

The First Half of 2016 in District 10

Membership: As of March, the ACBL Membership stands at 168,400 which is an increase of 717 over the same date in 2015. The membership in District 10 is relatively flat and is still approximately 6650 active memberships. I would like to congratulate Central Arkansas Unit for topping 1,000 members as our largest unit and for being one of the top two increase in membership among our 14 units. I would also like to congratulate Central Tennessee and their 927 members for their large percentage growth in membership since this date in 2015.

Table Count: The total club table count for last year was 3.1M tables, of which 1M were from online games. This is also relatively the same as 2014 with a slight increase in online tables and a similar decrease in face to face clubs. The table count for regionals in 2015 ended up down 2.5% and sectionals were down 3%, while the table count for STACs was flat. The figures for the first half of 2016 seem to indicate a similar table count for 2016 as in 2015.

Finances: The final numbers for 2015 for the league indicate a negative change in net assets from operations of \$243.5K. A complete audited copy of the financials are located behind the member portal at www.acbl.org. Simply log in to MyACBL and click financials from the left column. This loss was caused by a variety of items including \$54K less revenue from NABCs than budgeted, \$33K more expenses in TD sanction fees than budgeted, and \$80K more in salaries, benefits, and professional services than budgeted. On a brighter note, the 2016 Budget that was approved has a \$101k POSITIVE change in net assets in operations. Part of this was due to an increase in fees and part was due to a reduction in board expenses for 2016.

Human Resources – ACBL currently has 60 full time employees at HQ and 2 part-time employees. Field operations has 36 full time and 99 part time TDs. We have added 3 new HQ employees in technology to assist with ACBLScore, ACBLLive, and Member/Club Services.

Technology – ACBLScore is still being updated. Online club registration and monthly fee processing has been rolled out to help meet privacy requirements and to keep your payment information more secure. The budgeted equipment needed for infrastructure at HQ has been purchased and is being installed.

Marketing – LTPB had 26,000 registrants over the past twelve months with 442 of those becoming ACBL Members. Junior/Youth membership was up from 1035 to 1062 league-wide while District 10's young members fell from 42 to 37. Pianola is now providing email broadcast services for sectional/regional tournaments. Your unit contact should have put your name on their mailing list to be provided training materials to publicize your upcoming tournaments.

Strategic Planning – The CEO goals and strategic plan for 2016 include four major goals. These are: (1) focus on membership growth and retention, (2) addressing cheating and developing policies for that purpose, (3) continue to educate and train tournament directors, and (4) hardening fragile technology infrastructure and establish the future architecture of ACBLScore.

Motions Passed

(1) Entry Fees – Entry fees will be charged on a per person basis for KO events and 4-session Swiss Teams at NABCs. This means the team charge will increase for 5 and 6 member teams, but all members of the team will receive full masterpoint awards.

** My motion of adjusting MP awards based upon participation (sit out ½, you get ½ of the award) was defeated on the 2nd reading after passing on the 1st reading. I felt this was the more fair way to adjust for 5 and 6 man teams. This motion addresses the inequity in another method by charging the additional players. While not my first choice, I voted for this motion.

(2) Cooperative Advertising – ACBL will reimburse recruitment advertising expenses at 50% instead of 75% as before. The cap will also be reduced from \$750 to \$500.

** This was an expenses reduction motion and I voted in favor.

(3) NABC+ Appeals – These appeals will now be heard by tournament directors instead of a player's appeal committee.

** This was a tough decision. I listened to opinions from both sides but I felt the arguments for a TD panel outweighed the arguments for a player panel.

(4) Restructure Committee – A committee of nine members will research the current composition of the BOD and BOG and make recommendations for change to the Spring 17 NABC.

** I sponsored this motion because I believe the current structure of 25 BOD members and the structure of the BOG is ineffective both in terms of expenses and productivity. I serve as one of the members of this committee and current discussion is taking place on greatly reducing the number of board members and how they are elected. There is NO discussion at present about redistricting. All discussion at this point has been whether there needs to be 1 Director from EACH of the 25 districts.

(5) Addition of two new ranks at 1500 and 3500 masterpoints. There was definitely a gap in ranks and this should solve that problem.

Motions I Feel Should Have Passed

(1) BOG meetings be streamed on the Internet and District Directors not be required to attend.

** I was in favor of this motion because our meeting ended 2.5 days before the BOG and I saw no reason for the league to incur the expenses of all of us staying 3 additional days to attend the meeting when we could watch the meeting on the Internet.

(2) The host of a NABC would no longer be required to provide pre-tournament activities for spouses of board members.

** I was in favor of this motion as a cost savings. With the Internet and Google, a person can find enough things to do in our large host cities without the sponsor having to prearrange.

NABC/Board Expenses

(1) Starting with the next NABC, the sponsoring unit can determine whether they want to have a volunteer dinner or receive \$5000 for their hospitality account. If they have a

dinner, only the officers of the board and the CEO will attend. This will save a lot of money by not providing all 25 board members and their spouses a dinner on the Wednesday before each NABC.

(2) President Monzingo greatly reduced both his travel budget and his entertainment budget at NABCs. We have also eliminated the annual President's dinner for BOD members and their spouses.

Fee Increase

As you have probably noticed, there was an increase in game fees at the club level, sanction fees at sectionals/regionals, and TD session fees. These, in conjunction with the expense reductions previously mentioned, account for the expected positive net assets for the league in 2016.

To summarize the major changes:

For small clubs, there is no longer a \$1.25 per game fee. However, your table fee has increase from \$0.72 to \$1.00. This mean if you hold a 6-table or smaller game, you will have no difference in your table fees. For larger games, you might have to adjust your table charges to cover these increases.

For STACs, NAP, GNT, and Unit Games – Each of these games increased \$1.00 per table. For the GNT/NAP, that is a 25% increase from \$4 to \$5. For STACs, depending on size, that is also a similar increase. The biggest percentage increase is for Unit Games. Prior to April 1, 2016, you were paying \$1.20 per table for unit and unit-wide games. That amount now goes up almost 100% to \$2.20. It sounds like a big increase for unit games, but they were really being underpriced compared to other games.

As I complete my 1st term as your District Director, let me tell you that is has been a “long and difficult road” to travel. Between the flood, ACBLScore, masterpoint changes, and cheating, there has never been a downtime. I also apologize for not staying in touch as much as I had planned and for not keeping the District Website updated. Please note my email of d10director@gmail.com for correspondence and questions. Also, please continue to visit the district website to read about various tournaments, rule changes, and members that reach various rank designations.

We have also scheduled a special STAC for the 1st week in September to raise money for the NABC in Memphis in 2019. Please make sure your clubs register for this worthwhile cause. See you at the bridge tables,

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