

December 2009

**Report of ACBL Board of Directors Meetings**

**San Diego NABC, November 2009**

There are really only two primary measurements for a good NABC venue - the location (city) and the facility where it is held (playing rooms and hotel rooms). On a 0-10 scale, San Diego was at least a 10 in both areas. San Diego is a desirable, attractive city and a place to go any time of the year – spring, summer or fall. They have no winter. The new facility is magnificent. It is downtown beside the bay and I think almost every room has a great view. Certainly mine did. The playing rooms were on two floors in large, beautiful, dividable ballrooms and the entertainment room was on another floor in a smaller ballroom.

Speaking of entertainment, I don't usually get to go, but I made sure I went to one of the five performances of *My Fair (Little Old) Lady* which Peter Rank first wrote and produced in the early 60s and revived it especially for this tournament. It was really good. We were also entertained at Thanksgiving dinner by dancers and singers from Mexico. As usual the local volunteers were wonderful, hard-working, always visible and as if we needed it at this great place, went out of their way to make everyone feel welcome.

Continuing on with NABC sites, Management brought forth several recommendations for future sites, which were all approved. In my previous report I had mentioned that the 2013 Spring NABC would be in St. Louis at two separate hotels several blocks apart. One hotel would have all the early games including the I/N program and everything else would be at the other hotel. Fortunately, Management thought better of this arrangement and moved to the hotel and convention center directly across the street that we used in 2007. This is the Renaissance/ America's Center March 14 - 24. The other sites approved with final contracts and hotels to be negotiated are:

- |           |      |                                   |                          |
|-----------|------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Spring | 2014 | Dallas, TX                        | March 20-31              |
| 2. Fall   | 2014 | Providence, RI                    | November 27 - December 7 |
| 3. Summer | 2015 | Minneapolis, MN or<br>Chicago, IL | July                     |
| 4. Fall   | 2015 | Denver, CO                        | November 26 - December 8 |
| 5. Fall   | 2016 | Orlando, FL                       | November 24 - December 4 |
| 6. Spring | 2018 | Philadelphia, PA                  | March 18 – 28            |

Interior construction is on its way at the new headquarters in Horn Lake, Mississippi and should be completed and ready to move into by March 1. They had initially hoped to be in by the end of this year, but that was not realistic. The

museum/library will not be ready until later, so I would anticipate a grand opening later, perhaps April. I am sure it will be in *The Bulletin*.

We did not come to any conclusions on what to do, if anything, about Special Games which are also known unofficially as “triple point games.” We had a motion to change the masterpoint rating of these games from 100% sectional-rated to 90% sectional-rated, but decided we should really look at the whole picture and not just make some piecemeal change. In order to consider additional options, we added another motion limiting the number of these Special Games. Since we really didn’t have time or complete information on club participation or money raised for the various funds, it was deferred to a committee to be appointed. This committee will work on this between January and the Spring meeting in Reno where they will present their recommendations. I can now report that this year’s President, Rich DeMartino, has indeed appointed said committee and I am the chairman.

The trophy assignments, reassignments and corrections that were deferred from the last meeting were passed. I am particularly pleased to announce that the Non-LM Pairs Trophy will be the Eddie Manfield trophy from now on. (Eddie was a member of our District.) I am sorry we didn’t get it done in time for this year since the winners were local: Stephen Drodge, McLean VA and Dan Emmons, Fairfax VA. In addition the GNT Open Flight A event will have the Bobby Goldman trophy, the Open Summer Swiss Teams the Al Roth trophy, and the Senior Knockout Teams the Grant Baze trophy.

Since this was the fall meeting, it means voting on the budget for the following year. As usual you will see our District number on the nay side. We are raising membership dues, which hasn’t been done in a long time. The increase is \$2.00 which I approved of, and, if we really need more money, \$3.00 would be fine. Our dues are cheaper than almost any organization. The new increase is effective April 1, 2010. What I objected to was the 8% increase in director session fees to all the tournaments -- regionals and sectionals. Please note this has nothing to do with what the directors are personally paid. It only has to do with the fees that are sent in to ACBL along with sanction fees and other expenses. The new scale, effective March 29, 2010, is:

<u>Director Rank</u>	<u>Old Rate</u>	<u>New Rate</u>
National	\$155	\$167.40
Associate	155	167.40
TD	145	156.60
ATD	115	124.20
Local	92.35	99.70

At this meeting, instead of deferring a lot of motions, we actually defeated several right away. Two of them had to do with the North American Pairs. One was to add a fourth flight from 0-5000 MPs and the second was to change the Flight B upper limit from 2000 MPs to 2500 MPs. Outside of the Mid-Atlantic and Florida, most Districts have difficulty getting enough tables in the top flight to have viable games. They might

find it impossible with even higher limits. We also defeated a motion to increase the number of strats in stratified events or flights in flighted events from three to five.

There was a request from several members in different areas of the country to remove the restriction that no more than 1/3 of the masterpoints needed toward rank advancement can be from online play. This is the only defeated motion that I thought seemed reasonable to pass. The player is not winning any race, it does not affect making Life Master or Grand Life Master just the ranks in between. It went down in one of our typical 13 to 12 votes.

Another defeated motion that was trying to solve a problem, but not the right way, I believe, was to convert the Mini-Spingolds into Bracketed KOs of 32 team brackets. This would defeat the whole purpose of the Mini-Spingold which was to mirror the “big” game for those with fewer masterpoints. This motion was introduced because we were too successful in Washington in the 0-1500 Mini-Spingold. There was too big a cut on the first day and they had to play short matches because we (the Board) had placed a restriction on the number of days allowed for the 0-1500 event a couple of years after it was on the schedule. There was no such restriction placed on the 0-5000 event, but they were included in the proposed motion. The way to solve the problem is to take off the restriction on the number of days and it would be nice if that motion, which I am submitting, will pass in Reno in time for the next event in the summer.

The Mini-Blue Ribbon will now be a true like-event. It will consist of six sessions: two qualifying, two semifinal and two final running concurrent with the Blue Ribbon Pairs. This is for players with a Blue Ribbon qualification and no more than 5000 masterpoints.

Beginning next year, we will be electing the new ACBL President at the Fall meeting instead of the Summer meeting.

The minimum number of boards required for a Newcomer game is reduced to six. This is a reduction from ten. Newcomer games are limited to players with fewer than 20 masterpoints, although clubs can set a lower maximum. The reason for the reduction to six boards comes from bridge teachers who indicate that trying to play ten boards after a lesson makes the class last too long and the new players lose interest. Since the object is to get the students to play bridge, it was an easy request to grant.

Additional restrictions for members not in good standing were added. They cannot:

1. Receive any subsidy from ACBL.
2. Participate in and receive recognition for achievement in masterpoint races.
3. Receive recognition for achievement in masterpoint rankings on the ACBL web site or in its official publication.
4. Have an article published on the ACBL web site or in its official publication.

This was the year our District elected Board of Governors representatives to assume office on January 1, 2010. Since only Barb Doran, who has been a member for many years, filed for the position, she was automatically elected, but that left two vacancies. The District elected Fred King and Will Williams to fill those vacancies. Congratulations, and I look forward to seeing you at the BOG meetings in the future.

In my last report I mentioned some of my Goodwill appointments for this year that were presented at the meeting in Washington ( Mari McColl, Dan Per-Lee, David and Avril Rodney). Added to that list is Richard Ferrin and the Charity appointments are George Lewis and Jacki Shuman. Congratulations.

Finally, since I am accidentally sending out this report after the Williamsburg Regional (not before as planned), I will repeat the announcement I made at the District 6 meeting there. This is my 18<sup>th</sup> year on the Board of Directors and the last year in this current term of office. I have decided to retire and not run for office beginning in 2011. I will continue with my other involvements such as tournaments.