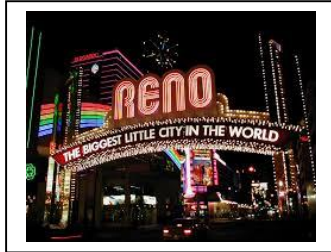




BOARD MEETING REPORT

Spring 2016
Reno

A. Beth Reid, District11director@acbl.org



Great Showing in NAP B&C for District 11!!!

The Reno Committee put on a great NABC. The playing areas were spread out among 3 connected casinos, but once you got the hang of it, getting around was easy peasy---and the signage provided by the "Ask Me" crew was fabu. The final table count was a tad short of the 12,000 estimated, but lower local costs assured a profitable NABC. I saw lots of District 11 friends and everyone seemed to be doing well and having a great time!

District 11 finished in first and second place in the North American Pairs, Flight B championship finals and second in the NAP C finals!! The NAP B was a triumph for the Cincinnati area, home to both 1st place finishers A.J. Stephani and Ryan Schultz and runners-up Steve Moese and Mike Ma.



Winners of the Golden North American Pairs Flight B: A.J. Stephani and Ryan Schultz.



Second in the Golden North American Pairs Flight B Mike Ma and Stephen Moese.



Runners-up in the President's Cup North American Pairs Flight C: James and Laurie Herchenroeder of Harrodsburg, KY



ELECTIONS AND APPOINTMENTS

ACBL Treasurer
Claire Jones, District 18, was elected for a one-year term.

C & C COMMITTEE

Kit Woolsey
Danny Sprung
Will Ehlers
Jeff Goldsmith
Jeff Meckstroth

ETHICAL OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

Robb Gordon
Eddie Wold
Jon Brissman
Bruce Ferguson
Hendrik Sharples

DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE

William Schreiber
Chris Moll
Chris Benson
Jan Martel

LAWS COMMISSION

Peter Boyd
Al Levy
Howard Weinstein



ADVANCES ON STRATEGIC PLANNING

The Board spent a significant amount of time at this meeting in open discussion, rather than the usual motion-driven format of most meetings. This is something I've been promoting for many years and was very pleased that President Ken Monzingo made it happen. I have kept you up to date on the strategic planning process on which the Board embarked over 3 years ago, the plan that emerged from that process and the progress of the plan. At this meeting, the Board as a whole spent time reviewing our goals, seeing what had changed and needed to be updated either through adding new goals or reprioritizing current goals. During the formation of the Strategic Plan 3 years ago, the Board adopted a Mission Statement for the ACBL:

The mission of the ACBL is to promote and sustain the game of bridge and to serve the bridge-related interests of our Members.

At this meeting, we added a Vision Statement to guide and inspire all who work to fulfill our mission:

Bridge is regarded as the World's most rewarding and enjoyable card game.

With the guidance of the Strategic Review Committee, the Board agreed on the following summary of its **Four Strategic Priorities:**

- 1. Increase Membership Acquisition and Retention.**
- 2. Develop and accelerate tournament director training and recruitment.**
- 3. Build the confidence of ACBL members through dealing effectively with cheating and maintaining financial health.**
- 4. Upgrade technology and secure our infrastructure while establishing the future architecture of ACBL Score.**

The Board then discussed how these priorities should be dealt with in the areas of Finance, Technology, Strategic in general and the WBF. Each Committee is tasked with developing specific goals to help meet our strategic priorities. Giving the full Board a chance to discuss these issues and share views on long-range priorities should be the



primary task of any Board and I hope to do my part, in leading the Finance and Governance Committees.

At the same time, the new Board Composition Committee began work. As you may remember, the BCC was authorized in Denver and counts BOD, BOG, members-at large and Management representatives as its members. It intends to take a hard look at the current composition of the BOD and see if there's a better way to do it—a smaller Board; a more professional Board; a powerful Executive Committee—all of these options are open for discussion and the Committee is required to bring us their conclusions and suggested actions by the Fall Meeting.





FINANCE

After a lot of hard work and cost-cutting by Management and the Board, the proposed Operating Budget for 2016 approved in Denver showing an excess of expenditures over revenues of (\$61,534) was wrangled to a positive of \$101,486 excess of revenues over expenses. As 2016 should be an unusual year of 3 "bumper" NABCs, this gives us breathing room for future years as well as restoring some of the reserves recently depleted by ACBLScore+ and the termination of the pension plan. The Capital Budget of \$497,000 was also approved. Although this number is higher than the tentative budget approved in Denver, the increase is attributable to prior year projects for which the allocated budget has not been spent.

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 CINCINNATI!

BETH

LEGAL

The Legal Services Review Committee recommended that upon League Counsel Peter Rank's retirement after the Summer meeting, that his position be eliminated in favor of hiring a full time In-House Counsel in Horn Lake.

The standard of proof in cases involving severe discipline was changed from "preponderance of the evidence" to "comfortable satisfaction". Contact me if you would like a more in-depth explanation.

Attorneys will now be permitted in hearings at the Appeals and Charges level, but not in Unit or District hearings.

NABC+ APPEALS

ACBL Tournament Directors shall hear and rule upon all appeals filed at North American Bridge Championships. All Conduct and Ethics or Disciplinary matters shall continue to be referred to and heard by the NABC Tournament Committee or to its assignees. The issue of whether top players should be judged by their peers or by professional TDs remains controversial, but the above motion passed with my support.

COST-CUTTING

A motion to excuse the BOD from attending the BOG meeting three days after the close of the BOD meeting failed; a motion to allow the Host NABC Committee to decide whether it wanted a Volunteer Dinner (with reduced BOD attendance) held the night before the start or \$5000 in cash to recognize its volunteers in any way it wished passed.

A motion to relieve NABC Host Committees from the obligation to entertain BOD spouses with a day or two of excursions failed.

A motion to cut the ACBL President's budget passed.

The amount paid by the ACBL under the **Cooperative Advertising Program** was reduced to 50% from 75% of the cost of the add with a cap of \$500 reduced from \$750. The reason for the reduction is that the expense is open-ended and completely unpredictable.

OTHER ACTIONS

The motion passed in Denver and submitted for reconsideration by the BOG pursuant to which clubs that run Limited or Invitational games may not

convert those to Open games during STaCs passed again. This was the subject of some disagreement even at our District Board Meeting.

Several technical changes were made to election procedures. One substantive change, however, was requiring the Director of Elections to keep the Unit votes confidential in a District Director election. This action was taken in response to complaints from Units that, especially in the case of small Units or those that went unanimously for a candidate, making the Unit vote public essentially violated the privacy of individual voters. This motion has been sent back to the BOD by the BOG for reconsideration.

In order to give flexibility to teachers and club owners, the following motion was adopted: 3.2 A **newcomer game** is conducted to acquaint new players with duplicate bridge and to encourage participation by inexperienced players. **At the discretion of club management,** players may ask for advice, refer to notes and have help on any hand.