

**ACBL BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING
NEW ORLEANS, LA
JULY 19-22, 2010**

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

The following actions were taken by the Board:

- Changed the name of the ACBL Goodwill Committee to the Aileen Ofosfky ACBL Goodwill Committee in honor of Aileen who for more than 25 years exemplified and promoted Goodwill in ACBL as the chair of the committee.
- Established a new national event, The Senior Mixed Pairs, to be held at the Fall NABC. It will be a 2 day event and the winner becomes eligible for Grand Life Master status if they have acquired the required number of master points.
- Eliminated the requirement to pre-alert short 5 card major week 2's and 6 card 3 level major suit pre-emps and undisciplined (less than Q high) pre-emps. Alert required only on occurrence.
- Made the 0-5000 Blue Ribbon Pairs a mid chart event.
- Approved the Platinum Pairs for scoring across the field from the beginning of the event.
- Deferred until the Fall NABC a motion to establish who can conduct or sponsor a Regional at Sea. This is a big issue because there is significant profit involved for the sponsor. I believe ACBL should be the one to benefit from "Regional at Sea".
- Deferred until the Fall NABC approval of new regulations dealing with slow play.
- Voted to not visit the issue of redistricting this time. I was one of nine board members who voted in favor of considering redistricting.
- Approved a change in the conditions of contest for the NAP National finals as follows:

Flight B & C final will be a four session event with between 52 and 78 pairs competing in two sessions and qualifying approximately 50% of the original entry to a two session play through final with carry over as per ACBL formula.
- Approved a change in the conditions of contest for all two session Swiss Team events with four to nine tables in any particular flight or groupings of strata:

Each team entering shall play every other team in their group. The following chart is recommended:

Four Teams	Three matches of 18-20 boards
Five Teams	Four matches of 13-15 boards
Six Teams	Five matches of 10-12 boards
Seven Teams	Six matches of 9 boards
Eight Teams	Seven matches of 7-8 boards
Nine Teams	Eight matches of 6-7 boards

- GNT conditions of contest are modified to apply to all District Finals of the GNT as follows:

# of Teams entered/flight in district finals	% of Max Award/flight available for games of unlimited size	# of Overall places
1	As Awarded	None
2	50%	1
3-4	67%	1
		As specified for the type of event, if any

- Approved changes to the Code of Disciplinary Regulations (CDR) that limit to a max of 90 days a suspension or probation that a Tournament Disciplinary Committee may impose. Discipline procedures are to be expeditious with written notice of the date, time and place of hearing to the person charged with the violation. Notice in writing is to be sent to disciplined party of penalty imposed and right of appeal. A written report is to be sent at the same time to ACBL along with a copy of the decision made and penalty imposed.
- Adopted changes in Sectional Tournament Scheduling and Allocations and Regional Tournament Scheduling and Allocation (see details on separate website listing).
- Approved a change in condition of contest for STaCs that requires a minimum of 20 boards be played in a club game to be eligible for STaC over all awards.
- In response to a desire of the ACBL Board to assist those adversely affected by the oil well leak in the Gulf, the ACBL Charity Foundation approved a \$5,000.00 grant to the Louisiana Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA) and a \$5,000.00 grant to the New Orleans Mission. Checks were presented to the respective group representatives at the New Orleans NABC.

JAY BAUM, ACBL CEO REPORTED THE FOLLOWING TO THE BOARD:

- ACBL Membership is up approximately 5,000 over the same period in June 2009.

Tournament participation is up with regional tables up 3,000 over same period in June 2009. Sectionals tables are even with June 2009 but averaging 176 tables/tournament. STaCs are off 2009 numbers by 2200 tables with 4 fewer events but still averaging 1676 tables per tournament.

Overall he expects 2010 to be a good year for tournaments.

- Marketing has produced 30 second radio ads that target “baby boomers” and “empty nesters” for use by club and teachers. They can be personalized with local contact info and the cost is eligible for the co-op advertising program.
- Marketing continues to work on improving the website. In addition to you club being able to post daily game results on the ACBL website, clubs that have duplicating machines and electronic scoring devices now have the ability to post game hand records and contracts. Currently 760 clubs have signed up and are taking advantage of posting their game results and/or hand records/contracts on the ACBL website.
- ACBL will be targeting “Baby Boomers” in their exhibit at the AARP 2010 convention to be held September 30 – October 2 in Orlando FL.
- ACBL marketing continues to have a strong presence at the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics convention and has developed a workshop entitled “Teaching Math Concepts and Applications using Contract Duplicate Bridge.” After their recent convention five requests within a week were received from teachers desiring to start a bridge class in their school.
- Beginning in August the Bridge Bulletin will have a column dedicated to youth bridge activities.
- The 3rd Youth NABC was held in New Orleans with more than 80 young people participating. Astronaut Greg Johnson spoke to the group. It was a huge success.
- Dana Norton was recently promoted to Education Project Co-Ordinator. Her new duties will include serving as primary contact and coordinator for youth programs and initiatives. She has been working closely with junior and youth bridge programs and teaches at ACBL since 1988 and for the past 5 years has been managing the ACBL’s School Bridge Class program.

Goodbye and thank you to long time ACBL employees Gary Blaiss, Merrell Branan and Rena Hetzer who have retired.

In addition to Dana Norton, the following promotions have been made:

Rosie Fairchild – promoted to Senior H.R. Assistant
Patricia Glover – promoted to Director, Budgets and Internal Audit
Lorrie Henderson – promoted to Manager, Clubs and Member Services
Wendy Sullivan – promoted to NABC Planner

The following new employees have joined ACBL:

Cheryl M. Eppenger, Executive Assistant to CFO
Ken Horwedel, Manager, Bridge Administration
Sam Whitten, Assistant Recorder/Executive Assistant