

**ACBL Unit 191 “Bright Leaf” Board of Directors Meeting Minutes**  
**Wednesday 12 Mar 2025**

Meeting Called to order by President Deanna Larus at 1540

Present: Ira Mueller, Morris Weinberger, Deanna Larus, Bill Ingram, Mary Newman, Ian Cloudsdale, Joanna Karwowska, Ray Boylan

Absent: Eric Hamilton, Phylliss Woody, Michael Lavine, Ann Fisher

**Topics:**

**Minutes of Feb meeting:** Approved

**Valentines Gala:** The event went well. 16 Tables participated. The lunch provided by Robin et al was a huge success! Thanks to them and all who contributed! After a donation, the final cost was \$650 to the Unit.

**Treasurer’s Report:** The beginning Quarterly Balance was \$25,931.08. Income From ACBL was 362.11. Gift of \$50 then Debits to Gala \$650, Mentor/Mentee subsidy \$545.00 and free plays \$36.00. Current balance minus liabilities plus outstanding income \$26,293.19

**Membership Report:** current to 3/1/25

Total Unit 191 Members 475–4 new members, one transfer in, one transfer out.

Congratulations to:

New Junior Masters Stewart Johnson, Gloria Marwell, Gerry Quinnan Jr, Harry Schuler

New Sectional Master Alison Bowes

New Club Master Neil Evans Jr

New Bronze Life Master Max Creamer

New Sapphire Life Master Peter Adler

New NABC Masters Kenneth Bann, Regina Bann

**Storage of Unit Property:** Morris is hosting storage for the Unit at his home and is doing an inventory.

**Officers:** Ray will take the Secretary position; Ann will become the VP

**Update on Membership Director Duties and Process:** Deanna talked with Phylliss. The Board is asking the Membership Chair to commit to sending Welcome letters to new

members, Congratulations notes/emails for awards and new ranks attained etc as described at the Feb meeting. Attending to these duties will help the Unit receive additional financial support from ACBL through their 5-5-5 program. Phylliss has decided to step down as Membership Chair. Thanks to Phylliss for her service! Deanna will explore others' interest in this position.

Currently Ann is working to clean up our membership email list. Thanks Ann!

**Bylaws Update.** Thanks to Bill for a fabulous job shepherding this project. The primary intention of the Bylaws update was to reduce the size of the Board because of declining Unit membership. The proposed revised Bylaws were moved, seconded and approved by the Board. They will be submitted to the membership at the upcoming annual meeting for approval.

Related to this item, while the Unit is incorporated as a nonprofit entity and files under its EIN with the IRS each year, the original documents of incorporation with the Office of the NC Sec of State have not been located. More investigation to follow.

#### **Annual Meeting and Awards Ceremony:**

Much discussion was had. The overall intention is to ultimately revert to the practice prior to COVID of holding the Annual Meeting at the end of the fiscal year ending in Nov and seating the new Board of Directors in December. This may be accompanied by a holiday party.

For this year the Board has decided to hold the **Annual Meeting** virtually on Zoom after notice to members on the Web Site and via email, **on a date TBA in April or May** depending on the timing requirements. For this year's **Awards Ceremony May 16** was chosen for the celebration. We will be limited to 14-15 tables. Mary will take the RSVPs for this Friday celebration and game.

**Membership Survey:** Morris and Deanna led a lively discussion on this important subject. The Board desires to know the interests and concerns of the Unit membership in order to plan how to best serve all members. A draft survey was circulated among the Board members for input. Morris is looking for feedback on the draft survey.

Most discussion was about how to increase participation via limited games, and potential Saturday and evening games. Evening games in Unit 119 are well attended. There is great interest and concern to help newer players become involved with scheduled games. Classes for intermediate and more advanced players have proved popular thus far and will

be further developed. Deanna and Joanna will talk with Henry about logistics related to spaces, times, and cost.

**Upcoming Sectionals: Save the Dates–July 10-13 and Nov 13-16**

Thus far the vacant office space at Governor's Club is still available for July but a commitment won't be possible till May 1 so the search for alternative/back-up space is ongoing. We need 2000-2500 sq ft at a price below \$3000.

A Flyer for the July Sectional is needed soon. Ray will reach out to Ann for the template she has used and get one prepared soon.

That concludes with the regularly scheduled programming. The meeting was adjourned at 1700, and the **next meeting** is scheduled for Mon 14 April at ~3:30 pm after the game.

Respectfully submitted, Ray Boylan