ACBL UNIT 179 BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Date: September 23, 2026, **Location:** Online via Zoom

Call to Order

Election Committee Chair: Gale Srulevich called the meeting to order at 4:41 p.m.

Attendance Board Members Present: Ann Gibson Howard, Michelle Coop, Annie Bartlett, Karen Kendrick, Carol Schnaars, Gale Srulevich, Tom Wilson, Roger Smith, David Smithfield, Carter Todd, Patrick Williams, Aissa Wayne

Purpose of Meeting

Gale Srulevich stated that the purpose of the meeting was to present the slate of director candidates selected by the Nominating Committee for approval by the Board.

Nominating Committee Members:

- Suzanne Torrence
- David Smithfield
- Linda Murdock
- Margie Hogshead
- Gale Srulevich

Gale noted that there were a variety of both Life Masters and non-Life Masters.

Proposed Slate of Candidates

Restricted Candidates

- David Birnbaum
- Ann Gibson Howard

Unrestricted Candidates

- Patrick Williams
- Karen Kendrick
- Cathy Beemer
- Chris Papadopoulos
- Dean Carmeris
- Tommy Cox

Board members were invited to ask questions regarding any of the candidates.

Election Procedures

A question was raised regarding the election procedures to ensure all required dates would be met and that returned ballots would be counted correctly.

Gale Srulevich stated that the Unit was on schedule and that returned ballots would be counted by the Board. The Secretary then reviewed the election procedures contained in the Unit bylaws.

The procedures provide that:

- Ballots must be distributed to members in good standing on or before November 1.
- The ballot must include candidates for both geographically restricted and geographically unrestricted positions.
- Ballots must be returned by December 1.
- Members may vote for up to three unrestricted candidates and one restricted candidate.
- Write-in votes are not permitted.
- Returned ballots must be delivered to the Board on or before December 10.
- Ballots are to remain secret, and candidates may have a witness present during the counting process.

Candidate Classification

Discussion followed regarding the restricted area and unrestricted area candidate classifications.

It was noted that David Birnbaum and Ann Gibson Howard were listed as restricted area candidates and that Pat, Karen, Cathy, Chris, Dean, and Tommy Cox were listed as unrestricted area candidates. At Ann Gibson Howard's request, the Board approved moving her candidacy from the restricted area to the unrestricted area. Neisha Wolfe, who had previously volunteered to serve as a candidate if needed, was added to the ballot as a restricted area candidate.

Candidate Biographies and Ballot Distribution

It was agreed that candidate biographies should be submitted by mid-October to allow sufficient time for publication and distribution. Annie Bartlett reported that she planned to meet with Alison on October 29, 2026, although an earlier meeting date was recommended.

The committee discussed ballot distribution and reaffirmed that all eligible members must have the opportunity to vote. Ballots will be distributed electronically whenever possible, with paper ballots provided to members who do not use email, whose email addresses are unavailable, or whose electronic ballots are undeliverable. The committee also discussed the administrative workload and costs associated with distributing and processing paper ballots and emphasized the need to ensure compliance with the bylaws, which guarantee every member's right to vote.

Before continuing Gale requests a vote to accept the slate of candidates.

Motion

A motion was made and seconded to approve the proposed slate consisting of two restricted candidates and seven unrestricted candidates.

Motion carried.

Ballot Counting

Michelle requested that we get clarity on what the voting procedure should be and Ann agrees.

The Board discussed the ballot counting process following the December 10 deadline. It was agreed that individuals whose names appear on the ballot may not participate in counting the returned ballots. However, candidates may designate a witness to observe the ballot counting process.

Adjournment

There being no further business, a motion was made and seconded to adjourn.

The meeting adjourned at **5:09 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted,

Annie Bartlett, Secretary