



September 22, 2020, Unit 255 BOD Meeting Virtual via Zoom

	Agenda Item	Minutes	
	In attendance:	Muriel Tremblay, Wiebe Hoogland, Kathy Morrison, Chandi Jayawardena, Claude Tremblay, John MacKay, Dena Jones, Paul Cronin	
1	Welcome and Call to Order	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Muriel called the meeting to order at 7pm. Muriel thanked John MacKay for coming forward, and welcomed him as our new Board Member. 	Muriel
2	Review and Approval of Agenda	Moved by Muriel, seconded by Dena	Muriel
3	Review & Approval of Minutes from April 20, 2020	Moved by Dena, seconded by Kathy. Approved	Dena
	a) Actions arising	Item #5 - It was agreed that Claude should try to cancel the entire Vince Oddy order. This was done on Sept 23rd, as per email from Claude.	
4	Review & Approval of AGM Minutes (Aug 25, 2020)	Moved by Dena, seconded by Wiebe. Approved that these minutes be presented to the membership at 2021 AGM for general approval.	Dena
	a) Actions arising: Supporting the Clubs	Muriel suggested that the Unit give the clubs a statement defining what the clubs need to provide to get financial support from the Unit. It was decided to delay this statement until the clubs are closer to re-opening.	Muriel
5	Treasurer's 2020 Financial Statement	Refer to Attachment #1. Motion to approve Financial Statements, moved by Kathy, seconded by Claude. Approved.	Kathy
6	Tournament Coordinator Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Refer to Attachment #2. Attached letter from ACBL President, and response from Muriel. Upon return of face to face play, the number of Regional Tournaments will be reduced. Existing contracts will be honoured, however no new contracts are to be signed. Currently, we have signed contracts for Regional Tournaments for 11/21, 11/23 & 11/25 at the Holiday Inn & Suites Parkway Conference Centre, St. Catharines. 	Claude
7	Webmaster Update	Dena will make it known that documents not provided on the website are available by email request.	Dena
8	Elections for 2021 Board of Directors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Neither Muriel nor Chandi will stand for re-election once their term is complete in Dec. Hence, two positions of three year terms need to be filled. A call for nominations will be sent by email, and will be open until Oct 30. An election, if required, will be held in November, with the term commencing Jan 1st, 2021. 	Muriel
9	Other Business	Kathy has set up auto-deposits to the Unit bank account. She will see if ACBL can do direct deposits.	
10	Next Meeting: November 10th, 2020 via Zoom		
		Kathy moved to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 7:45pm	



Dear District and Unit Presidents:

The pandemic has brought about unprecedented change. Thanks to you and volunteers like you, the ACBL continues to survive and preserve community through online play.

Recently, the Online Bridge Task Force reported its findings to the ACBL Board of Directors. Joe Jones, Executive Director of the ACBL, linked its conclusions, recommendations and supporting information to a message delivered to you on September 2.

Its report and recommendations from Board Committees will form the basis for a proposal, which Management will submit to the ACBL Board of Directors on September 17.

Of significance was the Online Bridge Task Force recommendation to reduce the number of face-to-face regionals held nationwide. Although I believe a percentage of ACBL Regionally Rated Tournaments will continue online, ACBL Management and your ACBL Board of Directors are committed to the return of face-to-face tournament play.

However, we cannot ignore our reality. Even before the COVID pandemic, membership and tournament attendance has been on the decline, and it is becoming increasingly difficult for units and/or districts to compete for and secure affordable venues.

Therefore, until we make any determinations surrounding the Task Force recommendation to reduce face-to-face tournaments, I ask that you do not sign new contracts for any future regionals. Earlier this year, many venues agreed to cancel tournaments in return for one-year contract extensions. I also ask that you do not extend these contracts past the agreed upon date. Rest assured, we do not plan to cancel tournaments with signed contracts; however, we cannot say the same for tournaments contracted after today.

To further aid in the decision-making process, I ask District and Unit Presidents, depending on whether the Units or Districts run the regional tournaments in your district, to send me a list of all contracted regionals along with the date and year each will be held. Please send this information to District&director@acbl.org no later than September 14, 2020.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation and for your dedication in supporting the ACBL.

Sincerely,
Georgia Heth
President
ACBL Board of Directors

September 9, 2020

Begin forwarded message:

From: D8D- Georgia Heth <District8Director@acbl.org>

Subject: Re: Niagara Area Unit 255 Regional Tournaments

Date: September 11, 2020 at 5:36:03 PM EDT

To: Muriel Tremblay <muriel@cmtmc.ca>

Thank you, Muriel.
Georgia

Sent from my iPad

On Sep 11, 2020, at 2:45 PM, Muriel Tremblay <muriel@cmtmc.ca> wrote:

[OUTSIDE Email]

Hello

This email is in response to the letter sent to Unit and District Presidents from the President of ACBL on September 9th. The Niagara Area, Bridge League, Unit 255 was given the authority by District 2 to contract venues for Regional Tournaments in November of 2021, 2023, 2025. Allowing us to establish multi-year contracts provided us with an opportunity to secure preferential rates for the bridge facilities we require to run our tournaments. Based on District 2 assigning the following Regional Tournaments to Unit 255 we put a contract in place with the Holiday Inn & Suites Parkway Conference Centre for each tournament on the following dates:

November 9 - 14 2021	Sanction # 2111103
November 7 - 12 2023	Sanction # 2311104
November 11 - 16 2025	Sanction # 2511103

Thank you for honouring our contract with the Holiday Inn & Suites Parkway Conference Centre.

Muriel Tremblay
President
Niagara Area Bridge League, Unit 255