

# Board of Directors

## 2014 End of Year Report

To say that 2014 was a very eventful year for ACBL would be a bit of an understatement. Between the problems with ACBLScore, the flood that hit during the Tunica Regional, the buyout of the employee pension fund, and the unexpected loss of one of ACBL's top employees, Jeff Johnson, left everyone hoping that 2015 brings happier and less "eventful" times.

- 1) NABC – The Fall NABC was held in Providence with an attendance of 9,574 tables. The tournament was moved from Boston due to extremely high hotel rates. This was the smallest Fall NABC since 2000. Next Fall, we will be headed to Denver and then the next six Fall NABC's will be in a more warmer climate. **ALERT – MEMPHIS IS RECEIVING ANOTHER NABC IN THE SPRING OF 2019.**
- 2) Financial losses were very large for 2014. The tentative budget for 2015 includes a write-off of \$4.1 million. Approximately half of that is due to the ACBLScore+ project that didn't go as expected. The other large portion is due to the payout of the employee private pension plan. Currently, a technology committee made up of heavy hitters from outside IT giants and a couple of insiders (I am one) is investigating the ACBLScore project and hopes to have a plan on the table in the next few months on the path to proceed. The pension buy out was needed and will pay for itself over the next four years. Even with the \$4.1 million write-off, the league still has approximately \$12 million in ready assets. So we are not broke!!
- 3) The proposed masterpoint changes that were in my last letter was approved and went into effect on January 1, 2015. The major differences you will see at tournaments is that all pairs games received a 25% increase in awards. Also, true Sectionals received a 10% increase, while Stacs received a 10% decrease. For the clubs, all special games have been placed into one of two categories for awards. The overall effect for clubs is that a large portion of your games will still pay the same as Stacs, while the remaining portion will pay 70% of the old sectional-rating. Junior Fund month was moved to January and Grass Roots was moved to May.
- 4) Starting in 2015, all lifetime masterpoint lists will indicate what portion of that amount was derived from online games. There was no change to the manner in which online points are earned or credited.
- 5) The Junior Fund will return to receiving \$50,000 annually and the CBF will receive \$25,000 annually for the support of junior bridge activities. This is the method used several years ago. ACBL is dedicated to supporting youth bridge and, hopefully, that will not change in the near future.
- 6) Our District was #4 out of 25 in raising funds for Grass Roots. This enabled the district to compensate the four flight winners at a level we haven't seen in twenty years and, for the 1<sup>st</sup> time, without any monies coming from the district treasury. It is very important that

we continue to hold grass roots games in the clubs (you can have 1 each month per session and unlimited number during May) and to designate one or two sessions of each sectional in the district as Grass Roots Fund Games. This increases the awards by 40% for an additional \$1/person and all the money stays in District 10.

In closing, I would say that I have a very interesting first year on the board of directors. It was definitely a learning experience. I have initiated a Facebook page for the District and posted stories of players who have reached masterpoint milestones. These are just some of the communication medias I wish to make more readily available in the future. I welcome your comments and suggestions. You can email me at [D10Director@acbl.org](mailto:D10Director@acbl.org) or call me at (870) 897-3404 at any time.

**Don't forget our New Orleans NABC coming in March this year. Eleanor and John Onstott and volunteers have been working hard to provide a tournament you will never forget. See you there.**