

American Contract Bridge League

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DISTRICT DIRECTOR'S REPORT

April, 2013

Best Wishes to George Retek on his Retirement

I am pleased to be your District Director for the next three year. I will always try to do what is best for the majority of ACBL members and the members of District 1. To help accomplish this I will try to attend as many Regionals as possible and to meet with the Unit Boards. I will also be taking French Lessons to improve my ability to communicate with our Francophone members. Please feel free to contact me with your concerns.

It is with great appreciation that I would like to offer my best wishes to George Retek and his wife Mari, his great supporter, who served this District with distinction for 33 years. Having been to my 1st meeting, I can tell you that George is greatly admired by the Board members, and I know that I have large shoes to fill. George has been a great mentor and role model for me during my years as District President, and I hope I can count on him for his sage advice. I'm happy to say that our District will continue to benefit from his wisdom, as he has been appointed District Director Emeritus and will be attending District Board Meetings. The District Board has also honoured George by creating the George Retek Volunteer of the Year Award, a fitting tribute for a man who has volunteered to serve the Bridge for more than 35 years. We wish you good health and good luck in your retirement from bridge administration, and I look forward to seeing you (and playing with you) at the bridge table.

I plan to write a report after each ACBL Board Meeting (which are before every NABC). I will report on decisions made at the Board Meetings and also interesting motions passed at the Board of Governors Meeting (advisory to the Board of Directors) which follows the Directors' Meeting. I will also include District news.

George has created a tradition of including an interesting hand or book review with his reports. I want to continue this, but unfortunately, I am not much of a bridge writer, but I would welcome a short article from members that I can include at the end of my report. Perhaps as an example, George would be willing to write an article for the Summer report.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE ST. LOUIS BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETINGS

FINANCIAL:

- 1) Net Revenue over expenses for 2012 was \$353,000.
- 2) Management is budgeting for net revenue of \$32,000 for 2013
- 3) There will be no Grass Roots FUND games in 2013. Beginning in January 2014 this special month will be held in January.

TOURNAMENTS AND CLUBS:

- 1) The Longest Day (June 21): ACBL is partnering with The Alzheimer's Association to raise funds for Alzheimer's research. Information is on ACBL.org and in the February Bulletin. We hope many clubs will participate. I and many of you in our District have been touched by this terrible disease. There is a special registration kit for clubs that register.
- 2) A motion to create a dual system where face to face master points are kept separate from on-line points was defeated (I voted for). There will be 3 separate lifetime lists. One is face to face, another on-line and the third both.
- 3) All participants of NABC+ and NABC events must be ACBL members whose dues or service fees are current.
Except for charity events, STaCs, or events for players with no more than 20 masterpoints: For all regionals, the sponsoring organization will charge a mandatory additional fee of at least \$4.00 (it was \$2:00) per person per session for non-members and non service fee paying LMs. For sectionals this fee will be \$3:00 (instead of \$1:00) per person per session.
- 4) The minimum age for ACBL sanctioned Senior events shall be 60 years of age. Those eligible under the present rules on December 31, 2013 will remain eligible in subsequent years. This is effective January 1, 2014.
- 5) Playing Directors in STaCs: Playing directors in STaC games and their partners are ineligible to receive overall STaC master point awards, but are eligible to receive section awards.
At sponsor option, the above restriction may be waived. Such waiver shall be noted on the sanction application submitted to ACBL Headquarters.
- 6) The ACBL will hold a 0-10,000 Swiss team event on the first Friday and Saturday of Spring NABC for 2 years starting in 2013. (This was held in St. Louis and attracted 81 teams). Two other so called 10K events will be considered in Atlanta.

DISTRICT NEWS:

- 1) There is an Amnesty Program for those who have let their membership lapse or do not pay Life Master service fees. This program runs to the end of June and allows past members to have their old master points recorded for free when renewing their memberships or paying life master service fees.
- 2) There will be a Youth NABC followed by a World Bridge Federation Youth championships. I encourage our Junior and Youth players to attend these events which take place at the same time as the Atlanta NABC in August.
- 3) Elections will be held in 2013 for First and Second Alternate Directors for our District. Candidates must apply by May 31st. Further information is found in the April ACBL Bulletin.
- 4) As my next report will be just before the probable date of the next District meeting, I'm reminding Units that the next District Board Meeting will be at the CanAm in August. District President, Peter Clark will be notifying the Units of the date and time.
- 5) Unit 151 will be sponsoring a Teacher's Accreditation Program (TAP) in French. This subsidized program will be held in Montreal, June 14-16, and will be lead by Star Teacher Kamel Fergami. For more information please go to the Montreal Bridge League website. Congratulations to Unit 151 for taking this initiative which we hope will result in many new members.
- 6) Grand National Teams (GNT): The District 1 Finals of GNT will be held at the Quebec City Regional in May. Flights A+C will be held on Sun, May 19th and Superflight and Flight B will be on Mon, May 20th. Interested teams will enter the Regional Swiss that day and declare that they are playing in the applicable GNT flight by paying an extra \$1 per player. The entered team with the highest score in the flight will be eligible to represent District 1 at the National Final at the Atlanta NABC. There is no pre-qualification required, and no subsidy from the District. We hope that you will participate in this prestigious event.
- 7) Congratulations to all District 1 participants in the National Finals of the North American Pairs (NAP) at the St. Louis NABC, especially Stephane and Eric Reiher who came 9th in NAP Flight-B and Denise Roy-Letourneau + Danielle Tremblay and Louis Leroux + Jacques Beauregard who came 2nd and 11th respectively in NAP Flight-C.

Best wishes,
Leo