

**ACBL BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S MEETING
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA
NOVEMBER 18 THROUGH NOVEMBER 21, 2012**

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

- The meeting began with the election of the ACBL President for 2013 by the Board. I am sorry to say, in secret balloting, I lost the election by one vote to Don Mamula from Mill Creek, Washington, District 19. I was extremely disappointed because I really thought I had enough votes to win, and had earned the opportunity to be ACBL President.
- Management reported on the ACBL Strategic Plan and the items to be implemented in 2013 in support of the plan.
- A motion for reconsideration of allowing Playing Directors in STaCs to participate in overall masterpoint awards failed.
- Adopted an amendment to the Code of Disciplinary Regulations that would establish Masterpoint Removal Sanctions for certain offenses.
- Approved an addition to the ACBL Handbook Section Two. Club Masterpoint Games that establishes a Mentor-Novice Game as an open game even if one member of each partnership has less than a certain number of masterpoints.
- Approved the 2013 Budget which projects \$109,094.00 more income than expenses.
- Sandy DeMartino was elected by secret ballot to be the Chairman of the Aileen Osofsky Goodwill Committee for a three year term beginning January 1, 2013.
- Approved a new investment policy that allows for up to 25% of the Fund's assets to be invested in core equity (generally large cap, high quality) securities. It would also allow up to 5% of the Portfolio's assets to be invested in small cap issues and also allows up to 5% of the total portfolio assets to be invested in International Equities. Under the new policy ACBL has to invest at least 75% but no more than 90% in fixed income securities.
- Approved moving the Grass Roots Fund month from December to January starting in January 2014. There will be no Grass Roots Fund month in 2013. The January International Fund Game will be moved to March.
- Approved a motion that requires that club managers and club or higher rated directors must be ACBL member in good standing with all service fees and dues paid in order to have a club running ACBL sanctioned games or be eligible to direct an ACBL sanctioned game.
- Approved a six month amnesty program for 2013 offering to credit free of charge any masterpoints won by a lapsed member while they were a non-member when they renew their membership.

- Deferred to St. Louis meeting, a motion that requires all participants of ACBL tournaments to be ACBL members whose membership dues are current or ACBL Life Masters whose member service fees are current.
- Approved holding a 2014 Youth NABC in conjunction with the Las Vegas Summer NABC.
- Approved the removal of a student membership option. All current student members will be upgraded to Junior Members with all of applicable benefits. At the time of renewal, it's the cost of the membership will be current Junior Membership rate.
- Amended policy regarding Regionals at Sea (RAS) that states only ACBL shall be permitted to sponsor Regionals at Sea, and beginning in 2013 ACBL may sponsor three RAS.
The three RAS are to depart from a different geographic "area." They are East Coast (Atlantic other than Florida); West Coast (Pacific); Gulf Coast (Gulf of Mexico plus the entire Florida coast).
RAS are to conform to the same rules and regulations as land based regionals and will pay the same masterpoint awards as land based regionals.
- Deferred to St. Louis proposals to start four new NABC events as follows:
 1. 10K Swiss Team (0-10,000 masterpoints) for the first Friday and Saturday of the Spring NABC.
 2. 10K pairs for the first Saturday and Sunday of the Summer NABC.
 3. 10K Vanderbilt to begin on Monday of the Spring NABC (paralleling the Vanderbilt and following the same pattern as Spingold and the already established 0-5,000 Spingold in the summer).
 4. 10K Mixed Swiss Team event for the final Saturday and Sunday of the Summer NABC.
- Changed the Electronic/Devices policy that allows cell phones, audible pagers or similar devices in the playing area so long as they are not visible and turned off at all times during the session.
- Rejected a motion that would have allowed an exception to the two day minimum for a sectional tournament for Limited and Junior Sectionals.
- Approved sanctioning a special fund raising game for the Alzheimer's' Association on June 21, 2013.

ROBERT HARTMAN, ACBL CEO REPORTED THE FOLLOWING:

- Current membership is 166,491, a net increase of 1000+ over 2011 figures.
- Total Regional Sectional and STaC table counts are up approximately 1% for the first ten months of 2012 as compared to same 2011 period.
- Club game tables remain steady but we continue to see increases in online games. Through October 2012 online table count stands at 749,776 compared to 680,651 for the same 2011 period.
- The Director of Marketing Communications position remains open. Several candidates have been interviewed but so far the candidate with the right mix of bridge knowledge and marketing hasn't been identified.
- Phase 2 of ACBL Score + project has been completed, and Phase 3 and 4 have been authorized by the Board and Management. These focus mainly on scoring and will require the bulk of the programming effort.
- *Cruise Planners* has been hired to manage the booking portion of the Regionals at Sea program. The Bridge Administration Department will handle all other aspects. The three cruises for 2013 will be: Seattle/Alaska/Seattle in July; New York/Canada/New York in September; and Florida/Caribbean/Florida in November. Celebrity Hosts will be John Mohan in July, George Jacobs in September, and Mike Lawrence in November.
- We began testing electronic results posting for the 10:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. games at the San Francisco NABC. This is the first step in getting away from dot matrix printers and hanging score sheets. We anticipate adding to our technology enhancements at each subsequent NABC.
- *Travel Planners* has been selected as our new travel partner and has started booking rooms for the Spring NABC. They will be booking rooms for all future NABCs. We are anticipating much better reporting, excellent agency/hotel communications and improved service to our members.
- There are 1,759 teachers currently on the ACBL's "Fund a Teacher" web site compared to 1,695 teachers listed last year.
- Six Teacher Accreditation Programs (TAP) were held in 2012 and two are already scheduled for 2013: Orlando, FL and Birmingham, AL.
- The 2013 World Youth Congress will be held in connection with the Atlanta NABC in the summer of 2013. It is scheduled to start the day after the Youth NABC is completed. This is an open event with youth and junior players from around the world eligible to participate.
- Graduates from the ACBL Funded School Program has grown by 12.2% from 2010 to 2011.
- Youth membership has grown from 826 in 2011 to 892 in 2012, an increase of 8%. Junior membership has grown from 1,203 in 2011 to 1,240 in 2012, an increase of 3%.

- For the first ten months of 2012 \$106,459.00 has been distributed to 235 qualified advertising campaigns. This is down from the \$124,608 distributed to 278 advertising campaigns in the same 2011 period.