



American Contract Bridge League

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DISTRICT DIRECTOR'S REPORT - Spring 2017

Everything's up to Date in Kansas City

The Spring NABC was held in two excellent hotels in great playing conditions (many got this for the terrific rate of \$99US). Kansas City has an excellent system of pedways, so you could walk indoors to the playing sites and restaurants. They also had a free street car (like Denver) which could take you to another entertainment/dining area. The tournament was well run, with excellent hospitality (with especially generous food such as BBQ). Attendance was down perhaps due anticipated weather (it was in the 60s some days, and snow a few (I also experienced my 1st "Tornado Watch" before the tournament)), and the exchange rate for Canadians. Table count was 8,691 tables, less than the 9,000 budgeted. The meetings were highlighted by being a day shorter (saving expenses) and working with a volunteer consultant to improve our efficiency and to look for Board priorities and improvements for the future. We will continue to do more work between meetings (conference calls) and a move from being motions driven to being more strategic focused. We have a Task force on clubs, and another on tournaments. We are also concentrating on volunteers and membership recruitment and retention.

At the end of this report, I am listing major results by District 1 players at the NABC. At the end of the report, I am also including a bridge article from George Retek, my predecessor on the Board of Directors, who has given me excellent articles before. Thank you, George. I am looking for other bridge article contributors, to continue my tradition of an article in each Report. All I ask is that it be approximately one page long and that it be done in Word. Next one would be needed for my report after the Toronto NABC which is in July.

Highlights of the Kansas City Board of Directors Meetings

- **Robert Hartman** has resigned, effective July 31st. A CEO Search Committee is looking for a replacement, and is encouraged by the quality of candidates so far.
- **Claire Jones** of Saskatoon was elected ACBL Treasurer for 2017.
- **Peter Rank**, former ACBL League Council, recently passed away and there was a celebration of his life.
- **Dan Storch** was appointed Director of Marketing.
- **Membership** is 168,215, up 140 from the Dec 2016 total.
- **Orlando:** table count was 19% below the original estimate of 13,000 and 15% lower than the 12,500 forecasted. Despite this there was a net income of \$105K, which was however \$143K lower than budget.
- **Regional table count** is down 5.3% with the same number of Regionals.
- **Sectional attendance** was down 3.09% on 23 fewer tournaments with average table count down 0.58%.
- **STACs table count** was up 0.23% while holding 1 fewer tournament. Average table count was up 1.36%
- **Total tournament tables** decreased 2.92% with 24 fewer tournaments held. Average table count was down by 0.84%.

- **Club Table count:** Table count for 2016 was 3,163,754 tables of which 1,041,604 came from on-line games. Face-to-face club table count had a slight decrease of less than 1% compared to last year
- **Information Technology:** Significant progress was made on replacing ACBLscore with a 3rd party scoring engine.
- **Finance:** For 2016, the increase in net assets from Operations is a gain of \$521, \$419K higher than the budget of \$101K. This was due to 19% lower table count in Orlando, an increased year end 401K contribution, and revenue from STACs supporting Gatlinburg relief effort being donated back to the sponsors. Expenses were \$521K below budget with the exception of \$193K overage in Bridge Administration due to costs of prosecuting cheating cases and increased surveillance. Capital expenditures were \$385K, an increase of \$309K. Net operating cash increased by \$967K in 2016. The new budget has an increase in net assets of \$62K, a reduction due to changes in NABC estimates
- **The Longest Day:** This will be held on Wednesday, June 21st. More efforts will be made to use this as a membership recruitment opportunity
- **Pianola:** All units and districts have been invited to use Marketing Solutions. To date 180 user accounts have been created. The product is being used to fulfill Tournament E-mails Services. Marketing plans to continue use and maximization of the service to units and districts through a series of e-mail coaching communications.
- **All new card tables** were used in Kansas City, and there was a test of plastic cards, with the aim of ones with the ACBL logo to be used in Toronto.

Actions and Motions approved at the Kansas City Board of Directors Meetings:

- A motion for the CEO Selection Committee to recommend at least 2 candidates to the Board of Directors was defeated.
- The Director of Elections will be joined by a senior staff member selected by the CEO for counting all election and recall ballots.
- Motions to hold Fall Board Meetings in Horn Lake (instead of at NABC) and to move the Hawaii Board Meeting in Fall of 2018 were defeated.
- Subsidy for 3rd and 4th place winners at NAP District Finals was defeated.
- Motion to have teams at NABCs pay on a per team basis, instead of as happens now, on a per player basis was defeated.
- ACBL Hall of Fame Operating Procedures were amended.
- A motion to eliminate the use of the "Stop" card was deferred to Toronto NABC.
- Masterpoints for Regional events (other than KOs) at NABCs were increased by 15%.
- Masterpoint awards for the new Waggar Women's Pairs event were approved.
- The master point awards for 4+ session open Regional events, other than Knockouts was increased by 40%
- If a GNT District Final has a KO which extends over more than 1 weekend, the DIC may make an exception to the 50% play of every match requirement.
- Club games with more than 1 section may issue overall awards comparing all the sections. Club games with a single section exceeding 15 tables may also issue overall awards. Awards may not exceed 4.00 for Open clubs, 3.2 for Invitational ones and 3.00 for newcomer clubs, effective when the improvements to ACBLscore can handle it.
- A motion to have the USBF, CBF and Mexican Bridge Federations pay any membership dues to the WBF was deferred to Toronto.
- A motion to make the Anti-Cheating Commission a non-Board Committee was deferred to Toronto.
- A motion re: Treasurer's responsibilities, including having the Chief Financial Officer approve Board of Directors expenses was approved.
- The operating budget for 2017 showing revenues over expenses of \$62K and a capital budget of \$339K were approved.

District News

- **The late Peter Nagy**, who started his bridge career in Montreal was elected to the ACBL Hall of Fame. A well deserved award.
- **Cukoff-Latraverse-Wiser (CLW) Award**: Named after outstanding deceased National Tournament Directors from District 1, this award recognizes excellent life time service to directors and promoters of ethics in bridge. Nominees from the Units are still encouraged. The District Board will announce this year's winner at the District Board Meeting in August.
- **George Retek Award**: Presented to an individual who has given a great deal of excellent volunteer service to our District and Units, nominees from the Units are still encouraged. This award winner will be announced at the District Meeting in August.
- **Zyg Marcinski and Kamel Fergani** were appointed to the NABC Tournament Discipline Committee.
- **Regional Tournaments**: Please come to our District's tournaments - the May Regional in Quebec City, CBF Regional in Kingston in May/June, the CanAt in Moncton for the first time in many years in June/July, the Can-Am in Montreal/Laval (NB: new location) in August and Ottawa in October.
- **Upcoming NABCs**: Toronto (July 2017), San Diego (Nov/Dec 2017), Philadelphia (Mar 2018), Montreal (Summer 2020).
- **NAP Finals**: The National Finals were held at the Spring NABC in Kansas City. Congratulations to all our representatives who represented our District so well.
- **GNT National Finals**: The National Finals will be held at the Toronto NABC, an excellent chance to participate at a low cost. The District finals will be held in Montréal (Laval) on April 2nd for Flights Open and B, and in Halifax on May 13 for Flights A and C. Club or Unit qualifying are not required to play in the District finals. Good luck to our representatives who go to Toronto.
- **The Longest Day**: This will be held on Wed, June 21st. Please ask your club to participate in this wonderful fundraiser, which raises much needed funds for Alzheimer's research and raises Bridge's profile in the community.
- **District Meetings**: The District 1 Annual Meeting will be held at the Can-Am on Saturday of the Can-Am Regional in Laval, QC. There are also 3-4 District Board conference calls held during the year.

Golden (and Platinum) Performances in Kansas City

The following is a listing of excellent achievements by District 1 players. I am listing the top 25 placings in NABC events (2+ days) and 1st or 2nd in Regional (2 session +) events. As I am doing this manually, I apologize in advance if I missed someone. If you e-mail me, I will correct this in my next report.

1. Jurek Czyzowicz: 15th Platinum Pairs, 17th Jacoby Swiss, 2nd, 2nd Fri Compact KO 2
2. Frédéric Pollack: 18th NAP A, 25th Rockwell Mixed Pairs
3. Kamel Fergani: 18th NAP A
4. P. Drew Cannell: 1st Mon-Wed am KO 1, 1st Educational Foundation KO 1
5. Robert Morin and Serge Hamelin: 10th NAP A
6. Martin Caley: 23rd Rockwell Mixed Pairs
7. David Sabourin: 10th Lebhar IMP Pairs
8. Cindy and Connor Havens: 2nd Tues-Wed am CKO2, 2nd Tues-Wed KO 5, 1st Thurs-Fri am CKO, 2nd Sat CKO 5
9. Louise Sherwood and Marilyn Dalton: 2nd Tues-Wed am CKO 2, 2nd Tues-Wed KO 5
10. Louise Berthiaume, and Chantal Dubé: 2nd, 1st Fri Open Pairs B
11. Robert Guérard, André Houde, Jacques Beauregard, André Blanchet: 1st Tues-Wed KO 4
12. Frances and Brian DeLong: 2nd Sat CKO 5
13. Marie-Claude Loisel and Denise Archambeault: 1st, 1st Sat Daylight Gold Rush Pairs A

Please see George Retek's bridge article on the next page.

See you in Toronto,

Leo

Birthday Present

By George Retek

When one lives a relatively long life, one accumulates a lot of material things. That makes friends upset when they try to find an appropriate birthday present. Fortunately this year, the ACBL scheduled the Senior ACBL-wide Senior Pairs on my birthday.

Playing North/South with my wife at the Fort Lauderdale Bridge Club we picked up the following hand against one of the best pairs in the field.

Dealer: North
EW Vul

<p>♠ A J 10 4 ♥ 4 2 ♦ A J 10 9 7 4 2 ♣ --</p> <p>♠ Q 8 7 6 3 ♥ A J 8 ♦ - ♣ K Q 9 4 2</p>	<p>♠ K 9 ♥ Q 10 7 6 3 ♦ 6 ♣ A 10 7 5 3</p> <p>♠ 5 2 ♥ K 9 5 ♦ K Q 8 5 3 ♣ J 8 6</p>
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The auction was (EW Vulnerable):

West	North	East	South
	1♦	P	3♦
X	5♦	P	P
		P	

Opening Lead: ♥6

Not being overly shy, I opened 1♦ in the North seat. Partner increased the stakes to 3♦ (limit), followed by a double by West. My 5♦ bid closed the auction.

East started with the ♥6, won by West with the ♥J, who shifted to the ♠6, followed by the ♠10 and won by the ♠K. East, who feared that his partner's double showed 4 Hearts, now played the "safe" ♣A. Curtains!

As long as West held the ♥A, together with the ♠Q at least 4 times, I was home. After ruffing 2 more Clubs in my hand, we arrived at the following position, where West could not hold on to the ♥A and protect the spades, when the last trump was played from dummy.

The ending is:

<p>♠ Q 8 7 ♥ A ♦ -- ♣ --</p>	<p>♠ A J 4 ♥ 4 ♦ -- ♣ --</p> <p>♠ ♥ ♦ ♣ Immaterial</p> <p>♠ x ♥ K x ♦ 8 ♣ --</p>
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At trick three, a Heart or Spade return by East would have been effective. But East was quite disheartened realizing that his side could make either 5♥ or 6♣.

What could have been a nicer birthday present!