

**By-Laws of Unit 231**  
**SOUTHWEST VIRGINIA BRIDGE UNIT ASSOCIATION**

Revised:

Adopted: July 14, 2008

The Southwest Virginia Bridge Unit Association No. 231 is a subsidiary of the American Contract Bridge League, hereafter referred to as the ACBL. Unit 231 recognizes the ACBL as the parent organization, having authority and control over tournament bridge in the United States. The Unit exists under the sanction of the ACBL and it functions within the Constitution, By-Laws and Regulations of the ACBL.

**Objectives of Unit 231**

Unit 231 has set the following objectives:

1. To preserve and promote the best interest of competitive contract bridge, and any modification thereof;
2. To cooperate with, and assist the ACBL, in the promotion and conduct of contract bridge tournaments;
3. 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,
4. To promote the development and organization of affiliated clubs within the Unit, and to assist any area that might desire to conduct sectional tournaments, both physically and financially.

**Article I. Unit Jurisdiction**

Geographically, Unit 231 covers Southwest Virginia and includes the five areas listed below.

**NOTE:** Although the Princeton and Bluefield, West Virginia clubs reside in another unit, the ACBL has previously granted permission for their clubs to participate under the jurisdiction of Unit 231.

1. Cities of Roanoke and Martinsville; Counties of Craig, Franklin, Henry and Roanoke
2. City of Radford; Counties of Floyd, Giles, Montgomery and Patrick
3. City of Galax; Counties of Carroll, Grayson, Pulaski and Wythe
4. Bluefield-Princeton area: Counties of Bland and Tazewell
5. Cities of Bristol and Norton; Counties of Buchanan, Dickerson, Lee, Russell, Scott, Smyth, Washington and Wise.

## **Article II. Membership**

1. Any individual who resides within the geographic playing area of the Unit is eligible for membership. Individuals may apply for membership by submitting an official application form to ACBL.
2. Membership in the Unit automatically carries with it membership in the ACBL. Should a member change his/her official residence to a place outside the area of the Unit, he/she shall cease to be a member of the Unit.
3. A member remains in good standing unless:
  - a. He/she has failed to pay the annual dues within six (6) months following the beginning of the Unit's fiscal year, which will be January 1.
  - b. He/she has been disciplined under Article VI. 5. of these By-Laws.

## **Article III. Dues**

1. Upon receipt of a bill from the ACBL, members shall make payment of annual dues to the ACBL.
2. The Board of Directors shall have no power to levy any special assessment.
3. Any individual who is elected to membership shall pay his/her dues for the entire year without abatement.
4. The Unit Secretary shall be reimbursed for costs incurred.

## **Article IV. Membership Meetings**

1. A special meeting of the Board of Directors may be called at any time by members of the Board or by the Unit President upon ten (10) days written notice to its membership.
2. To constitute a quorum, no fewer than seven (7) members shall be present at any annual or special meeting called for the transaction of business.

## **Article V. Unit Board of Directors**

1. The affairs of the Unit shall be managed and conducted by the Board of Directors. The Board shall consist of no fewer than 12 individuals, all of whom must be members of the ACBL. Each of the five geographic areas of the Unit (see Article I) shall be represented on the Board, if possible.
2. Each Director shall hold office for a period of three (3) years coinciding with the calendar year of the Unit which is January 1 of each year. He/she will continue in office until his/her successor has been duly elected.

3. Any Board member who misses two (2) consecutive meetings without adequate cause may be asked to resign at the discretion of the Board of Directors.
4. Any midterm vacancy on the Board of Directors may be filled by appointment made by the Board members. The individual appointed to fulfill the term shall hold office during the unexpired term.

#### **Article VI. Duties of the Board of Directors**

The duties of the Board of Directors shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

1. To acquire, hold, administer, maintain and dispose of all of the property of Unit 231.
2. To appropriate the funds of the Unit for the purposes as set forth in these By-Laws.
3. To audit all receipts and disbursements of the Unit. (The Board of Directors will supervise and control all of the business of the Unit included in, but not limited to, the conduct of tournaments.)
4. To hold a minimum of one meeting every three (3) years expressly for the election of members to the Board of Directors. (Upon selection of the members of the Board, the Board will then select the Unit officers from that group.)
5. To censure, suspend, expel or otherwise discipline any member. In making such decisions, the Board will follow the guidelines and procedures as stated in the latest revision of the ACBL's **CODE OF DISCIPLINARY REGULATIONS** (see [www.ACBL.org](http://www.ACBL.org))

#### **Article VII. Unit Officers**

1. The officers of the Unit shall consist of a President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer.
2. The Board of Directors shall elect all officers from among the members of the Board.
3. The officers shall hold office for three (3) years or until their successors have been duly elected.
4. The duties of the officers shall be as outlined by the By-Laws of the ACBL. Minimum duties shall include the following:
  - a. The President shall preside at all meetings of the Unit and of the Board of Directors. He/she shall be an ex-officio member of all committees. He/she shall represent the Unit at all functions.
  - b. The Vice President shall perform the duties of the President in his/her absence when requested. He/she shall maintain an up-to-date Unit membership list, including e-mail addresses if available.

- c. The Secretary shall keep a permanent record of all Unit and Board of Directors meetings. In addition, he/she shall send ten (10) days written notice of meetings to the board members.
- d. The Treasurer shall receive all monies of the Unit and maintain an accurate account of receipts and disbursements. He/she shall pay out funds by order of the Board of Directors. He/she shall make arrangements for a yearly audit of the Unit's finances.

**Article VIII. Tournaments**

The Unit shall have complete authority over all tournaments conducted by it. All Tournaments are subject to the regulation of the ACBL.

**Article IX. Committees**

The President, with the approval of the Board of Directors, shall appoint such committees as may be necessary to perform the functions of the Unit. The President will set the charge for the committees. The standing committees are:

- 1. Tournament Committee
- 2. Conduct and Ethics Committee
- 3. Membership Committee
- 4. Education Committee

**Article X. Amendments to the By-Laws**

Amendment to the by-Laws may be made by the Unit Board of Directors upon receipt of a petition signed by at least ten (10) members of the Unit. The petition shall then be submitted to the Unit Secretary at any special meeting expressly called for this purpose. The petition must also be signed by at least six (6) members of the Board of Directors. The Unit Secretary has the duty to incorporate the text of the proposed amendment in the notice of the special meeting to the membership. The consensus of two thirds of all members present and voting shall be required to pass any amendment.

**Revision Date Approved** \_\_\_\_\_

**Unit President** \_\_\_\_\_

**Director** \_\_\_\_\_

**Director** \_\_\_\_\_

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