

Report from  
BILL COOK  
DISTRICT 10 DIRECTOR

### **HIGHLIGHTS OF ATLANTA ACBL BOARD MEETING**

- Harriet Buckman from Chicago was elected ACBL President for 2006.
- ACBLscore windows version is being tested and will be available to more clubs in August.
- All clubs are being encouraged to begin using ACBLscore because in 2007 there will be an additional charge for manual posting of scores at ACBL.
- There will be an additional charge at ACBL for clubs not using the current version of ACBLscore beginning January 1, 2006 because master point calculations and postings are no longer accurate with the older versions. Clubs will receive the updated disc for installation with their club renewal package.
- Board accepted a recommendation from the Hall of Fame committee to add several additional ways people would be eligible to vote in the Hall of Fame elections. The total number of persons eligible to vote is now more than 300.
- In sectional and regional rated events a quarter board penalty for fouling a duplication will apply to all contestants assigned to the table at which the board was “made” unless the director determining there are mitigating circumstances. A full board penalty for a foul during play will be imposed on the pairs responsible.
- District winners in the NAOP will receive, in the future, a lodging subsidy equal to 3 nights in ACBL host hotel.
- Adopted Criteria for Maintaining Unit Status with minimum unit requirements are as follows:
  1. Must conduct a sectional tournament at least once every two years unless exempted by the District organization (STaCs do not meet this requirement).
  2. Must have an approved set of Bylaws and file a copy with ACBL headquarters.
  3. Must hold an annual membership meeting.
  4. Must elect a Board of Directors for a specific term as stated in its bylaws.
  5. Must produce a written annual financial report and make it available to its District Director and any of its members upon request.
  6. Must have at least one club running sanctioned games in the unit.
  7. Must have enough ACBL members to accomplish 1-5 above.
- Received an introduction from Simpson communication on the new and exciting website for youth – Bridgeiscool.com – that will be available for online viewing within the next month.

- Adopted by a vote of 13-12 to change the criteria for choosing NABC sites, to include, as a high priority, the popularity of the city. I voted against this change because it will make it much more difficult for cities like Nashville and Birmingham to ever have another National.
- Received a preliminary report from the Insurance committee about ACBL's general liability and Directors and Officers Liability policies. The committee and management are investigating the feasibility of extending ACBL's coverage to include Districts and Units from liabilities not now covered or for coverages for which Units and Districts pay separate premiums.
- Changes coming in 2006 for GNT & NAP. In Denver the Board will vote to adopt and enforce stricter residency requirements in order to restore the integrity of the grassroots events. There will be the following:
  1. A clear statement of the ACBL definition of residency.
  2. Requirements for validation of residency.
  3. A credential committee of the ACBL Board to review residency challenges and approve requests from residency verification.
  4. Mandatory penalties for violations.
- Heard about the first year success for mini-bridge camps for children and youth – 23 and still counting!

### **2005-2009 ACBL STRATEGIC PLAN REVIEW CONTINUED**

In the July FORUM, I gave you the details of objectives 1-3 of the 2005-2009 ACBL Strategic Plan. Following are the details of objectives 4-7.

#### **Objective #4: Position ACBL as the authority on Bridge in North America**

Measure of Success: Number of Interactions

Goal: Website hits 40% increase

Strategies to Accomplish:

- Develop e-publications similar to Marketing Matters for distribution to units and districts on a regular schedule – undeveloped.
- Develop quarterly electronic communications to NBO's and international bridge organizations – undeveloped.
- Evaluate and revise all materials for clubs, units and districts – in progress.
- Track and monitor trends and pursue appropriate opportunities – in progress.

**Objective #5:** Provide professional development for teachers and directors

Measure of Success: Survey of Participants

Goal: 90% satisfaction rate

Strategies to Accomplish:

- Develop education for teachers and directors online – in development.
- Require continuing education and retesting of TD's – in development.
- Develop new teaching materials – undeveloped.
- Implement a comprehensive strategy to expand youth education in bridge – in progress.

**Objective #6:** Maximize Organization Effectiveness and Efficiency

Measure of Success: Degree of Strategy implementation

Goal: Strategies 100% implemented

Strategies to Accomplish:

- Review and adjust as appropriate the structure of ACBL and its policies, functions and activities – undeveloped.
- Establish a clear division of responsibility between staff and Board of Directors – undeveloped.
- Develop a succession plan for key ACBL employees – conceptualized.
- Require all sanctioned club games to use ACBLscore – undeveloped.
- Commit to long range planning with annual updates – in development.

**Objective #7:** Board Development

Strategies to Accomplish:

- Evaluate different structure and process for Board meetings and committees – undeveloped.
- Consider redistricting and restructuring – undeveloped.
- Volunteer leaders commit to continuing – undeveloped.