



BOARD MEETING REPORT

Fall 2012
San Francisco

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The San Francisco Committee put on a great NABC. Unfortunately, I was unable to stay for actual play—I headed to DC right after the Board meeting to attend the Thanksgiving celebration of my Dad’s 80th birthday (he’s worth it)—and the weather was perfect! What a beautiful, beautiful city

The new President of the ACBL for 2013 is Donald Mamula of District 19 (Seattle, Alaska and in-between). Congratulations Don!



Strategic Planning/Budget

The Board heard reports from the ACBL staff on specific projects and plans designed reflect the goals for the organization for the next five years. I shared these with you in my last report and reprint them below. I cannot begin to tell you how impressed I am with the staff’s level of enthusiasm and professionalism for this plan. Each area has been specifically addressed and work is underway. CEO Robert Hartman’s staff came to the Finance Committee with a proposed operating budget that broke out specific funding for projects, such as TD training and technology updates so that we could acknowledge that goals were being funded. As Chair of Finance, I called the Committee to San Francisco a day ahead of the rest of the Board so that we could focus in detail on the operating budget, the strategic plan components thereof and the capital budget, which also contains funding for strategic goals, the largest of which remains the rewrite of ACBLScore. I am pleased to tell you that, even with the funding for strategic projects, we have accepted a **budget for 2013 showing an excess of revenue over expenses of \$ 109,094**. Based on this, **the Committee decided to raise no fees for 2013—e.g., TD charges, dues, tournament fees—nothing**. Enjoy!

Mission: To promote and sustain the game of bridge and serve the bridge-related interests of our members				
Vision: We will be a growing, thriving organization that actively meets the diverse needs of our members and bridge players				
Strategic Focus Areas (in order of priority)				
1. Develop & implement focused programs for member recruitment	2. Identify & replicate best practices & innovations	3. Integrate technology to meet member needs	4. Retain more members	5. Provide top-quality directing at tournaments

PLAYING DIRECTORS IN STAC GAMES

As I discussed with the District Board at its meeting at the Lex-Lou Regional, the ACBL received a fair amount of negative feedback on the motion enacted in Philadelphia barring playing directors in STaC games from receiving overall awards. Based on this, Management requested reconsideration of the motion. Reconsideration is a technical issue and, although I voted against the original motion, I voted against reconsideration as no new information had been received and I don't believe simply losing a vote is a good enough reason to demand reconsideration. The motion to reconsider failed to get the 2/3 vote required. I have it on good, authority, however, that the original maker will be submitting an amendment in St. Louis to make the application of the rule District-option. Stay tuned.



DISCIPLINE

Appendix B of the Code of Disciplinary Regulations (CDR) was amended to provide some new guidelines on penalties, recommended and mandatory, for various types of prohibited conduct. The new penalties include removal of masterpoints in addition to probation, suspension and expulsion. The CDR may be viewed online at <http://www.acbl.org/play/disciplinaryCode.html>. The changes should be posted in the next few weeks.

SEEDING

Technical changes were made to the seeding procedures for Baze Senior Knockout Teams.

MENTOR-MENTEE GAMES

The ACBL Handbook was amended to add the following new paragraph:

E. Mentor-Novice Game

A club may hold a mentor-novice game as an open game even if the club stipulates that one member of each partnership have less than a

certain number of masterpoints. There must be no limit on the number of masterpoints allowed for the mentor player. The club may hold this game on a regular basis or as a special event. Any special game held in a club is eligible to be held as a Mentor-Novice game.

INVESTMENTS

In addition to its work on the budget, the Finance Committee approved a new Investment Policy. The current policy was extremely restricted and basically permitted funds to be invested only in CDs and the like. As all of you know, the return on this type of investment has become very poor indeed. Although, due to "laddering", the ACBL has been getting decent returns up till now, the older high-interest instruments are disappearing. The Committee last year asked to staff to consult with professional advisors and research standard investment plans for nonprofits such as us. Staff brought to the Committee a comprehensive plan



allowing for some equity investments (up to 25%), with built-in percentage and ratings safeguards. After several hours of discussion, as well as prior review of back-up documents, the Committee approved the new policy unanimously. We hope to improve our returns while protecting our assets. It remains an extremely conservative policy and will be professionally managed but addresses the unacceptable dilution of our assets due to nonexistent investment returns

GRASS ROOTS MONTH

The new Grass Roots Fund Month, which is December this year, is being moved to January in 2014. There will be no GRFM in 2013.



CELL PHONES

Well, after several years of a ban on all electronic devices in the room at NABC events, the ban is being lifted...much of the new technology we hope to be able to utilize in the future—getting your KO assignment, instantly seeing your scores, etc, all on your phone sort of require that you HAVE your phone. All prior and current rules about having the phone on or using it during games still apply.

ALZHEIMER'S ASSOCIATION FUNDRAISER

There will be an ACBL-Wide fundraiser held in clubs on June 21, 2013 to benefit the Alzheimer's Assn—Mark your calendars!!



**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!
SEE YOU IN INDIANAPOLIS...
BETH**

MEMBERSHIP REQUIREMENT

Anyone who is a current club manager for a club running ACBL sanctioned games must be an ACBL Member in good standing with all service fees and dues paid. Any club or higher-rated director must be an ACBL Member in good standing with all service fees and dues paid to be eligible to direct an ACBL sanctioned game. Well, duh. Long overdue catch on this one.

MARKETING POSITION

The ACBL is searching for a new Director of Marketing Communications. Details of the posting are at <http://www.acbl.org/about/jobs/MarketingDirector.pdf>

AMNESTY

ACBL will initiate 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.

NEW EVENTS AT NABCs

One of the ongoing problems the ACBL faces is how to attract more players to the NABCs. Attracting top-level players to the national events is not the problem—it's getting the rest of us to come and pay higher entry fees and higher hotel bills at what are essentially regional events. A task force was formed this year to come up with some ideas. They presented a motion at this meeting proposing several new 0-10K events with overall awards to pay platinum points. The hope of the task force is that these events would provide games for players who want to play in "big" events without bashing their heads against the pros with the incentive of platinum one can only earn at an NABC and thus attract NEW folks rather than cannibalize current events. Needless to say, much debate ensued. For some of us, the whole point of going to an NABC is to play in national events against the best and what platinum points we may be lucky enough to earn are therefore very special indeed.

Others believe that points are simply marketing tools and should be used in the most advantageous way possible to draw new players and reward the most members. Bottom line, the Board approved one new event for St. Louis next spring, the NABC 10K Swiss Teams, played the first Friday and Saturday. (13-8-4) a new 10K Vanderbilt event failed to pass (12-12-1). I voted against both motions based both on my absolute opposition to giving platinum points in restricted events and to a conviction that, in the crowded Spring schedule, we will cannibalize existing events. Nevertheless, I certainly hope the new event is a big success and would love to hear from those of you who play in it what you think—especially if you think the platinum awards are a big draw for you. I commend the task force for its creative thinking and hard work. The task force proposed additions to the Summer and Fall schedules as well, but action on these was deferred. BTW, I understand my distinguished predecessor, James Reiman, successfully moved to have the Board of Governors send these motions back to the BOD for reconsideration.☺