

## GOVERNANCE

### NATIONAL BOARD REPORT

### SPRING 2024

Item GV01 moved to amend the Codification, Chapter IV – Board Procedures, B. Expenses, Sections 2 and 3; and Chapter IV – Board Procedures, C. Meetings, Introduction and Section 6, to increase the Board of Directors’ stipends from \$1,000 to \$2,000 three times yearly and to hold fall Board meetings online instead of F2F. The motion failed and was reintroduced as a divided motion with a second from the floor.

The motion to increase the Board of Directors’ stipends from \$1,000 to \$2,000 three times yearly passed 7-5-1. It has been 15 years since the stipends have been increased. Regional Directors have greater geographical territory to cover due to the downsizing of the Board and incur greater expense. The increase will facilitate F2F and online communication with membership and stakeholders.

Effective: March 13, 2024.

The motion to hold fall Board meetings online instead of F2F failed 3-10-0. The value of holding F2F meetings, particularly in the fall when the budget is approved for the next calendar year, outweighed the cost savings of holding the meetings online.

Item 241-GV02 moved to amend the Codification, Chapter IV - Board Procedures, B. Expenses, Section 1 - ACBL President Expenses and to remove from the Codification, Appendix 4-A1, Duties, Responsibilities and Authority of the ACBL President. There were no substantive changes to Chapter IV. The Appendix is being modified as the majority of the President’s time is now allocated to coordinating task forces, committees and meetings and interacting with management to ensure alignment with the Board’s strategic focus and the financial oversight of the organization. The Appendix will “live” in a space accessible to the Board and to membership.

Carried: 13-0-0.

Effective: March 13, 2024.

Item 241-GV03 moved to amend the Codification, Chapter I - Membership, A. Membership, Sections 2 and 4; Chapter VI - Club Sanctioned Games, D. Club Championships and Special Events; and Appendix 4-D2, Hall of Fame Operating Procedures. Also, to remove references to “service fees”.

GV03 carried 13-0-0, giving ACBL the ability to remove the Life Member category from ACBL membership options. As a result, all Inactive Life Members will be reinstated as regular members through the end of 2024. For 2025 and beyond, to continue to remain an ACBL Member, and to receive the *ACBL Bridge Bulletin*, Life Members must pay annual dues. Transitioning Life Members to Regular Members will help to standardize the arbitration clause for all members, reducing legal exposure.

Effective: May 1, 2024.

Item 241-GV04 moved to delete from the Codification, Appendix 5-D - Current ACBL Educational Foundation bylaws. The Educational Foundation is a corporation independent of the ACBL Board of Directors and maintains its bylaws.

Carried: 13-0-0.

Effective: March 12, 2024.

Item 241-GV05 moved to create and to codify a Committee of the Corporation to advise management and the Board on decisions that affect clubs and teachers. This motion was adopted by the Advisory Council (AC) in fall of 2023 and was brought to the Board by the AC Chair for consideration in Louisville. A Club Task Force was established by the ACBL President in January 2024, eliminating the need for a Committee of the Corporation. As a result, the motion failed: 0-13-0.

Management requested Board input regarding the next steps to ACBL COVID protocols. ACBL proposed to eliminate COVID vaccination requirements for all ACBL tournaments and the need for a safety officer. Also, to shift the responsibility to furnish masks from the tournament sponsor to the masked pair. After a discussion, all ACBL COVID protocols will be eliminated effective May 13, 2024.

An Action Item to management to ensure Regional Directors' emails are removed from their email accounts and moved to the Cloud on their last day in office was deferred to June while management revisits and refines its overall document retention policy.