

**ACBL BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S MEETING
SEATTLE, WASHINGTON
NOVEMBER 19, 2011 THROUGH NOVEMBER 22, 2011**

**REPORT FROM BILL COOK, JR.
DISTRICT 10 REPRESENTATIVE**

The following actions were taken by the Board:

- Sharon Anderson from Eagan, Minnesota was elected 2012 ACBL President.
- Bruce Blakely from California and Georgia Heth from Illinois were elected from five candidates to serve three year terms as ACBL representatives to the World Bridge Federation.
- Chuck Wilkinson from Jackson, MS was unopposed for re-election to a four year term as Pension Plan Trustee.
- Defeated by a vote of 13-12, a motion from Board of Governors to reconsider waiving all entry fees for the NABC final GNT events. I voted against this motion because I didn't believe this was the answer to increasing participation in the event. A task force of District GNT coordinators met in Seattle to make recommendations on how to improve the event.
- Approved adjustments in the Masterpoint awards for the following NABC Championship events:
 - I. Open Pairs (no other events, 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 Championship changed to 60 Masterpoints instead of being computed by the general formula.
 - II. The Reduction Factor for club (and online) games not restricted by Masterpoints of fewer than 18 Boards will be 60%.

- The Strength of Field Formula (SOF) for use in Sectional and Regional pair events was deferred to the 2012 Spring meeting in Memphis, TN. I voted to defer to give time for input on the changes in the formula that the advocates say won't adversely affect the points available for novice and intermediate players. I was prepared to vote against adopting the SOF had it come to a vote.
- The 2012 budget was approved and reflects expenses exceeding income by \$118,190 which include one time expenditures of \$85,000.
- Regional and Sectional (including STACS) tournaments per table sanction fees are increased by \$.04 effective April 1, 2012.
- TD session fees are increased by approximately 4% effective April 1, 2012.

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

- Approved renaming the President's Volunteer of the Year Award to the President's Nadine Wood ACBL Volunteer of the Year.
- Deferred a motion to the 2012 spring meeting to rescind granting to the USBF the first \$50,000 annually from the Junior Fund or the amount collected, whichever is less, to fund Junior Team activities.
- Approved a motion that a teacher must be a current ACBL member in good standing in order to receive the ACBL School Bridge Program Teacher Stipend.
- Approved removing for rank advancement requirement, restrictions on the use of online points.
- Approved new requirements for achieving additional Life Master rankings. For rank advance higher than Life Master, the requirements will be as follows:
 - 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 10000” with “A Life Master with (a) over 10000 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 10000 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.

- Defeated a motion that stated when a knockout event is on the schedule for 4 sessions, the Directors will assure that all participants participate in brackets that require 4 sessions to complete unless there are fewer than 9 teams total entered in the entire field.
- Approved 2012 Youth NABC July 19 – 21 at the Marriott in Philadelphia, PA.
Approved 2013 Youth NABC August 2-4 at the Hyatt Regency in Atlanta, GA.
- Item No. 8 Conditions of Contest for 2012-2013 under Participating Clubs for STAC's is amended to add the following: “Club Directors who are eligible to play will receive Masterpoints”.

- Modified the alert chart to 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 no trump bidder which are different from standard (such as “Puppet Stay man”) would still be alertable.

Amended the definitions of natural openers to include a 1C opener on specifically 4432 with 2 clubs and 4-4 in the majors.

- Approved Hilton Hawaiian Village in Honolulu for the 2018 Fall NABC.
- Approved Tampa Convention Center, Tampa, FL for the 2020 Fall NABC. The Embassy Suites, Marriott Waterside and Westin Harbor Island will be host hotels.
- Approved Toronto Convention Center for the 2017 Summer NABC with the Intercontinental Hotel and the Royal York will be host hotels.
- Approved Kansas City Crown Center for the 2017 Spring NABC with the Westin and Sheraton at Crown Center as host hotels.

New CEO, Robert Hartman, was very active at the Seattle NABC attending just above every meeting of any kind and meeting with each Board member individually for at least one hour to get their ideas about what they thought we did well and what they thought needed to be improved. These meetings with Board members were a follow-up to the survey about ACBL the CEO Transition Team, which I chaired, had gotten the Board to reply to Robert in confidence.

Robert reported that membership was stable at 165,332 with 9,894 new members joining during the first ten months of 2011.

2011 Regional and Sectional tables were down about 1% over 2010 due mainly to two fewer regionals and 13 fewer sectionals. STAC’s have shown a 6% increase over 2010 with the same number offered in both years.

Ten cruise sectionals were offered as compared to five in 2010 but with table count up only 42.5%.

The 7th Edition of the Official Encyclopedia of Bridge is now available from Baron Bridge Supply.

Projecting 2011 expenses to be \$399,376 less than income primarily due to over \$300,000 reduction in salaries as a result of staff vacancies and a hiring freeze pending new CEO arrival.

Marketing had a booth at the 2011 AARP Expo in Los Angeles attended by more than 17,000. Traffic to our booth was estimated to be between 800 and 900. A test promotional campaign was launched offering a \$10 “Bridge Lesson Rebate” coupon to drive attendees to bridge

teachers. The rebate coupon will also be a way marketing can track the campaign effectiveness.

Marketing also had a booth at the National Conference of Teachers of Math in St. Louis. The attendance was estimated at over 3700 with between 500 and 600 teachers visiting our booth where we promoted the "School Bridge Lesson Series" program and the benefits that the game of bridge offers students.

The Co-operative Advertising program continues to be successful and a popular resource for clubs and teachers in an effort to reach out to beginner and/or newcomer players. Through October, the program has subsidized 278 beginner/newcomer ad campaigns submitted by clubs and teachers at a total cost of \$124,571.60

A School Bridge Club "Pilot" program targeting Memphis area school teachers was conducted on September 17, 2011 with the help of Patty Tucker and Carol Matthews to conduct the one day workshop. 20 school teachers attended the workshop representing 3 different states, Tennessee, Mississippi and Alabama. Fifteen teachers signed up to participate in the School Bridge Lesson series program with a total of 17 classes registered among 12 different schools. A total of 332 students are participating in the program as a result of the workshop.