July 2016

Dear District 19 unit board member,

I seek to represent District 19 as 1st Alternate Director and ask for your consideration in the upcoming election. I'd like to share a bit about the role of the 1st Alternate Director, my experience and qualifications, and why I'm seeking the position.

Role of the 1st Alternate Director

In the event of a vacancy in the position of the District Director, the 1st Alternate Director serves as District Director for an interim period, or for the entire remaining duration of an unexpired term, depending on when the vacancy occurs. The 1st Alternate thus should be qualified and ready to serve as District Director and actively participate in the ACBL Board of Director's supervision and regulation of the League's business, property and affairs.

The 1st Alternate is also one of the District's five members of the ACBL Board of Governors. The Board of Governors serves as a liaison between ACBL membership and the Board of Directors, acts as a forum for expression of membership opinion and to identify issues and concerns in regard to bridge and ACBL management matters, improves communication and coordination among Districts, Units and the Board of Directors, and ratifies decisions of the Board of Directors as specified in the bylaws.

Relevant Experience and Qualifications

I would bring current relevant experience and qualifications to the position of 1st Alternate. Presently a member of the District 19 Board of Directors representing Seattle Unit 446, I have a depth of knowledge and understanding of D19 governance, processes and issues. For example, D19's circumstance as one of only two cross-border districts requires consideration by the League. We operate in Canada and the US and with two currencies. Recent League-imposed changes adversely impacted our tournament financial operations. The changes were ill advised and implemented prematurely without consultation with D19. Our District had to coordinate and implement workarounds.

Upon joining the D19 board two years ago, I took on the role of D19 Grand National Teams / North American Pairs Coordinator. I have implemented improvements in D19 GNT/NAP operations, including better communication and coordination with club managers, promotion of D19 GNT and NAP Finals, de-confliction of D19 Finals from other events within the district, use of a District NAP Finals site that facilitates same-day commuting from Vancouver and Seattle, and clearer GNT and NAP Conditions of Contest. I assembled an email distribution list comprised of D19 club managers. I use this tool to share and exchange information about club level GNT and NAP qualification games and other matters of value to the clubs. There has been positive feedback about this expanded communication with the clubs, and more clubs are now running GNT and NAP qualification games.

Formerly a unit treasurer, I understand bridge financial management responsibilities and processes. D19 must manage finances in two currencies and the exchange rate between them. Cash flows and balances in Canadian and US accounts must be managed to ensure sufficient

resources for operations. The exchange rate has an effect on the relative cost of entry fees in the two currencies. I introduced a motion that was passed by the D19 Board authorizing adjustment of certain GNT and NAP event fees that disproportionately impact Canadian players. These type issues merit the attention of the League's Board of Governors and Board of Directors.

Unit level perspective is also important to good bridge governance. As current president of Seattle Unit 446, I have experience in local bridge governance and understand how units plan and run their events and communicate with their membership. I am also presently chairman of the Seattle Unit's Tournament Sites Committee that identifies and evaluates candidate tournament sites and proposes to the full board a lineup of playing sites and dates for open and NLM sectionals.

Presently D19 2nd Alternate and a member of the Board of Governors, I have participated in BoG meetings since 2014.

Why I seek the position of 1st Alternate

I am not running for re-election as 2nd Alternate. I hope to bring my experience to bear in representing the interests, concerns and issues of D19, its units, clubs and members to the BoG as 1st Alternate.

Clubs need advocates. They are the foundation of the ACBL – where players learn, develop their games, form partnerships, and in some cases progress to tournament play and bridge governance roles. An ever-greater financial burden is being imposed on clubs through increases in sanction fees. Canadian clubs are further impacted by an adverse exchange rate. Clubs have been hamstrung by poorly functioning software for running their games and making monthly reports. The communication network I've established with D19 club managers through my GNT/NAP Coordinator role will help me understand and bring forward the concerns and priorities of clubs.

The ACBL has pressing administration, financial, technology, operations, and bridge ethics challenges. As 1st Alternate I would focus on the priorities and actions of ACBL management and the Board of Directors in dealing with these problems, accounting for the interests of the membership and the clubs.

I've been appointed a lifetime member of the ACBL National Goodwill Committee in honor of service to the District and having displayed goodwill, kindness and ethical behavior among fellow bridge players. I value the views of others, the interests of the game at large, and working cooperatively to improve the game and serve the members.

1st Alternate's expenses associated with attending Board of Governors meetings are not reimbursed. I have the time, resources and desire to participate in the meetings and activities of the Board of Governors.

I would appreciate your support in this election. If you have any questions or suggestions, please contact me at trkwhite@gmail.com or (206) 979-9041

Thanks,
Tim White
Candidate, 1st Alternate Director, District 19