



BOARD MEETING REPORT

Fall 2015
Denver

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The Denver Committee put on a great NABC. The Mile-High City was certainly a nice change of air from the moldy Ohio River Valley! The site was great, with free shuttle buses running up and down the mall outside the hotel, making trips to LOTS of great restaurants easy. Unfortunately, attendance was close to 10% lower than expected. Hard to say why---weather? Airport alerts? We'll look at it, but it sure wasn't the fault of the great volunteers on the ground. I was able to drive up to Ft. Collins (about an hour north) on Thanksgiving Day to spend it with my aunt and uncle so got a little snow-driving in early!



Split Regionals

Well, I have really good news here. As you know, the Regional Allocation Committee had proposed in Chicago that split regionals be eliminated entirely. The makers believed that the concept is subject to abuse and merely allows extra regionals to be held in an already crowded tournament calendar. Those of us in smaller districts with only 4 regional allocations were adamant that the split regional was the only way to spread regionals fairly in our district and that no abuses were evident. The motion was deferred and came back this time with two basic concepts. One, that the current split regionals be grandfathered, frozen at their current frequency, but that all new split regionals be barred, and two, that the current rules that make splits so tough to run, e.g., the requirement that the events be held at the same time and the reduction in overall masterpoints, be eliminated. Much to the makers' surprise, the Board was very supportive of the concerns of our Midwest districts and passed the lifting of the restrictions but defeated the elimination of the split regional. So now, we continue to be able to hold one split regional but the headache of matching schedules and the disadvantage of lowered masterpoint awards is eliminated. Definitely a victory for the little guy!



ELECTIONS AND APPOINTMENTS

Ken Monzingo of District 22 (San Diego) was elected ACBL President for 2016. Ken is a dear friend and I know he'll do a fabulous job.



Paul Janicki and Al Levy were re-elected as WBF representatives for three-year terms; Debbie Rosenberg of District 21 was appointed as the Nadine Wood Volunteer of the Year; Flora Pettit of District 16 was appointed the Aileen Osofsky Goodwill Member of the Year and the fabulous Patty Tucker was appointed the ACBL Honorary Member of the Year.



FINANCE

The 2016 operating budget showing a projected excess of expenses over revenue of (\$61,534) and the 2016 capital budget of \$399,000 were received. The budgets are not finally approved until the Spring Meeting. Obviously, no one likes to present a loss budget. Management worked very hard to bring an initial deficit of over \$1M down to \$800K and then the Finance Committee brought it down to the \$61K above. We have a lot to pay for: the urgent need to shore up our **technology** infrastructure and bring our IT performance to an acceptable level after decades of neglect is well underway—we're adding critical personnel and our new CIO, Mitch Hodus, is working with our technology members to bring us up to speed the least costly way possible; the ACBL is leading the world in addressing the problem of **cheating** now threatening the league—improved and more frequent video and aggressive pursuit of formal charges have significant costs associated with them. When the budget, with its necessary fee hikes was presented to the Board of Governors, the few objections were met by the comment: If we want to deal with

these problems [cheating] we have to pay for it. Exactly.

The operating budget reflects the following fee increases, effective 4/1/16 except as noted:

All regional and sectional fees are increased by approximately 2%; STaC fees are increased by approximately 3%; the open sectional surcharge is increased by approximately 9%; and, TD session fees are increased by approximately 9%.

The \$1.25 club game fee is rescinded and the club per table fee is increased by approximately 11%; and the short game (12-17 boards) per table fee is increased by approximately 6%. STaCs and all unit and special games held at clubs will now be subject to the per table fee.

The NABC team screen table surcharge (Conditions of Contest) is rescinded and NABC+ entry fees are increased by 15%, effective at the Summer 2016 NABC.

OTHER ACTIONS

--The 2016 President shall form a Board Composition Advisory Committee consisting of BOD, BOG, Management and at-large members to review

the current size of the Bod, areas from which they are elected and the method thereof. The Committee will present a final report no later than the Spring 2017 Board Meeting.

--The 0-1500 LM Pairs has been renamed the 0-1500 Pairs and the C of C amended to allow Flight C GNT folks who are knocked out to participate.

--Several of you asked me to vote against the motion to bar clubs running limited and invitational games from converting those games to open games during STaCs. I did so, but the motion passed 20-5. The concern here is that many clubs (none of ours, I'm sure) use limited games to bar particular players or levels of players from their games and that they should not have their cake and eat it, e.g., if they want to run open STaCs, they should run open games. Don't blame me---I did as instructed. ☺



CHEATING

CEO Robert Hartman has announced the formation of a blue-ribbon task force to identify the steps needed to create a fair playing environment where ethical violations are not tolerated. "We refuse to let a handful of law-breakers bring down bridge," he said.

"Each of these players brings not only a wealth of playing experience and the highest ethical standards, but a demonstrated interest in cleaning up the game.... (see the complete story at <http://www.acbl.org/acbl-task-force-takes-on-cheating-2/>)

. PLEASE FEEL FREE TO EMAIL ME AT THE ADDRESS ABOVE WITH ANY QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS OR SUGGESTIONS OR HEYHOWAREYAS YOU WISH AND I'LL DO MY BEST TO RESPOND PROMPTLY! HAPPY HOLIDAYS TO YOU ALL AND SEE YOU IN INDY!

BETH

--One of my longstanding bugaboos got solved. At sectionals and regionals, the non-member surcharge has been retained by the sponsor. This makes no sense as the only additional costs to a non-member playing are infrastructure costs borne by the ACBL. The finance folks finally won this one and the surcharge will now be remitted to the ACBL.

--Many of you know how disappointed I was in Chicago that the effort to change KO masterpoint awards to reflect actual playing time failed. In Denver, we were able to approach the problem from a different angle.

At all NABCs beginning next year, entries for team events of two sessions of more shall be charged on a per person rather than a per team basis.

Although the ACBL does not have the power to dictate that the same policy be followed at sectionals and regionals, we, and I, **strongly urge Districts to follow suit.**

--The Code of Disciplinary Regulations was amended to provide that partners and teammates of

convicted cheaters also lose all masterpoints, titles and status ranks earned while playing with them for the prior four years.

NEW LIFE MASTER DESIGNATIONS

The BOD Ranking Committee has conducted research and surveys to find out how players feel about the current ranking system, digested those results and came to the Board with the following suggested changes, all of which were approved in Denver:

Bronze Life Master remains 500 masterpoints for those with memberships prior to 1/1/10 (the change in Life Master requirements) and goes to 750 points for those joining after that date.

A new level is added between Silver and Gold. **Ruby Life Master:** A Life Master with (a) over 2500 masterpoints, including (b) no fewer than a combination of 300 silver, red, gold, or platinum points.

A new level is added between Gold and Diamond. **Sapphire Life Master:** A Life Master with (a) over 3500 masterpoints, including (b) no fewer than a combination of 350 gold or platinum points and (c) no fewer than a combination of 700 silver, red, gold or platinum points.

Any new ranks added by this motion that are below your next higher rank advancement are exempt from new pigmented points requirements but would need to meet them for higher ranks. For example: A current Silver Life Master who achieved that rank by 12/31/11 would retain the current requirements for Gold Life Master but would not have any pigmented requirements for Ruby Life Master, but would need to fulfill the new requirements for Sapphire and Diamond Life Master.

