the committee membership is necessary for the passage of any motion, subject to quorum rules. The committee may, in its sole discretion, require a greater number of votes on particular matters but may not allow a lesser number. Absentee voting and voting by telephone are permitted but proxy voting is not permitted.

Attendance

Regular attendance is not mandatory. The chair may request that a member resign if such member has a poor attendance record or does not participate in committee affairs. The Chair may also

recommend to the ACBL President that such member be removed and replaced. As a committee of the ACBL Board of Directors, any member may be removed and replaced for any reason by the Board.

Vacancy

If a vacancy occurs on the HoFC, the chair may replace the former member for the balance of the unexpired term with the approval of the ACBL President.

8. The Hall of Fame Ceremony

The Ceremony:

A black tie optional ceremony for inducting new members into the ACBL Hall of Fame will be held at the Summer NABC.

Master of Ceremonies and Presenters:

The Chair and the ACBL CEO (or designated representative) will select the Master of Ceremonies.

Presenters of living inductees will be selected by the inductee, subject to the approval of the Chair.

Presenters of deceased inductees will be selected by the Chair, or its designated representative. The Chair shall seek input from the inductee's family.

Invitations:

All ACBL members and guests shall be invited to the ceremony.

Awards and Recognitions:

A plaque or similar award will be presented to each inductee or their representative. An award shall be presented to the recipient of the Sidney H. Lazard, Jr. Award for Sportsmanship at this ceremony as well.

Effective immediately

Carried Nay: 9, 14

Item 171-12: Masterpoint Races

The following subsections are added to Chapter 1.B. Rankings, Masterpoints and Races, Section 3 Masterpoint Races and the following sections be re-numbered accordingly:

3.1.8 Player of the Year

3.1.8.1 The winner of the most platinum masterpoints earned during the preceding calendar year.

3.1.9 Player of the Decade

3.1.9.1 The winner of the most platinum masterpoints earned during the preceding ten calendar years, beginning with the last year of the immediately preceding decade

ending in a “0” and ending ten years later with the calendar year ending with a “9”,
such as 2000 – 2009.

Effective immediately

Carried unanimously

Item 171-13: Appendix 13B: Masterpoint Computations

Masterpoint awards for Regional events at the NABCs will be increased by changing the R factor to 1.6 from 1.4.

Effective as soon as can be implemented by management

Carried Nay: 4, 5, 7, 9, 12, 15, 19, 22, 23 Abstain: 14, 18

Item 171-14: Stop Card

The “Stop Card” is no longer used to indicate a skip in the bidding and that the following changes are made to the Conditions of Contest:

- The ACBL Conditions of Contest Appendix G (Special Conditions to the use of Bidding Boxes and Screens)

I. BIDDING BOXES (no screens)

...

3. Using bidding boxes, no Skip Bid Warning is given. Following the Skip Bid, LHO is obligated to wait approximately 10 seconds (while giving the appearance of studying his hand and not in excess time to determine a choice of bids) before making a call.

- The ACBL Bidding Box Regulation web page
(http://www.acbl.org/tournaments_page/charts-rules-and-regulations/bidding-box-regulations/)

THE STOP CARD

The Stop Card should not be used. No verbal or visual Skip-Bid Warning is required. Following the Skip Bid, LHO is obligated to wait approximately 10 seconds (while giving the appearance of studying his hand and not in excess time to determine a choice of bids) before making a call.

NOTE: If a player accidentally uses the stop card, there is no penalty. It is each player’s responsibility to maintain appropriate tempo at all times.

- The Tech Files – Same text & changes as the web page

Deferred to Summer 2017 in Toronto, ON

Deferral carried Nay: 7, 9, 10, 12, 19, 22, 23 Abstain: 14

Item: 171-15: Wagar Award

The NABC+ Pairs Award Table of the Masterpoint Awards Computations Book is modified to include:

Wagar Women's Pairs – 4 sessions-1st place award 100 Platinum points – GLM Eligible- Minimum Tables Applies

Effective immediately
Carried unanimously

Item: 171-16: Four Session Events

Masterpoint Awards Computation Book, Section C, Regional Regulations-Unrestricted Events, paragraph 3 is modified as follows:

3. FOUR SESSION REGIONAL EVENTS

For four or more session open Regional events, other than Knockouts, the Masterpoint awards computed by formula shall be increased by 40%.

Effective January 1, 2018
Carried unanimously

Item 171-18: GNT KO Participation

The ACBL Special Conditions of Contest for Grand National Teams is modified as follows:

Lack of knowledge does not constitute cause for exception to these Conditions of Contest. These Conditions of Contest may not be changed at any level of play during the course of the event. The general conditions of contest for Swiss team and Knockout teams events will apply to this event subject to the following special conditions of contest.

If the format used for Grand National Teams competition at any level is a Knockout, all of the KO General Conditions of Contest apply. The only possible exception from the KO General Conditions of Contest is the requirement that each member participate in at least 50% of each match (other than the first match). If, in the opinion of the DIC of the particular event, it is necessary to allow an exception to the requirement because the event lasts more than one week, the DIC is authorized to allow such exception to the KO General Conditions of Contest.

Effective September 1, 2017
Carried Nay: 8

Item 171-19: KO Bye Rule

The Masterpoint Awards Computations Book, Section NABC+ Events, Paragraph C.1. Match Awards is modified as follows:

The Match Awards shown in the table above are for playing the full day (2 sessions). In 3-way and 4-way matches, 2 wins is the full match award and 1 win is 1/2 of the full match award.

Effective immediately
Carried unanimously

Item: 171-20: Sectional Strats

Chapter XIII, Section F, Paragraph 1.1.7 of the Codification is modified as follows:

1.1.7 Sectional Strat/Flight Upper Masterpoint Limits

Same strat/flight rules apply to pair and team games as in 1.1.6.

Effective immediately
Carried unanimously

Item: 171-21: Club Maximum MPs

The Club Section of the MP Book is modified as follows:

Club games with more than one section may issue overall awards comparing all the sections. Club games with a single section exceeding fifteen tables may also issue overall awards. Awards may not exceed 4.00 for Open clubs, 3.20 for Invitational clubs and 3.00 for Newcomer clubs. Second place would be 75% of first, third 75% of second, etc. through a maximum of six places.

Effective whenever feasible to coincide with release of new masterpoint engine
Carried Nay: 13 Abstain: 22

Item 171-22: Zone 2 National Bridge Organizations

Chapter VII International Bridge Section 1 A. Zone 2 NBO's of the codification is amended as follows:

CHAPTER VII – INTERNATIONAL BRIDGE

A. ZONE 2 National Bridge Organizations (NBOs)

Section 1 - Zone 2 International Regulations

1.1 The authority for selecting and subsidizing bridge players who represent the United States, Canada and Mexico in international bridge competition rests solely with the NBOs: United States Bridge Federation (USBF), Canadian Bridge Federation (CBF) and Mexican Bridge Federation (MBF), respectively.

...
...

Section 2 – NBO Events (NO CHANGE)

Section 3 – WBF

3.1 WBF Dues

The United States Bridge Federation (USBF), Canadian Bridge Federation (CBF) and Mexican Bridge Federation (MBF), are responsible for the payment of any membership dues to the WBF.

3.1 WBF Events

The current section 3.2 is deleted in its entirety.

Deferred to Summer 2017 in Toronto ON

Deferral carried Nay: 8, 21

* * * * *

The meeting was called to order by Bob Heller, on Thursday, March 9, 2017 at 9:00 a.m.

Present: Same as Wednesday, March 8

Also Present: Same as Wednesday, March 8 with the additions of Bart Bramley, Jeff Edelstein and Len Fettig.

APPEALS & CHARGES COMMITTEE

Heth (C)

Carman, Harlan, Hennings, Stephani, Vilhauer

Staff: Dunn

As reported by Committee Chair

Item 171-01: Report on Hearings

In the matter of the appeal by Sharon Crawford #N457289, Complainant, from the decision of the District 2 Appellate Committee. The A&C Committee affirms the decision of the District 2 Appellate Committee, except that charged parties are not required to write a letter of apology to Complainant because such discipline is outside the bounds of the CDR. The committee finds that the errors by the District 2 Appellate Committee are harmless and did not impact the ultimate decision to dismiss the charges against Normand Malette and to reduce the suspension of David Johannsson and Mario Rovinelli to one month, the actual time that had been served.

In the matter of the appeal by Unit 154 of the decision of the District 8 Disciplinary Committee, the decision of the District Disciplinary Committee was reversed and the case was dismissed because the District 8 Disciplinary Committee had no jurisdiction in this matter as no actionable claims under CDR 9.1 were presented. Further, the decision to assess the cost of the hearing to the Unit was vacated because the CDR confers no authority to a District disciplinary committee to assess costs.

The Committee takes this opportunity to caution disciplinary bodies to be cognizant of the limits to their authority in the CDR, to be aware of the need to maintain fairness in disciplinary proceedings which requires that disciplinary bodies avoid even the appearance of impropriety, to honor the commitment of volunteers, to be mindful of proper financial and accounting practices, and to refrain from discussing matters related to hearings outside the hearing room.

Item 171-02: Anti-Cheating Commission

The Anti-Cheating Commission be, and hereby is, approved as a non-Board committee and that the following be added to Codification Ch. IV.D. Section 5 – Other ACBL Bodies:

5.11 Anti-Cheating Commission

The Anti-Cheating Commission shall address the issue of collusive cheating and/or other serious ethical violations as follows:

- 5.11.1 The purpose of the Anti-Cheating Commission shall be to deter, detect and prosecute collusive cheating or other serious ethical violations.
- 5.11.2 The ACBL National Recorder may submit evidence or player memos to the Anti-Cheating Commission for evaluation or recommendation. The National Recorder will regularly provide any relevant player memos regarding ethical violations or other serious ethical violations or other evidence to the Anti-Cheating Commission. The Anti-Cheating Commission may utilize additional experts as needed. The committee shall provide a copy of any evidence that it develops (or receives from experts) to the ACBL National Recorder.
- 5.11.3 The Anti-Cheating Commission is charged with evaluating player memos and any other relevant evidence of unethical conduct in conjunction with the Office of National Recorder. As needed, the committee may investigate, utilizing any tools it has available, with or without the National Recorder, any situation where collusive cheating or other serious ethical violation is suspected. Among other things, the committee is tasked with developing investigatory protocols and statistical models to examine past practices that may uncover illegal methods of partnership communication.
- 5.11.4 The Anti-Cheating Commission may investigate any situation where collusive cheating or other serious ethical violation is or may be reasonably suspected. The investigative team assembled by the Anti-Cheating Commission may engage experts in any field to assist the investigation. The committee must notify the ACBL National Recorder in writing prior to any commencing any formal investigation. Any expenditure must be approved by the ACBL National Recorder.
- 5.11.5 All Anti-Cheating Commission opinions will be provided to the ACBL National Recorder in writing. Based upon its recommendation, the National Recorder (or a designee) may take a complaint to ACBL management alleging collusive cheating or other serious ethical violations against any one or more ACBL members (or

non-member participating in an ACBL sanctioned event). Decisions regarding filing formal complaints against specific players shall be at the sole discretion of the ACBL.

- 5.11.6 The Anti-Cheating Commission shall consist of at least five (5) members but no more than nine (9) members. All members will be appointed by the ACBL Chief Executive Officer (“CEO”) in consultation with the then Anti-Cheating Commission chairman. They should be bridge players of the highest caliber with a long history of success in NABC+ events who are above ethical reproach. At least two of the members must be located outside North America. The National Recorder shall be an *ex officio* non-voting member of the committee and shall not be counted in assessing the five (5)-member requirement.
- 5.11.7 Each member shall serve in staggered three-year terms, except that during the first year of appointments the ACBL CEO may assign members to a term of fewer than three (3) to allow for such staggered terms.
- 5.11.8 The activities of the Anti-Cheating Commission are highly confidential. Accordingly, each member must sign a non-disclosure agreement with the ACBL prior to beginning service on the committee.
- 5.11.9 The Anti-Cheating Commission shall elect a chairman from among its members by a simple majority vote. The chairman may not serve more than three (3) consecutive one- year terms.
- 5.11.10 Anti-Cheating Commission members will be appointed and confirmed at the Spring NABC. Their term of office will begin one day following the end of the Spring NABC and will expire on the day following the appropriate subsequent Spring NABC.
- 5.11.11 Members of the Anti-Cheating Commission may be removed without cause by the ACBL CEO. In addition, the ACBL CEO and the Anti-Cheating Commission chairperson may call a meeting of the Anti-Cheating Commission and, by majority vote, remove a member of the committee.
- 5.11.12 If a member of the committee is unable to serve his or her entire term for any reason, the vacancy created will be filled by the ACBL CEO. The newly appointed member will serve the remainder of the unexpired term.
- 5.11.13 The members of the Anti-Cheating Commission will be compensated in the value of a two-session entry into a NABC+ event for each day the committee meets at a NABC.

Deferred to Fall 2017 San Diego, CA
Deferral carried unanimously

TOURNAMENT TASK FORCE

Hennings (C)

Aquino, Carman, Cuneo, Lane, Whipple, Misslin, Rodney

Staff: Weikle

As reported by Committee Chair

An oral report was given.

Clubs Task Force

Lane (C)

Cuneo, Stephani, Weniger, Chokriwala, Marks

Staff: Robertson

As reported by Committee Chair

An oral report was given.

Item 171-51: ACBL Disciplinary Committee Appointments

Lisa Berkowitz, Michael Huston, Nagy Kamel and Tom Peters are appointed for three-year terms from the end of the Spring 2017 NABC through end of the Spring 2020 NABC.

Effective Spring 2017 NABC

Carried unanimously

NABC REVIEW

Bagley (C)

Aquino, Glasson, Hennings, Subeck, Sullivan(nv)

Staff: Sullivan

As reported by Committee Chair

An oral report was given.

AUDIT COMMITTEE

Levy (C)

Bagley, Glasson

Staff: Jones, J.

As reported by Committee Chair

An oral report was given.

Item 171-46: Election of ACBL Treasurer

Claire Jones is elected as ACBL Treasurer for a one-year term May 1, 2017 through April 30, 2018.

Effective May 1, 2017
Carried unanimously

Item 171-47: Election 401K Trustee

Paul Cuneo is elected as ACBL 401K Trustee for the remaining term beginning January 1, 2017 through December 31, 2018.

Effective immediate
Carried unanimously

FINANCE COMMITTEE	
Monzingo (C), Glasson (VC)	
Bagley, Cuneo, Jones C., Muñoz, Norden, Whipple	Staff: Jones, J.
As reported by Committee Chair	

Item 171-28: Treasurer Responsibilities

Chapter II – Business Management A. Finance, Section 3 – Management Functions, Section 6 – Financial Statements and Audit, Chapter IV – Board Procedures A. Administration, Section 2 – Officers, Chapter IV - Board Procedures B. Expenses, Section 2 - Board of Directors Expenses Chapter IV – Board Procedures D. Committees, Section 2 – Permanent Committees, Appendix 4A-2 Board Member Welcome Packet of the codification be amended as follows:

Chapter II – Business Management A. Finance, Section 3 – Management Functions

3.2 Management is authorized to maintain a checking account balance in excess of \$100,000.

Section 6 – Financial Statements and Audit

6.1 The Audit Committee shall cause there to be an audit of all funds, properties, accounts, and liabilities of the ACBL. Said annual audit report shall be provided to the Board of Directors and the Board of Governors and be made available to the membership for its consideration at the annual membership meeting. Upon the request of any member of the ACBL, for a reasonable fee, the Chief Financial Officer shall furnish said member with a copy of said audited financial statement. A summary of the audited financial statement shall be published in the Bridge Bulletin and posted on the ACBL website.

6.3 The Chief Financial Officer shall provide both the Board of Directors and the Board of Governors with a complete financial report of the ACBL.

Chapter IV – Board Procedures A. Administration, Section 2 - Officers

2.4 Treasurer

2.4.2 The treasurer shall fulfill the duties set forth in the ACBL Bylaws.

2.4.2.1 A vacancy in the office of treasurer will be filled by the Board of Directors at its next regularly scheduled meeting.

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

2.8 The Chief Financial Officer, in consultation with the President and the Treasurer, will adjudicate any disputes as to whether travel expenses are eligible for reimbursement.

Chapter IV – Board Procedures D. Committees, Section 2 – Permanent Committees

2.4 The effectiveness of committees may be improved if reports to be made to the full board (i.e., CEO, In House Counsel, and CFO) are heard before committee meetings commence, as these reports may impact on discussion.

Appendix 4A-2 Board Member Welcome Packet

Board members will be reimbursed at the applicable United States IRS rate for automobile travel. Tolls and ferries en route and parking at the meeting site for the number of days calculated for per diem reimbursement will also be reimbursed by the ACBL. No meals or rooms en route will be reimbursed. The ACBL will reimburse the cost of automobile mileage or train fare not to exceed the cost of equivalent airfare.

Effective immediately

Carried Nay: 1, 23 Abstain: 18, 25

Item 171-29: Operating Budget

The 2017 operating budget showing revenues over expenses of \$62,479 is received.

Effective Immediately

Carried Nay: 23

The 2017 capital budget of \$339,847 is received.

Effective Immediately

Carried unanimously

* * * * *

Closing Remarks

It was moved by Levy and carried unanimously that the Board expresses its thanks to District 15 and its units, District Director Phyllis Harlan, Tournament Chair Linda Eakes and all the other chairpersons and numerous volunteers. We also wish to thank the Westin Crown Center and the Sheraton Kansas City Hotel for their fine cooperation.

The Board adjourned sine die at 2:55 p.m. and went into Executive Session until 5:30 p.m.