

August 2009

**Report of ACBL Board of Directors Meetings**

**Washington, D.C. NABC, July 2009**

Terrific! Success! Great! Wonderful! These are the words that I heard from everyone I spoke with--players (local and out-of-towners), workers and officials. I certainly feel that way also even though our table count did not reach the number we had in 2002--I knew it was unrealistic to hope that it would. However, we did make mincemeat out of the official table count estimates since we were 1100 tables over. The three previous NABCs did not make the official estimate for their tournament. The greatest thing we had going was all the local support, not just our great dedicated, knowledgeable, hard-working volunteers, but also those who just came to play. We do give credit to the hotel for building additional garage spaces and reducing their regular parking charge for us.

At the Goodwill Committee meeting a deserving local member is always honored and usually other special people are given goodwill pins. I had planned with the chairman, Aileen Osofsky to give pins to Mari McColl and Dan Per-Lee, who have been with me at each NABC since 1984, and David and Avril Rodney, who started with me in 1993 and hold the title of being the only chairmen of a children's program that made money. David was called upon by Aileen to introduce the primary honoree, Margot Hennings (or so I thought). Margot was my assistant in 1993 and the best thing I did thereafter was to convince her to take over as Tournament Chairman. Then, Aileen called Millard to the podium and the spotlight turned on me. It turns out that I was the Goodwill honoree for my years of service and dedication to bridge. Thank you to Aileen who chose me for this honor and to Millard Nachtwey and Bruce Reeve who presented me at the meeting. Also thank you to all who spoke to me with their good wishes and congratulations. I feel very honored.

In addition to those mentioned above that received goodwill pins, I have also appointed Richard Ferrin, Washington DC to the Goodwill committee and George Lewis and Jacki Shuman, both from Richmond, VA, to the Charity committee.

Now I suppose I should tell you what happened at the Board meetings. I did attend all of them despite preparing dinner for the Board the night they arrived (my son helped), preparing and hosting a reception for the GNT their first night of play (Wednesday) and getting ready to feed the workers throughout the tournament starting Thursday. In addition I made all the committees I am on that met during the tournament, plus I "scootered" around to my daily seeding duties before game time.

We want to welcome new members to our District. Currituck and Dare counties in North Carolina (Outer Banks area) have officially joined Unit 146 (Virginia Beach).

The lease-purchase agreement on the property in Horn Lake, Mississippi has been approved and signed for our new headquarters. They are working on finishing the interior of the building and, if all goes well, we hope to occupy it by the end of the year.

A few motions were deferred to San Diego, and given my schedule here, I didn't mind. Among the deferred items are:

1. Changing the masterpoint rating of Special Games (also known as the triple-point games) at clubs from 100% sectional-rated black points to 90% sectional-rated points: club charity games, club junior fund games, club international fund games, club educational foundation games and club GNT fund raiser games. This was deferred to get data on how many clubs are holding these games, where they are located and other pertinent information. This is a current hot-button issue with many ideas being thrown in the pot.

2. Assignment, reassignment and corrections of trophies.

a. GNT Championship flight Morehead trophy was given to the Grand National Teams winner and then when Flight B was added it was given to the Flight A or top-flight winner. When the 0-5000 flight was added and given the name flight A, the trophy should have gone with the championship or top flight and should be corrected now.

b. Events never assigned - Open Flight A - Bobby Goldman  
Open Summer Swiss - Al Roth  
Senior Knockout Teams - Grant Baze

c. Reassignment - Non-LM Pairs to Eddie Manfield from Skinny Miles  
Mini LM Pairs (LM-5000) David Bruce - Marcus  
Mini LM Pairs (LM-1500) Sally Young - Kem Card

NOTE: Not deferred and passed unanimously was the request to rescind the requirement to engrave yearly winners on the trophy or on a separate plaque.

3. Changes to the Disciplinary Sanction Guidelines for conduct and ethics offenses.

4. A committee will be formed with management, board members and non-board members to examine and suggest changes to the relationship of clubs and management. Before this motion will be discussed in San Diego, a subcommittee is examining the relationship of ACBL to clubs running sanctioned games.

5. Eliminate the requirement to pre-alert short (5 card weak 2s and 6 card 3 level preempts) and undisciplined (less than Q high) preempts. Replace the pre-alert with an alert upon occurrence. This has been referred to the Competitions and

Conventions committee to be included in their report on modifications to the alert procedure.

A committee will be appointed by the president to review the process for approval of permanent regionals and the allocation of regionals. This came about because District 22 had requested an additional regional to be held north of Los Angeles. This is the District that surrounds LA County (District 23). District 23 had “loaned” 22 a regional sanction they weren’t using this year which turned out to be successful. Subsequently District 23 decided to use all of their allotted sanctions beginning next year. So, the Board granted District 22 a one-time regional in 2010 and we are looking at regional allocations, which we haven’t done for several years.

The annual masterpoint races will be determined by masterpoints won in ACBL sanctioned events (excluding the Internet). Basically what this means is that points won in WBF events or in USBF trials for WBF events will no longer count in the races.

We did make one more change to the Spring NABC schedule that I think is an improvement. We traded the Silidor Open Pairs, currently played on the 1<sup>st</sup> Friday and Saturday with the IMP Pairs, currently played on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday and Friday. Now the IMP pairs will start on the first Friday along with the new 3-day Platinum Pairs event. The Open Pairs will take the Thursday-Friday spot, just before the last weekend. This way we don’t have two NABC+ match-point pair events at the same time.

Management recommended that the site of the March 14-24, 2013 Spring NABC be awarded to the Hyatt Regency St. Louis Riverfront and the Hilton St. Louis at the Ballpark. This was approved despite my questioning and final abstention. It is going to be two separate tournaments (the two sites are blocks apart.) The secondary hotel, Hilton, will just have all the early games (10:00am or 10:30am) and includes the I/N program. Everything else will be at the other hotel. Maybe it will work technically, but the people at the early hotel will certainly not feel part of a “large” event or happening and may just stay home. Bad weather (it is March) will really sink the ship since there are no walkways or connections between the hotels as there was in Boston and previous sites. Another thing, going back to St. Louis in six years is certainly way too soon. It is not on the six year rotation list with Las Vegas, Orlando, Reno, Washington, San Francisco and other places we wish to frequent often.

Currently, at sponsor option, in stratified events the stratification may be based on the average masterpoint holding of the team or pair. Now we have added that this may be done in stratiflighted and limited pair and team events as well, once the flight of the pair or team is determined, also at sponsor option.

We rescinded the declaration that the first Saturday night of each NABC would be dress-up night. This was a nice idea but it just didn’t work.

The official date of the WBF World Bridge Series in Philadelphia is October 1 through 16, 2010. Once those dates were set we moved the WBL sectional from October to August.

It seems that more and more I keep running out of time. Usually I just need two or three more days. For this tournament two or three more weeks would not have been enough. Yes, I will have a schedule and fliers out for next summer's July 5<sup>th</sup> Regional at the Marriott Bethesda North soon, but I just couldn't make it for the Nationals. The one thing I am really sorry I couldn't manage was a Memorial to those volunteers who worked on previous NABCs here and are no longer with us. Let me close with their names and some of the positions they held. I am sure there are some, if not many, that I have missed. Let me know and I will put them in my next report.

Gale Clarke	Spouse Entertainment, Hostess
Izzy Cohen	Sponsor
Rae Dethlefsen	Program
Bette Dudka	Co-Chairman, Late Night Entertainment
Pat Eyman	Registration, Caddies
Carole Geagley	Information, Children's program
Madge Gallant	Partnerships, Spouse transportation, treasurer
Don Glover	Restaurant Guide, Hospitality
Charlie Gregory	Entertainment
Sylvia Levy	Entertainment
Lois Anne Lewis	Entertainment
Terry Michaels	Marcus Cup Committee
Peggy Reich	Publicity
Jeanne Stenger	Event Coordinator, Treasurer
Mel Welles	Board of Directors, NVBA
Marge Wilson	Workers Suite, signs
Jim Wood	Program

General Volunteers

Lee Biggs; Steve Czecha; Ben Laden; Gloria Schulstad; Manfred Sobernheim;  
Ziggy Tucker; Bill Wilson