

CONSTITUTION OF THE NORTH STATE BRIDGE UNIT

ARTICLE I. NAME

Section 1. The name of the organization shall be the NORTH STATE BRIDGE UNIT of the AMERICAN CONTRACT BRIDGE LEAGUE.

Section 2. The short title of the NORTH STATE BRIDGE UNIT, as used in this Constitution, is the UNIT, and the short title of the AMERICAN CONTRACT BRIDGE LEAGUE is the LEAGUE.

Section 3. The UNIT

- (a) is a subsidiary of the LEAGUE
- (b) recognizes the LEAGUE as the parent organization, having authority and control over tournament bridge in the United States
- (c) exists under the sanction of the LEAGUE, and functions within the Constitution, By-laws, and regulations of the LEAGUE.

ARTICLE II. OBJECTS OF THE ORGANIZATION

Section 1. The objects of this organization shall be

- (a) to preserve and promote the best interests of competitive contract bridge or any modifications thereof
- (b) to cooperate with and assist the LEAGUE in the promotion and conduct of contract bridge tournaments
- (c) to prescribe rules of eligibility for participation in tournaments under its own auspices
- (d) to consider and pass upon reports of dishonest, unethical, or improper conduct of participants in tournaments; and to bar or suspend persons guilty of such conduct from further participation; and to see that all club games are run according to LEAGUE specifications. If necessary the President will appoint a committee to investigate any infractions and report to the Board of Directors for action.

ARTICLE III. MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. Any person of good moral character, regardless of race, color, creed, sex, religion, or national origin, is eligible for membership.

Section 2. Members of the LEAGUE are assigned to units on a geographical basis. LEAGUE members who do not reside within the geographical boundaries of the UNIT must have the permission of the LEAGUE and the UNIT for membership in the UNIT.

Section 3. Annual dues are determined and collected by the LEAGUE.

Section 4. Privileges of membership include receipt of any LEAGUE or UNIT publications and eligibility to serve as an officer or Board of Directors member.

#### ARTICLE IV. ADMINISTRATION OF UNIT AFFAIRS

Section 1. The affairs of the UNIT shall be administered by a Board of Directors. This board shall be the sole governing body of the UNIT.

Section 2. The Board of Directors shall be made up of members of the UNIT, duly elected in accordance with the provisions contained in this Constitution, plus the immediate past President.

Section 3. The Board of Directors shall elect a President, Vice-President, Secretary/Treasurer, and Recording Secretary. The term of office for officers shall be a two-year period, beginning with the winter meeting of even-numbered calendar years. No more than two officers shall reside in the same county.

Section 4. The Secretary/Treasurer shall prepare a financial report for the Board of Directors prior to each regular meeting. An annual summary of major financial transactions will be published in the first newsletter of each calendar year.

#### ARTICLE V. AMENDMENTS

Section 1. Amendments to the Constitution may be made at any regular or special meeting of the Board of Directors, provided ten days notice in writing has been given to the members of the Board of Directors, announcing the intention to revise the Constitution at the said meeting.

Section 2. The concurrence of two-thirds of all Board members present and voting shall be required to pass any amendment.

ARTICLE VI. REPRESENTATION ON THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Section 1. For the purpose of election of a Board of Directors, representatives shall be elected from each area that has a franchised club. Areas shall be designated by the name of the largest town/city in them and shall include the members residing in smaller towns around the largest town/city.

Section 2. The President shall appoint an election committee to compose a list of areas that have a franchised club within three months prior to the election. The committee shall count the number of members residing in each area and determine the number of representatives for that area for the ensuing election. Each area will be entitled to one representative; if more than seventy-five (75) ACBL members reside in the area, an additional representative shall be added to that area's delegation for each seventy-five (75) members or fraction thereof.

Section 3. Each board member shall serve for a two-year term of office, beginning with the winter meeting of even-numbered calendar years. If a board member finds that he/she will be unable to attend a meeting, he/she should find an alternate and have them bring the alternate form (attached to the letter informing them of the meeting) to said meeting. The board member who is unable to attend is alone responsible for finding his/her alternate and transmitting the alternate form to said designee. If a board member resigns from his/her term of office, the vacancy will be filled by the Board of Directors.

Section 4. Election of board members will be done according to the following guidelines:

(a) Nominations are to be sent to the Secretary/Treasurer of the UNIT, during the month of October of odd-numbered calendar years.

(b) Elections shall take place in all clubs during the week of November 15th in odd-numbered calendar years.

(c) Ballots for the election will be prepared by the Secretary/Treasurer and given to an area election deputy appointed by the President. The deputy shall conduct the election for the area during the week of November 15th of odd-numbered calendar years.

(d) During the week of November 15th, the deputy shall allow all ACBL members (regardless of membership in clubs) who

reside in the area, to vote at one club in the area. The voting shall take place in each club for thirty minutes prior to the club's regular game. If a club holds more than one game per week, the deputy shall determine and publicize which game will host the election period. Members of the ACBL/UNIT may vote only once each, and the deputy shall maintain a roster for his/her area. Voting by proxy is prohibited.

(e) At the conclusion of the week of voting, the deputy will count the votes for the area, in the presence of a club game official, announce the winner(s), and then return all the ballots to the Secretary/ Treasurer by mail or in person in a timely manner.

(f) Results of the election will also be announced in the next issue of the unit newsletter.

#### ARTICLE VII. MEETINGS

Section 1. There will be three (3) regular meetings of the Board of Directors each year: one at a winter tournament, one at a spring or summer tournament, and one at a fall tournament. Time and place are to be determined by the President and announced at least two weeks prior to the meeting in a UNIT publication or by mail.

Section 2. Special meetings may be called by the President, or scheduled upon written request of a majority of the Board of Directors or of twenty percent (20%) of the UNIT membership. Notice of special meetings should be mailed ten (10) days in advance when possible, but, in an emergency, the the ten-day notice may be waived.

Section 3. An annual membership meeting shall be held in the last half of each calendar year in conjunction with a unit tournament. The date, time, and place of the annual membership meeting shall be published in the UNIT newsletter, so long as one exists. In the event that the UNIT does not have a regular publication, said meeting shall be announced by club managers.

Section 4. Voting by proxy at any meeting is specifically prohibited.

#### Section 5. Quorums

(a) shall be six (6) board members representing three (3) areas for a regular meeting and ten(10) board members representing four(4) areas for special Board of Directors meetings.

(b) shall be thirty (30) members, with at least two (2) from each of the six areas, for the annual membership meeting.

#### ARTICLE VIII. BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Section 1. The powers and duties of the entire Board of Directors may include , but are not limited to the following:

- (a) discuss and decide on general policies of the UNIT
- (b) elect officers and fill vacancies on the Board of Directors of the UNIT, by asking the person receiving the next highest number of votes in the last election, in the area where the vacancy occurred, to fill the unexpired term.
- (c) amend the Consitution as herein provided
- (d) have general charge of UNIT tournaments by determining who will hold allocated sectionals and regionals and by submitting sanctions from tournament chairpersons to the appropriate LEAGUE authorities
- (e) sponsor and encourage unit games; i.e. apply for sanctions and collect LEAGUE sanction fees
- (f) sponsor and encourage charity games as the Board of Directors finds appropriate

Section 2. An executive committee, composed of unit officers plus the immediate past President, shall advise the President on matters of immediate urgency.

Section 3. All committees, except the Executive Committee, are appointed by the President, subject to the authorization by the Board of Directors. With the exception of the Executive Committee, committee members need not be members of the Board of Directors. The President is ex-officio member of all committees. Standing committees may include but are not limited to: Charity, Novice, Ethics, Membership and Publicity, and Newsletter.

#### ARTICLE IX. LOCAL CLUBS

Section 1. Each non-proprietary club within the UNIT will maintain its own Board of Governors/Directors and will operate its local affairs.

Section 2. The Constitution of any local club shall not be in contradiction with the Constitution of the UNIT.

Board Members by Position (in addition to area representatives)

President  
Vice-President  
Recording Secretary  
Secretary/Treasurer  
Past President  
Charity Coordinator  
Tarheel Tally  
Education/Novice Coordinator  
Regional Tournament Chairperson

Adopted by North State Unit, Sept. 19, 1959  
at regular meeting of the Board of Governors in Raleigh, NC  
and as amended in 1965, 1967, 1968, 1970, 1987, and 1991.