District Director's Report – March 2015

New Orleans NABC

The Spring NABC was held at the New Orleans Marriott in New Orleans LA. Final table count was 11,402, which is about 900 tables above the pre-tournament estimate. I extend our thanks to the District 10 local hosts who provided excellent evening hospitality. Several players commented about cramped conditions especially for the Vanderbilt, which was held in playing space many believe is not acceptable for our premier event. Others complained that the playing areas were at times very cold and there were also numerous complaints about the distance to bathrooms. Otherwise, most who attended had a good time.

TOP 10 FINISHERS IN NABC EVENTS – DISTRICT 25

NAP - FLIGHT A

Mark Aquino, Jamaica Plain MA Shome Mukerjee, Randolph MA	1
Adam Grossack, Newton MA James Streisand, Sudbury MA	5
WOMEN'S PAIRS	
Yiji Starr, Wayland MA	1
<u>0 – 10,000 SWISS</u>	
Andrew Chesterton, Winchester MA Mark Aquino, Jamaica Plain MA	5
MIXED PAIRS	
Sheila Gabay, Newton MA Lloyd Arvedon, Woburn MA	2
<u>0 – 10,000 KO TEAMS</u>	
Arthur Crystal, Fairfield CT Cenk Tuncok, Amesbury, MA	5/8
FAST PAIRS	
Lewis Gamerman, Randolph MA	7
WOMEN'S SWISS TEAMS	
Karen McCallum, Exeter, NH	1
Phyllis Fireman, Chestnut Hill MA	4
JACOBY SWISS TEAMS	
Allan Graves, Saint Johnsbury VT	1

Highlights of ACBL Board Meeting

CEO Report

CEO Robert Hartman reported that membership at the end of February is 167,392, almost 400 fewer members than in February 2014.

For the year, average Regional table count decreased by 2% from 1,371 to 1,343. Average Sectional table count decreased 6% (from 169 to 160). Finally, average table counts for STACs declined by 6% (1,716 to 1,611).

Although all these decreases are fairly minor, these figures should be of concern to us all.

Financial Results

Final results for the 2014 calendar year (i.e., Change in Net Assets from Operations) are as follows:

2014 Budget: \$ 5,830 2014 Actual: \$ - 359,200 Variance: \$ - 365,030

In addition to the above, the ACBL Board was asked to approve the following additional items:

ACBL Score+ Write Off: \$1,905,330

Pension Expense Additional Funding and Balance Sheet Adjustment: \$1,740,500

TD Travel Back Pay (funds paid in November 2014 to cover travel time for 2013/14): \$281,370

Miscellaneous Investment Gains: \$176, 790

Change In Assets (2014): \$ -4,109,630. 2015 Budget: \$ 9,460

Several players asked me if I believe the Board is sufficiently concerned about the magnitude of the reduction in assets. I can only speak for myself and can assure you that I am more concerned about this loss than I have been about anything else in my time as a Board Member. I will continue to do everything I possibly can to carry out my fiduciary responsibility as Board member.

Bidding 2 Diamonds Over a 1N Opening Bid to show one major:

Presently, a 2D bid over a 1NT Opening Bid to show one major is not on the ACBL General Convention Chart. At the suggestion of the Competition and Conventions Committee, a motion was passed to add the 2D bid (Woolsey) showing one unspecified major to the ACBL General Convention Chart. Effective: May 1.

GNT National Final Entry Fees:

The following motion was passed: For the first two days of the National GNT Finals, for Flights A, B and C, the entry fee is waived as an award for winning the District portion of the GNT competition.

Though I agree in principle with this recommendation, I voted against it because I believe the motion discriminates against top players.

For complete details on Board actions, please refer to the minutes of the Board meeting on the ACBL website (ACBL.org). These will be posted within the next two weeks.

<u>Top 25 Masterpoint Winners – New Orleans NABC</u>

	N	TD (1	DI di
	Name	Total	<u>Platinum</u>
1	Allan Graves, Saint Johnsbury VT	189.89	130.00
2	Mark Aquino, Jamaica Plain MA	133.82	108.62
3	Shome Mukherjee, Randolph MA	131.99	105.82
4	Yiji Starr, Wayland MA	125.60	100.00
5	Lloyd Arvedon, Woburn MA	106.68	103.49
6	Karen McCallum, Exeer NH	106.64	47.94
7	Franklin Merblum, Bloomfield CT	82.71	81.58
8	Lewis Gamerman, Randolph MA	81.84	37.56
9	Sheila Gabay, Newton MA	76.30	76.30
10	Cenk Tuncok, Amesbury MA	62.61	20.27
11	Adam Grossack, Newton MA	52.71	46.19
12	James Keegan, Cambridge MA	47.71	3.64
13	Susan Glasspiegel, Simsbury CT	46.18	
14	Phyllis Fireman, Chestnut Hill MA	45.69	43.98
15	Paul Harris, Waltham MA	45.44	3.64
16	John Hrones Jr, Needham MA	42.88	4.68
17	Zachary Grossack, Newton MA	42.73	21.57
18	Douglas Doub, West Hartford CT	41.13	41.13
19	Tim Joder, Lanesboro MA	40.43	40.43
20	Nathan Glasser, Somerville MA	40.10	3.37
21	James Streisand, Sudbury MA	40.00	40.00
22	Joe DeGaetano, Delray Beach FL	38.40	21.35
23	Arthur Crystal, Fairfield CT	36.98	1.71
24	Timothy Pettus, Northborough MA	36.90	
25	Stewart Rubenstein, Newton MA	35.14	
	Christina Parker, Newton Center	35.14	

The Summer NABC will be held at Hilton Chicago Hotel in Chicago, Illinois from August 6 to August 16. I suggest you plan to get your rooms early because I have already heard complaints from players who say they are having great difficulty getting rooms. I'm also led to believe many of the rooms have two bathrooms instead of one and there is also an additional \$25 per night charge should you be required to use one of these rooms. Both of these situations are unacceptable to me. I do not recall any mention being made of an extra \$25 nightly charge when the contract was presented to the ACBL Board several years ago and I continue to be concerned that for at least the last three NABCs, players being are advised there are no rooms available for part of their stay many, almost immediately after the rooms first become available.

The Fall NABC will be held at the Sheraton Denver Downtown in Denver CO from November 26 through December 6. Room rates are a very reasonable \$131 per night with complimentary Internet and the view is supposed to be spectacular.