

## **ACBL Unit 191 “Brightleaf” Board of Directors Meeting Minutes Monday 10 Feb 2025**

Meeting Called to order by President Deanna Larus at 1530

Present: Ira Mueller, Morris Weinberger, Deanna Larus, Bill Ingram, Mary Newman, Ian Cloudsdale (via phone link), Michael Lavine, Johanna Karwowska, Eric Hamilton, Ray Boylan

Absent: Ann Fisher, Phylliss Woody – Best wishes to both!

### **Topics:**

#### **Scheduled Sectionals–July 10-13, Nov 6-9**

Tentatively the July 10-13 Sectional is scheduled to take place at rented space at Governor’s Village in *Chapel Hill*. It is a good quality office space, on the second floor with stairway and elevator access and good parking. Deanna has a contact in Martin Causley and will know about May 1 if the space is definitely available for the July Sectional. The lack of kitchen space was discussed as were plans to cope with that deficiency, particularly refrigeration.

We will need volunteers or hired help to move tables and chairs. Further brief discussion about sharing resources with Chris Moll occurred.

The need to identify venues for the future Sectionals was highlighted again. Possibilities include Governor’s Club? Durham Academy? Emily K Center? A Durham Parks and Rec Venue? Deanna encouraged the Board to continue thinking and reaching out to possible suitable sites.

The Summer Sectional for July 2026 has recently been approved by the ACBL.

#### **The Unit Luncheon/Valentine Day Gala and Game Fri Feb 14 at TBA**

The attendance is limited to 14 tables. At present one pair is on a waiting list. There was discussion to accommodate a 15th table, which Henry is not amenable to allowing. Robin and her team have graciously committed to catering the luncheon. Thank you Robin! Through Henry, the adjacent space has been rented for \$200 to serve as a prep area for the lunch. The format will be a Unit Championship offering better points possibilities than a Stardust Game.

**Annual Meeting/Awards Ceremony Game** is tentatively scheduled for a May date (TBA). There will probably be no luncheon. Reports and materials for the Annual Meeting are in preparation. A potential Unit 191 Bylaws Revision proposal for a vote of the Membership requires a 60 day notice period, necessitating the May date.

After this Annual Meeting the intention of the Board is to return the Annual Meeting to December going forward, with Board member terms to then align with the Unit's Dec-Nov fiscal year as they had done in the past.

### **Need to Choose a Unit 191 Vice President**

Deanna is again stressing the importance of having another Board member in line to succeed her, again offering ongoing training/support in the potential transition. She affirms her intention to remain active and supportive. There were no nominations or volunteers taken at today's meeting.

### **Unit 191 Membership Report and other Membership Matters**

Phylliss submitted her Membership report while undergoing Rehab. You are missed! Thank you Phylliss!

Total Members 491. Four Transfers into the Unit. One Transfer out.

Three persons' new Master ranks were identified.

A Unit member not on the Board wrote suggesting that we be more proactive in welcoming new people to our Unit. It was suggested that we should send a message each month to new members welcoming them to our group, including details about where to play, game schedules, and encouraging them to join us. Everyone wholeheartedly agreed that we should do this as a means to support our growth. It was also mentioned that the Board would like to monthly recognize those who advance in ACBL rank with a message of congratulations. For the past few years, our President has sent such emails to congratulate our Ace of Clubs and Mini-McKinney Award winners to notify them of the award and invite them to the celebration. It was suggested that these three specific tasks seem appropriate responsibilities for the Membership Chair. The Board members generally endorse these potential new efforts. Eric expressed an interest in supporting these efforts. A formal proposal and vote will occur at the March Board meeting.

Ann has been carrying most of this work in recent times. She subscribes to "Poster My Wall" and has been paying the subscription out of pocket, but the Unit is willing to take over that cost considering the anticipated benefit to the Unit. Templates exist. Additionally the upcoming survey of Unit 191 Members' needs related to the web site was reviewed. Morris has raised his hand to consider these important roles.

**Need for Unit 191 to have adequate storage space.** Morris has offered space in his home for this purpose. Thank you Morris!

**Intermediate Class Evaluation.** Ian led a class on Bergen Hand Evaluation on Friday 2/7 and will lead a follow up class on 2/21. 25 persons attended with 5-7 additional indicating an intention to attend the second class. Syllabi/handouts from the classes are

going to the Unit Web site. Most but not all stayed to play in the Friday game. There appears to be an appetite for more classes of this type. A number of Unit members also have ideas for contributing to the learning environment which is integral to the Unit's mission. The Unit needs Henry's permission to host these events at TBA and Deanna will follow up with Henry on this matter. The intention of the unit, in accord with its mission, is to not charge for these classes. There is an expectation that attendance at classes will improve attendance at TBA games. Ian will circulate a survey at the 2/21 class to assess interest in topics, evaluation of sessions, etc.

### **Treasurer's Report.**

Ian reported that the Bank balance is unchanged. We have acquired an outstanding debt from the mentor/mentee program and will gain about \$1000 additional debt for the Valentine Day Christmas Gala next week. E Filing site for the IRS is down again this year. Ian proposes sending out an updated balance sheet following the Gala.

### **Unit 191 Bylaws Revision, Part 2**

Following on the January discussion of proposed revision to the Bylaws necessitated by the shrinking of the Unit Board from 12 to 9 members in the future, Bill led the discussion of a new template Deanna received via ACBL. The Unit is incorporated in NC as a 501C4 nonprofit. The original articles of incorporation appear to have been lost and there was brief discussion about how to access them through the office of NC Sec of State.

The new draft document was circulated to Board members, and *Board Members are requested to review these and send comments to Bill in the next week.* Particular attention was called to draft sec 5.5 having to do with the quorum required for "membership meetings."

The ACBL recommends having legal counsel review of bylaw changes, and a brief discussion related to that was held. We will explore this idea further before next meeting.

Bill will also forward the January meeting's proposed Bylaw revision as amended for the Board's consideration.

*Once again, the main reason for revision is to reduce the size of the Board.*

*The goal is to review and pass a Bylaws revision at the March meeting of the Board, so the proposal can go to the Unit Membership in a timely manner before the May Annual Meeting.*

**Next Meeting: Because of members' travel conflicts, the meeting of 3/10/25 has been rescheduled to Wednesday 3/12/25 following the game, by consensus of the members present today.**

Meeting adjourned at 1655. Respectfully submitted, Ray Boylan