



# BOARD MEETING REPORT

Spring 2012  
Memphis

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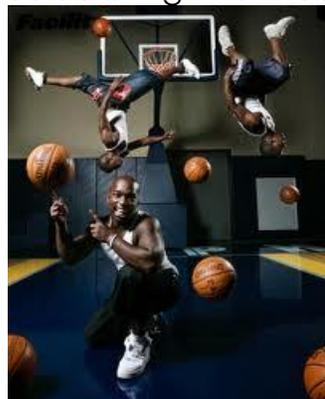
*The Memphis Committee put on a great NABC. We in this District, and especially Louisville, know what it's like to put on a Nationals for what is essentially the first time—at least for most of the volunteers. Memphis has NEVER been the site of an NABC and was selected as the most appropriate site to celebrate the ACBL 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary—at home. The volunteers were thrilled to have us, as was the city. And many of those volunteers were ACBL staff members who normally don't get to see an NABC close up. Although I was hampered by my injuries this visit, I had been to Graceland, Sun Studios and our wonderful new ACBL Hall of Fame on previous visits and know that folks enjoyed all these and other great things (food and jazz anyone?) Memphis has to offer. New CEO Robert Hartman thoughtfully provided me with the following plate for my scooter:*



## ACBL Celebrates 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

The first Friday night of the tournament we held a party to celebrate the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the ACBL. Champagne and cake were served to all but it was the entertainment that had folks applauding and dancing. First, the Beale Street Flippers performed. A group of fabulous acrobats who have appeared all over television and at countless sporting events, they flipped and leaped all over the Marriott ballroom—and over a few ACBL staff heads—wow!

Then the Reba Russell Band took over—a 5 person electric blues ensemble, they had the joint jumping and celebrating till all hours!



And speaking of special occasions, our new ACBL President, Sharon Anderson, will be visiting our District at the Cincinnati regional. Please come meet her---Sharon wants to hear from you!



## STRENGTH OF FIELD

Well, the issue that never dies is still with us. The Masterpoint Committee has continued to tinker and adjust aspects of their proposed formula in response to questions, examples and issues that opponents have continued to raise. The two sides have indeed gotten closer and closer. Management proposed at this meeting that, in order to gauge the impact and identify problems, we TEST the formula. Brilliant. So, beginning in May, a "shadow" testing period will be initiated. Basically, TDs at various sectionals and regionals will, at the same time they run the current formula to award masterpoints, will run a "shadow" program to show us the results under the proposed new formula. The monitoring will include, but not be limited to, masterpoint inflation, effects on both regional and sectional events and geographic and demographic variations. Once the results are in, the Board can evaluate them and, it is devoutly to be wished, implement or defeat the proposal. Needless to say, although I opposed another deferral, once deferral was passed, I certainly favor the testing idea. Replacing hypothetical horror stories with actual facts might actually produce the right result!

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 CINCI!!

BETH

## FINANCE

### **2011 Budget**

The budget was ratified at this meeting. Finalized year-end numbers and the audited financials produced small changes to the preliminary budget approved in Seattle. The final budget approved projects income in excess of expenses of \$86,000. The final actual 2011 income over expenses was \$515,990.

### **ACBL Score**

Robert Hartman and his staff have been hard at work selecting and contracting with vendors to write a new ACBLScore. They have entered into a multi-stage contract that allows us to opt out at any stage. This is a very expensive, but a very necessary project. Although clearly a capital expense, as the project is capitalized and depreciated over time it will come back into the budget.

### **Junior Fund Contributions**

The ACBL in the past has contributed \$50,000 annually to the USBF to fund our Junior Teams. The Board has changed that policy to provide that. Upon receiving a budget from the USBF

for the 2010 Junior and Youth World Championship expenses by April 30, 2012, Management is authorized to contribute up to \$50,000 from the Junior Fund to the USBF. 75% of the approved funds will be given to the USBF in June 2010. The remaining 25% will be paid upon presentation of all receipts for approved expenses, if actually spent.

### **Junior Coupons**

The age limit for receiving junior coupons for free plays in regionally-rated events was raised from 15 to 18.

## ELECTIONS AND APPOINTMENTS

### **ACBL Treasurer:**

Rand Pinsky

### **Hall of Fame Committee:**

Cecil Cook, Peggy Sutherlin and Cheryl Bjerkin

### **C and C Committee:**

Joan Gerard, Bob Hamman, Jeff Meckstroth, Elaine Said, Tom Carmichael and Doug Doub

### **Ethical Oversight Committee:**

Peter Boyd, Bart Bramley, Jill Myers, Gail Greenberg and Howard Weinstein

### **ACBL Disciplinary Committee:**

Chuck Burger, Jeffery Polisner and Jeff Miller

### **ACBL Laws Commission:**

Allan Falk, Aaron Silverstein and Becky Rogers (I voted "nay" on these solely because the seat traditionally held by an ACBL Board Member was vacated and filled by a non-Board member.)

## MEMBERSHIP

As of February 29<sup>th</sup>, total membership stands at 166,145, the highest figure since the mid-1990s. On the same date last year the number was 164,499.

## MARKETING

Among the several new projects in marketing, we plan to target folks in 3 test markets whose demographic profiles match those of current members and offer them lessons, trial membership—we may use Groupon—I'm pretty excited about this one.

