

## SENTIMENTAL AND SOGGY IN SEATTLE

*Report from District Director Margot Hennings*

In a nutshell, I loved Seattle despite the rain and the fact that it was not a “stay and play under one roof” site. The Convention Center was a short distance from the side door of the Sheraton where I stayed but further from the other three host hotels, so I would appreciate your feedback on “convention center sites”—there are a number of them coming up and although they do not provide playing space that is as convenient as ballrooms in hotels, the lighting and temperature controls are often better and the extra space that is generally available allows us to use more screens earlier in the national events, as has been requested of management by the ACBL Board of Directors (BOD). Lots of restaurants—and GOOD restaurants—were within 3-4 blocks of the hotels. The local tournament committee provided an umbrella for a registration gift and some great entertainment and after-session food so all who came seemed to be dry, well-fed, and happy—it would be nice to go back before another 18-year hiatus—1993 is when the last Seattle NABC was held.

Before I summarize all of the happenings in Seattle, I want to have a small commercial break.....

**2012 is the ACBL's 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary!** Celebratory events will be held throughout the year but especially during the Spring NABC in Memphis, with a special celebration—details to be announced—on the first Saturday, March 17, and St. Patty's Day to boot! Plan now to attend some or all of this NABC and be sure to visit the Museum and Hall of Fame at ACBL Headquarters in Horn Lake while you are there—ACBL will be running daily shuttle buses from the tournament site to Horn Lake and back throughout the NABC. It is a very special place—it is fascinating and it will make you proud! Also, the latest edition of the *Encyclopedia of Bridge* is a terrific book full of the most complete set of interesting and amusing facts, biographies, and complete set of bridge terms you will find anywhere. And it is not just a book but also two CDs chock full of the hard copy info from the book and biographies and tournament results. District 6 players are well-represented among top-masterpoint holders, Hall of Fame members, and other anecdotal references.

**Bridge in Seattle.** Seattle treated three of our D6 players particularly well at the tables—Harry Gellis (Richmond) and Ed Lazarus (Baltimore) won the Super Seniors Pairs NABC event, scoring platinum points and a national win. Alan Schwartz (Northern VA) became a Grand Life Master when he placed overall in the Blue Ribbon Pairs to exceed the 10,000 MPs required for this status— Alan satisfied the other, more- difficult-to-attain requirement for GLM status of an NABC+ event win when he won the 2002 Lebar IMP Pairs. Congratulations to all!

***Sentimental and Retrospective in Seattle—Nadine Wood.*** The way the BOD gets work done at NABCs is through motions discussed both via email in advance of an NABC and during the face-to-face meetings three times a year. One motion that I co-sponsored in Seattle with Bob Heller, D7 Director, and Craig Robinson, 2011 ACBL President, was to re-name The President’s Volunteer of the Year award to The Nadine Wood ACBL Volunteer of the Year. I am pleased to report the Board unanimously passed this motion and the plaque that hangs in the corridor outside the Museum in Horn Lake is on its way to be re-engraved with its new name as I write this. Nadine simply was the quintessential volunteer and it is appropriate for her to be recognized in this manner—as a maker of the motion, I was thrilled with the outcome. As Bob Heller put it, “Nadine was to volunteerism as Aileen Osofsky was to Goodwill.” In addition, I organized a Celebration of Life for Nadine on November 28 following the evening session so that those who could not attend our local Celebration back in September could share their memories and meet Nadine’s family. Her husband, Roland, as well as her brother-in-law, his daughter and her husband from Olympia, WA were able to be there and it was a fitting tribute with over 140 attending.

***Sentimental and Forward-Looking in Seattle—CEOs, Presidents, and Board Members.*** After ten years as ACBL CEO, Jay Baum retired and “youngster” Robert Hartman at age 40 took on this position beginning in early November. We bade Jay a fond farewell and welcomed Robert at his first BOD meeting with just a couple of weeks on the job under his belt. Jay looked very relaxed and enjoyed his retirement dinner and meeting-free bridge during the tournament while Robert bore up well under the grueling schedule of four full days of Board meetings in advance of the tournament plus individual meetings with all 25 District Directors throughout the tournament. How did he manage a top-ten finish in the 0-2000 “Mini-Blues” with so many mandatory extra-curricular activities?! Craig Robinson of D4 (our neighbor to the north) concluded his year as ACBL President and Sharon Anderson of D14 (Minnesota) was elected President for 2012. Craig’s travels throughout the country during his presidency in 2011 on his “100 clubs in 100 days” tour was a terrific use of his time and the President’s budget and should bear fruit in terms of better understanding across the multiple levels of bridge “administration.” Sharon served on the selection committee for Robert and I believe the two of them will work very well together in the coming year, bringing needed changes to both ACBL management and Board administration. It will be an exciting, challenging, transition year and I look forward to it. In addition, the BOD welcomed Glenda Calkins who will replace Joan Gerard as the BOD representative from D3—Joan is retiring after 26 years on the Board and her historical perspective and continuing expertise in many subjects will be sorely missed.

### ***Business in Seattle.***

- ***Other Elections and Appointments***—In addition to the folks mentioned above, numerous other elections were held and certified, and appointments were made. Key among these are:
  - The elections of Paul Janicki, District 2; Glenda Calkins, District 3; Craig Robinson, District 4; Georgia Heth, District 8; Sharon Anderson, District 14; Dan Morse, District 16; Bruce Blakely, District 21; and Ken Monzingo, District 22 to the Board of Directors of the American Contract Bridge League for a three-year term, January 1, 2012 through December 31, 2014, were duly certified.
  - Bruce Blakely and Georgia Heth were elected as two of the five ACBL representatives to the World Bridge Federation—Georgia was re-elected and Bruce filled the position formerly held by Jonathan Steinberg. Joan Gerard, Al Levy, and George Retek hold the remaining positions—all are three-year terms with elections staggered over a three-year period.
  - Mike Cappelletti and Steve Robinson were elected by the unit boards of our district to be the D6 First and Second Alternates, respectively, to the ACBL Board, each for a three-year term beginning in January 2012. If I am unable to attend a meeting or must step down for any reason, the First Alternate would automatically substitute for/become your District Director, and if he were unable to serve, the Second Alternate would do so.
  - Gregory Johnson, former NASA astronaut and favorite personality at the Youth NABCs held in conjunction with the Summer NABC, was selected as the ACBL 2012 Volunteer of the Year—he will be the first to receive this honor under the award’s new name, “The Nadine Wood Volunteer of the Year Award.”
  - Charles Gill from D9 was selected as the 2011 Aileen Osofsky Goodwill Member of the Year.
- ***Finance***—The 2012 budget of just under \$16.5M was approved. This includes an anticipated loss of \$118K due primarily (\$85,000) to one-time expenses for the ACBL 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary and overlapping CEO salaries through June—Jay is staying on to complete several special reports/white papers as part of his “early out” contract negotiations. The first report will focus on the expected activities of an ACBL CEO—not the standard organizational aspects of the job, but the unique customer (bridge club and player) demands as well as important “calendar events” that an ACBL CEO must acknowledge/attend—from internal and external management reporting dates to dates of regional, national, and world bridge tournaments, The second report will analyze the current structure of the tournament director organization and suggest improvements and forward-looking measures to address needs for director training, incentives for advancement, and successful transition as long-time senior directors retire and newer

directors take their place. The 2012 budget also included tournament sanction fee increases of four cents and tournament director fee increases of 4%. For this latter increase, this means that the following new fees are in effect beginning January 1:

*National, Associate National Director \$174.10 raised to \$181.00*

*Tournament Director \$159.10 raised to \$165.50*

*Associate Tournament Director \$129.80 raised to \$135.00*

*Local Tournament Director \$103.70 raised to \$108.00*

- **Marketing, Juniors, Education**—This is one of the committees of which I am a member. A separate education status report will no longer be produced as the subject of that report is now part of the CEO/Management Report at every Board meeting, but the contents are something I think would be of interest to many of you so I will try to be sure that you are kept informed of interesting and important activities/decisions that could affect your local bridge community. A strategic plan for marketing for 2012 was also presented and I would be happy to share that with anyone who is interested as well. Two specific motions affecting Juniors/youth bridge were:
  - The motion **Item 113-130: Junior Fund Money** to consider the uses of Junior Fund monies was **deferred by a vote of 22-3** (I voted in favor of deferral) to the Spring meeting in Memphis. This has been a controversial motion due to the inclusion of the \$50,000 that is currently paid by ACBL annually to the United State Bridge Federation (USBF—established when the effort to have bridge included as an official Olympic sport was first started) USBF to support our Junior Teams—the argument is whether so much money is needed, exactly what the USBF uses the monies for, and how those monies, which are raised during Junior Fund month, might be better used.
  - The motion **Item 113-131: Teacher Stipend** stating that a teacher must be a current ACBL member in good standing in order to receive the ACBL School Bridge Program Teacher Stipend was **carried unanimously** and will be **effective beginning January 2, 2012**. This motion is only good sense but had not been specifically stated before. *This motion allows me a second “commercial announcement” in that teacher stipends are only a small part of the monies to support school bridge programs and other youth programs that are widely available through ACBL and Educational and Charity Foundation grants—see my upcoming special report to unit presidents on this!*
  - Although technically a motion under Bridge/Tournaments (see next discussion category), two proposed Youth NABCs were approved (**Item 113-55: 2012 – 2013 Youth NABCs**), **unanimously** for Philadelphia in '12 in conjunction with the Summer NABC at the Marriott and passed with one nay vote and one abstention for Atlanta in '13 in conjunction with the Summer NABC at the Hyatt Regency.

- **Bridge**—As is almost always the case—and appropriately so, since bridge is the essence of the existence of the Board—many motions were put forth and discussed.

- I was among one of 16 Board members who voted to *defer* the Strength of Field changes to the Masterpoint chart *to the Spring 2012 meeting*. This motion had been given a “first Reading in Toronto over the summer and a second reading is needed before it can be passed. The final paragraph in the motion is key, as the Board seeks to ensure that there are as few “unintended consequences” as possible. As this motion is somewhat complicated, I have included it in its entirety below:

**Item 113-161: Strength of Field Formula (112-154)**

A Strength of Field (SOF) formula shall be implemented for Regional and Sectional Pair and Swiss Team games. Implementation of the SOF formula will be subject to full board approval of detailed specifications to be delivered to the Board on or before November 1, 2011 meetings.

The Strength of Field committee will continue the development of a SOF award system.

This system is to be implemented as early as January 1st, 2012, subject to necessary changes being made to the current or new ACBLscore program.

The Strength of Field committee is directed to deliver a full set of specifications no later than November 1, 2011.

The first year after implementation, the Masterpoint committee may make adjustments to the formula if and when it becomes clear that the new formula is having an unintended effect. Such adjustments are approved by this motion and do not require additional Board action.

- ***Effective January 2, 2012, and carried unanimously***, some awards for National Championship events and club online games were slightly reduced (**Item 113-160: Masterpoints (112-153)**) based on recent historical trends/table counts:

Open Pairs (no other event, four sessions) changed from 130 to 125.

Red Ribbon Pairs changed from 70 to 60.

Canadian Open Pairs Championships changed from 75 to 65.

Women’s KO Teams changed from 140 to 120.

USBF Women’s Team Trials changed from 140 to 120.

USBF Senior Team Trials changed from 50 to 120.

Canadian Senior Team Championships changed to 60 masterpoints, instead of being computed by the general formula.

In addition, and part of the above motion, the Reduction Factor for club online games “not restricted by masterpoints” of fewer than 18 boards will be 60%.

- A Subjective Seeding method (**Item 113-25: Subjective Seeding in the Vanderbilt**) for use alongside “traditional” seeding was ***unanimously approved*** on a trial basis for the 2012 Vanderbilt Knockout Teams at the Spring NABC in Memphis. The subjective seeding method to be used is as follows:
  - For the 2012 Vanderbilt, the event will be seeded objectively (according to the “New Seeding Rules”), and then (experimentally) re-seeded subjectively by a “Subjective Seeding Committee\*” The process is summarized below: After the Director-in-Charge determines a team’s average Seeding Points (SPs) in accordance with the “New Seeding Rules,” and before shuffling in groups, the Subjective Seeding Committee will review the team’s placement in the bracket. The Committee may ask the opinions of other players.
  - The Committee cannot change the seeding group of teams seeded in the top 16. Teams 17-20 may be moved down one “shuffling group.” Teams 21 and up can be moved up or down one “shuffling group,” but teams in the bottom shuffling group can only be moved up one group. The shuffling groups are 17-20, 21-24, 25-28, 29-32, then in groups of 8 through team 64, then in groups of 16. For example, a team in the 29-32 group could become seeded 33-40, or become seeded 25-28. For every team changed, another team must be moved reciprocally to replace it.
  - Any seeding change would be made before shuffling, and require a majority vote of the committee. (Three members constitute a majority.)
- Two motions for rank advancement were ***passed*** by the Board in Seattle, the first of which represents a reversal by the Board of its previous position. The first motion garnered 6 nay votes and the second, 5 nay votes, so the Board is obviously still not unanimous in its position—***I voted affirmatively on both***. The first motion **Item 113-27: Online Masterpoints used for Rank Advancement** will be ***effective on January 2, 2012***, and removes restrictions on the use of online points for rank advancement requirements. This eliminates the confusion between having online points count fully towards a player’s stratification/flight status for events but only a third of those same points being counted towards a player’s eligibility for rank advancement. My affirmative vote for this motion was solely due to the additional caveats placed on rank advancement by the second. The second motion **Item 113-28: Requirement for Achieving Additional Life Master Rankings**, which increases the number of pigmented points needed for rank advancement above the rank of Life Master, helps make the ranks still meaningful in terms of face-to-face play at clubs and tournaments. The changes, which are ***effective on January 1, 2012***, are detailed below:

- Silver Life Master: Replace "A Life Master with 1000" with "A Life Master with (a) over 1000 masterpoints, including (b) no fewer than a combination of 200 silver, red, gold, or platinum points"
- Gold Life Master: Replace "A Life Master with 2500" with "A Life Master with (a) over 2500 masterpoints including (b) no fewer than a combination of 500 silver, red, gold, or platinum points"
- Diamond Life Master: Replace "A Life Master with 5000" with "A Life Master with (a) over 5000 masterpoints, including (b) no fewer than a combination of 250 gold or platinum points and (c) no fewer than a combination of 1000 silver, red, gold or platinum points."
- Emerald Life Master: Replace "A Life Master with 7500" with "A Life Master with (a) over 7500 masterpoints, including (b) no fewer than a combination of 500 gold or platinum points and (c) no fewer than a combination of 1500 silver, red, gold or platinum points."
- Platinum Life Master: Replace "A Life Master with 10 000" with "A Life Master with (a) over 10 000 masterpoints, including (b) no fewer than 100 platinum points, (c) no fewer than a combination of 750 gold or platinum points, and (d) no fewer than a combination of 2000 silver, red, gold or platinum points."
- Grand Life Master: Replace "A Life Master with 10000" with "A Life Master with (a) over 10 000 masterpoints, including (b) no fewer than 100 platinum points, (c) no fewer than a combination of 750 gold or platinum points, and (d) no fewer than a combination of 2000 silver, red, gold or platinum points"

These changes will apply to all players who attained Life Master after 1989.

These changes will not cause any player to lose the rank which he or she has obtained as of December 31, 2011. In addition, each player who has obtained the rank of Life Master or higher as of December 31, 2011, will not have to fulfill the new 2012 rank advancement requirements to obtain the next higher rank advancement. However, all players will be required to fulfill the new 2012 rank advancement requirements for any further rank advancements beyond the first advancement achieved after January 1, 2012.

*Example:* A current Silver Life Master on December 31, 2011 would retain the current requirements for Gold Life Master, but would need to fulfill the new requirements for Diamond Life Master.

- As a further nod to the integrity of the highest rank awarded by the ACBL—that of Grand Life Master—a motion **Item 113-29: Grand Life Master Qualification** was passed to prohibit a player who has been expelled or suspended for a total

of 120 days or more for CDR Ethics Violations, as described in Appendix B of the ACBL CDR, from being awarded the rank of Grand Life Master, even if the other requirements are satisfied. I was a co-maker of this motion and was pleased when it ***passed 19 – 6 with an effective date of January 1, 2012.*** It is interesting to note that several of the nay votes were cast because although they were in favor of GLM status not being awarded to those players described above, they did not approve of the second paragraph of the motion which allowed someone previously deprived of this status for those reasons to apply for reconsideration by the Appeals & Charges Committee of the ACBL Board of Directors. Pre-requisites for application are substantial contributions to the bridge community and the demonstration of exemplary behavior, as well as at least an elapse of 5 years from completion of sentence.

- As directed by the Board of Governors at its meeting in Toronto, the Board of Directors reconsidered **Item 112-44 GNT Entry Fees.** This motion, now Item 113-159, proposed that the ACBL will waive all entry fees for the NABC final GNT events. This ***motion failed 12 – 13*** despite my affirmative vote for it. The failure of this motion was not for lack of BOD interest in supporting the GNTs—to the contrary, part of the reason for its failure was that many on the Board (including those like I who voted in favor of the motion) believe that the concept of the GNTs is in need of close examination and increased attention by the Board to help make this grass-roots event bigger and better. Momentum for this was brought to the forefront in Seattle when a first-ever GNT/NAP Forum of event coordinators, ably led by Mark Aquino of D25, was held. Based on the fact that D6 is well-known for its success in organizing and promoting both the GNTs and the NAPs—due largely to long-time GNT/NAP Committee Chair Bill Cole, NAP Coordinator Barb Doran, and GNT Coordinator Lynn Jones (formerly Rae Dethlefsen)—and my rather vocal support of this new Forum, ACBL President Sharon Anderson has named me Chair of a Task Force/Committee to work with the Forum to evaluate organization, ACBL support, and marketing of the NAPs and the GNTs. This Task Force will comprise members of both the Board and the Forum and will meet by telecom prior to the next formal Board meeting in Memphis. The Forum has already scheduled another meeting in Memphis as well, for Saturday, March 17<sup>th</sup>.
- ***Bridge / Conditions of Contest***—A number of motions surfaced under the auspices of this committee.
  - **Item 113-40: Conditions of Contest:** The 2012-2013 Conditions of Contest were ***approved 21 – 4*** (I voted in favor of this motion) with the following changes:
    1. All instances of the phrase “team of four” will be replaced by “team(s)”.

- 2. All references to Butch Campbell in the Conditions of Contest will be removed.
- 3. Item #8 under Participating Clubs in the Conditions of Contests for STaCs will be amended as follows: Non-playing directors are encouraged but not required for games with no more than one section of 17 tables or fewer. Non-playing directors are required in games larger than 17 tables or with two or more sections. Club directors who are eligible to play will receive masterpoints.
- **Item 113-43: Conditions of Contest NAP 2012 - 2013** proposed to amend the current Conditions to provide for half red, half black masterpoint awards for club stage qualifying at invitational clubs in this event. This ***motion failed 11 – 14***. I voted in favor of this motion.
- **Item 113-44: Alert Chart** was a motion made simply to “clean up” language from the motion **Item 112-49 Alert Chart** passed in Toronto. The new motion, which incorporated suggestions from the Conventions and Competitions Committee as follows ***carried unanimously*** and is ***effective January 1, 2012***: Remove the requirement to Alert a cheapest club bid response over a natural NT opener or overcall, which asks for a 4-card or longer major suit. Rebids by notrump bidder which are different from standard (such as “Puppet Stayman”) would still be Alertable. Amend the definitions of natural openers to include a 1C opener on specifically 4-4-3-2 with 2 clubs and 4-4 in the majors.
- The motion **Item 113-30: Knockout Team Requirements** to require all KO events with more than 8 teams which are advertised as four sessions, to have four sessions, ***failed 1 – 24***, with the motion-maker being the only aye vote.
- ***Appeals and Charges***—Changes were made to the Codification and Code of Disciplinary Regulations:
  - **Item 113-02: Chapter IV. D. of the Codification** was amended, ***effective immediately, by a vote of 24 -1*** (I voted in favor of this motion) as follows:
    - 1.5.4 Disciplinary Hearing - When a disciplinary hearing is held before the Appeals and Charges Committee, the following rules will apply:
      - 1.5.4.1 During Appeals and Charges hearings, only those ACBL Board members who are members of the Appeals and Charges Committee may be present. Only members of the Appeals and Charges Committee may ask questions of witness.
      - 1.5.4.2 All findings, conclusions and recommendations of the Appeals and Charges Committee will be made by vote of only the members of the committee.
  - **Item 113-03: Code of Disciplinary Regulations** was amended, ***effective immediately, by a unanimous vote*** as follows:
    - 2.1.6 Except for ACBL Management in accordance with CDR 2.2.5, none of the

disciplinary bodies noted in CDR 2.2 has jurisdiction over the club's manager or staff based on actions taken in pursuit of their club activities unless the action is brought by ACBL

2.1.7 Except for CDR 2.1.1 (d), units, districts and ACBL have no original jurisdiction over behavior at club sponsored games. If the unit, district or ACBL is the sanction holder, club manager or club board of directors, the unit, district or ACBL has the same jurisdiction and authority over behavior as any other sanction holder, club manager or club board of directors.

- **Governance/Board Operations**—Lots of changes were made to the Codification, primarily to replace outdated information with updated accurate information to reflect motions passed by the Board (e.g., Item 113-86: Chapter I A Memberships), and to rescind motions from the Codification (e.g., Item 113-87: Rescinded Motions for Chapter 1. A. of the Codification) that have been superseded by more current action of the Board or management—in short, general clean-up. Also, at their request, two units transferred from District 18 to District 20. Finally, this is the area of Board function where the motion to change the name of the President's Volunteer of the Year Award to the Nadine Wood Volunteer of the Year Award was discussed. As with all of the items discussed immediately above in this paragraph, all of these motions were passed unanimously and are effective immediately. One item of interest that is new per approval by the Board in Seattle is as follows:

- **Item 113-85: Chapter IV. B. of the Codification** was amended, **effective immediately, by a vote of 23 -2** (I voted in favor of this motion), as follows:

Section - 1 ACBL President Expenses

The image of the ACBL is paramount in all of the activities of the president. In keeping with such premise, the following statement of policy sets forth the duties, responsibilities and restrictions by which the president will be guided.

1.8 Per diem will be paid to the President and traveling companion per 2.4 below.

1.9 Travel to and from the NABC will be paid for up to two individuals acting as hosts at the president's suite during an NABC. One-half of this expense will be charged to Board expenses and one-half to president's expenses.

1.10 Any additional expense shall be charged to the President's budget.

- **NABCs**—Kansas City for Spring 2017, Toronto for Summer 2017, Hilton Hawaiian Village in Honolulu for Fall 2018, and Tampa for Fall 2020 were approved as upcoming NABC sites.
  - The least controversial sites were **Kansas City and Tampa**. The Kansas City Crown Center complex (Westin and Sheraton hotels along with the Crown Center Exhibit Hall) as the hotels/playing site for the spring, 2017 NABC (with a \$119

room rate, or a \$129 rate that includes parking!) and the Tampa Convention Center for the playing site for the fall 2020 NABC with the Embassy Suites – Tampa, the Marriott Waterside and the Westin Harbor Island as the host hotels ***both passed unanimously.***

- Since **Toronto** was just this past summer, many of you will remember the playing conditions and the hotel rooms at the Royal York and the Sheraton—there were problems at both sites and the ACBL Tournament Coordinator worked hard to address these concerns in his new proposal for an NABC in that city again (it is thought desirable to go to a Canadian city at least once every six years and as much as we all enjoyed Vancouver and Montreal the last there was an NABC in either of those cities, both unfortunately remain financially untenable in terms of the high cost of playing space and hotel rooms). In 2017, the Toronto Convention Centre (the older centre that is closer to the Royal York and not the newer one that is four blocks away that was used in the past) would be the playing site with the Intercontinental Hotel Toronto and the Royal York as two of the three host hotels (hotel #3 to be determined based upon normal hotel selection guidelines)—and both offering rates that are less for 2017 than they were in 2011! This motion passed dependent upon Management confirmation that there is access at the Intercontinental for disabled players, something the Royal York simply does not have. Only two Board member voted against this motion (I was not one of them), so it ***passed 23 – 2.***
- The most controversial site was **Honolulu** with ***six nay votes***—again, I was not one of them. Those players who went to the last NABC there in the fall of 2006 loved it, but once there, tended not to play as much bridge as they do at other sites. No problem with filling the room bloc there—in fact, it was continually expanded right up until the tournament—but the table count was lower than desired (8606) and there was concern in Seattle that this site would see a repeat performance again in 2018. Honolulu in the spring of 1983, back when the “traditional” NABCs boasted several thousand more tables than in the recent past, Honolulu had a table count of 11,697.5, so low table count is not a given just because of the distance and higher cost than some other NABC sites.
- ACBL tournament organizers still have Baltimore on their list as a potential future site but convention center expenses (many cities offer a contract “signing bonus” that significantly offsets the extra expenses of convention center rent, and Baltimore has not yet done this—one of the attractions of Tampa and Toronto is that there were substantial signing bonuses involved) and ensuring enough near-by restaurants to handle the glut of bridge players between 4 and 5

p.m. remain concerns. Geographical dispersion remains a BOD directive so having two east coast sites in the same year is not feasible.

- A table of upcoming NABCs follows (information for all of these NABCs—dates and specific locations can be found on the ACBL website under Tournaments / NABCs / All upcoming NABCs). As you can see, Baltimore would not be desirable in the summer of 2018 due to the spring NABC in Philadelphia, but the summers of 2019 and 2020 are still open and I am working with Jeff and Wendy at ACBL HQ to see if the Convention Center and adjacent Hilton plus two additional nearby hotels can be packaged into a proposal for Board action sometime in 2012.

<b>Year</b>	<b>Spring</b>	<b>Summer</b>	<b>Fall</b>
2012	Memphis	Philadelphia	San Francisco
2013	St. Louis	Atlanta	Phoenix
2014	Dallas	Las Vegas	Providence
2015	New Orleans	Chicago	Denver
2016	Reno	Washington DC	Orlando
2017	Kansas City	Toronto	San Diego
2018	Philadelphia		Honolulu
2019			San Francisco
2020			Tampa

As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me—[margot10bridge@cox.net](mailto:margot10bridge@cox.net). I will be following up this report to you all with several emails to the D6 District and Unit Presidents and key members to be sure you all are aware of the potential funding for general project / tournament / lesson advertising and school bridge programs as well as have access to the marketing and educational reports that are put out by ACBL staff and contain lots of meaty information for units, clubs, and teachers.

Happy New Year.....—Margot