

District Director's Report – December 2014

Providence NABC

The first word that comes to mind in describing the 2014 Providence NABC is “fantastic.” Two plus years of planning obviously paid off as most everyone who attended had a great time. We received numerous compliments from many players who loved the beautiful and modern facility, the good food, the closeness of the host hotels, and the outstanding morning and evening hospitality. Many players commented that this NABC is one of the best and most enjoyable NABCs they ever attended. Table count was 9,574 tables, very close to the pretournament estimates given to our Chairs. In talking to Management, it appears they are favorably inclined to return here in our normal 7-year cycle and I'm led to believe discussions are already underway.

The playing site was one of the best ever with all games held on two floors of the great convention center. There was ample space between tables and having all the players in one building, easily accessible from the nearby hotels, is a huge plus. Several players who regularly attend NABCs commented to both the Chairs and me about how much they loved the site.

On behalf of the ACBL Board, the District and all the players who attended, I wish to extend our enormous thanks and appreciation to NABC Chairs Helen Pawlowski and Joe Brouillard, the Committee Chairs and all the volunteers who worked so hard to make this event such a great success. We should all be proud.

Top 10 Finishers in NABC Events – District 25

LIFE MASTER WOMENS PAIRS

Phyllis Chase, Providence RI	
Joyce Regan, East Greenwich RI	4
Yiji Starr, Wayland MA	6

LIFE MASTER PAIRS

Jay Borker, Greenwich CT	
Douglas Doub, W. Hartford CT	3

WOMENS BAM TEAMS

Phyllis Fireman, Chestnut Hill MA	2
Karen McCallum, Exeter NH	4
Kamla Chawla, Longmeadow, MA	7
Phyllis Chase, Providence RI	
Joyce Regan, East Greenwich RI	
Yiji Starr, Wayland MA	
Rena Lieberman, North Easton MA	9
Sheila Gabay, Newton MA	
Pamela Miller, Cambridge MA	10

OPEN BAM TEAMS

Allan Graves, St. Johnsbury VT 3

SUPER SENIOR PAIRS

Elaine Newberg, Marblehead MA
Ronald Newberg, Marblehead MA 10

0 – 5,000 BLUE RIBBON PAIRS

Allan Wolf North Haven CT
Russell Friedman Wilton CT 4

Alix Taylor, Lincoln MA
Cecilla Boras, Waltham MA 10

NORTH AMERICAN SWISS TEAMS

Cenk Tuncok, US
Adam Grossack, Newton MA
Zachary Grossack, Newton MA 6

Mark Aquino, Jamaica Plain MA
Lawrence Lau, Westport CT
Brett Adler, Norwalk CT
Shome Mukerjee, Randolph, MA 9

REISINGER BAM TEAMS

Allan Graves, St. Johnsbury VT 1

0 -10,000 SWISS TEAMS

Walter Lee, Sudbury MA 3

Luke Gillespie, Wayland, MA
James Striesand, Sudbury, MA
Anton Tsytkin, Ashland MA
Melody Bi, Ashland MA 4

Daniel Jablonski Stoneham, MA
Barry Rogoff, Nashua NH
Robert Eachus, Nashua NH
Alan Frank, Arlington MA
Stephanie Hamilton-Diesel, Saugus MA
Andrew Chesterton, Winchester MA 8

Highlights of ACBL Board Meeting

2015 President

I'm delighted to report that Suzi Subeck from District 13 (Chicago area) has been elected as the 2015 ACBL President. I have every expectation that Suzi will do a great job dealing with the many issues the ACBL must deal with going into 2015, including getting the ACBL Score project back on track and finding ways to increase both our membership and table count at tournaments and clubs.

CEO Report

CEO Robert Hartman reported that total membership stands at 167,808 through the end of October, almost exactly the same as at the start of the year. Average Regional Table count is down 3%; average Sectional table count is down 6%; and average STAC table count is down 4%. Through September 30, face-to-face club table count is down 3.1% and online table count is up 6.6% for a net increase in club play of 0.5%.

On the positive side, the ACBL will be changing benefit providers for 2015 from United Health Care to Aetna, which will result in an annual savings of about 13% with no reduction in benefits to our employees.

The Longest Day (Alzheimer's) raised \$598,647, about \$20,000 more than last year.

2014 Financial Results and 2015 Budget

Following are the projected 2014 financial results and the proposed 2015 budget:

	<u>2014 Budget</u>	<u>2014 Projection</u>	<u>Difference</u>	<u>2015 Budget</u>
Change in Net Assets From Operations	+ \$5,800	- \$530,700	- \$536,500 unfavorable	+ \$56,900

In addition, there were three other items which contribute to an overall change in net assets: Investment gain: \$66,700; Pension Adjustment: - \$1,758,400; and ACBL Score Write-Off: \$1,905,300. These three items result in an overall change in net assets of - \$4,127,700.

Proposed fee increases for 2015:

- A 2% increase in Tournament Sanction Fees, effective April 1:

	<u>Current</u>	<u>Proposed</u>	<u>% Increase</u>
Regionals	\$4.23	\$4.31	1.9%
Sectionals	2.94	3.00	2.0%
STACs	Increase of 2%		

- TD Session Fees will increase by about 5% (first change since 2012).

ACBL Lifetime Masterpoint Lists

The Board passed the following motion: On all lifetime Masterpoint lists issued after December 31, 2014, on-line masterpoints won will be included next to the total. This motion resulted from a action recommended by the Board of Governors at the Summer NABC that lifetime Masterpoint lists should exclude all masterpoints won online.

Seven Day Regionals

The Board approved a motion to extend Regionals from 6 ½ days to seven days with the following restrictions:

- Except for Side Series Pairs, all single-session events on the first day of a full seven-day Regional must be run for the benefit of one of the following: ACBL Charity Foundation, ACBL Education Foundation, ACBL Junior Fund, International Fund, or Grass Roots Fund. The minimum contribution for the above listed games is \$7.00 per table.

- A Regional may run two-session gold point events or the first two sessions of a KO on the first day but the first session must be run for the benefit of one of the above funds.
- A full seven-day Regional may not schedule events before 1:00 pm on the first day.

[ACBL Score](#)

Many of you know the recent status of ACBL Score but I will provide a brief summary. The new ACBL Score+ was initially scheduled for completion in mid-2014 at a cost of \$1.5 million. As of November 2013 (about 1 1/2 years into the project), we were advised we were 2-6 weeks behind schedule. In March, we were told the project was substantially behind schedule. As a result, the CEO selected an advisory group to make an independent judgment and recommendation as to the viability of continuing the ACBL Score + Project. The advisory group unanimously recommended that work on ACBL Score+ be terminated and that we enhance the existing 32-year old system.

When this decision was announced, numerous highly qualified systems development experts criticized the action, primarily because they believe the plan to enhance our 32 year old DOS based system is a very poor option. As a result, I submitted a motion that recommended we stop work on updating the old system and conduct an independent review by outside systems experts to evaluate the decision and to decide how best to move forward. When I learned of the plan described below, I chose to withdraw my motion.

The proposed plan is to have a committee evaluate the current ACBL Score plan both to determine whether enhancing the existing ACBL Score is viable and, if so, to evaluate the work planned for 2015. The Committee will have three Board Members, including Jay Whipple, three members from ACBL Staff and three outside systems experts (bridge players). Jay assures me the three outside systems experts selected will be outstanding and he further assures me he is confident the group is fully capable of carrying out the task assigned.

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 week or so.

[ACBL Goodwill Committee & Charity Committee Appointments](#)

It gives me great pleasure to announce the following appointments to the Aileen Osofsky ACBL Goodwill Committee and National Charity Committee. These are lifetime appointments honoring players who have contributed substantially to bridge.

[National Goodwill Committee:](#)

Members selected are those who: spread goodwill among both partners and opponents; behave in an exemplary manner at all times; and are highly ethical at the bridge table.

This year's appointments are: Bob Bertoni (EMBA); Joe Brouillard (RI), and Mike Waveda (CT).

[National Charity Committee:](#)

Initially, persons chosen for this Committee were those who endeavored to promote participation in the ACBL charity program. More recently, the selection criteria have been broadened to include persons instrumental in promoting bridge by being heavily involved in activities that contribute to the financial wellbeing of the District and ACBL.

This year's appointments are: Phyllis Chase (RI) and Jane Verdrager (NH)

Top Platinum Masterpoint Winners – 2014 NABCs

Congratulations to Allan Graves who won the most platinum masterpoints for 2014. The top five platinum masterpoint winners for 2014 are: Allan Graves, 645; Doug Doub, 395; Frank Merblum, 357; Zachary Grossack, 332; and Phyllis Fireman, 257.

Top 25 Masterpoint Winners – Providence

<u>Name</u>	<u>Total Points</u>	<u>Points Won In NABC+ Events</u>
1 Allan Graves, St Johnsbury VT	334.29	293.56
2 Phyllis Fireman, Chestnut Hill MA	127.58	127.58
3 Cenk Tuncok, Amesbury MA	92.87	70.38
4 Jay Borker, Greenwich CT	89.69	89.69
5 Phyllis Chase, Providence RI	87.41	74.39
6 Adam Grossack, Newton MA	83.65	81.65
Zachary Grossack, Newton MA	83.65	81.65
8 Victor King, Hartford CT	75.74	52.79
9 Pamela Miller, Cambridge MA	75.36	73.86
10 Walter Lee, Sudbury MA	75.20	18.95
11 Joyce Regan, E Greenwich RI	74.90	67.65
12 Sheila Gabay, Newton MA	74.60	67.74
13 Douglas Doub, W Hartford CT	74.34	74.34
14 Mark Aquino, Jamaica Plain MA	73.56	68.95
15 Shome Mukherjee, Randolph MA	71.84	57.09
16 Lawrence Lau, Westport CT	66.28	53.33
Brett Adler, Norwalk CT	66.28	53.33
18 Yiji Starr, Wayland MA	66.13	59.66
19 Rich DeMartino, Riverside CT	58.94	45.81
20 Karen McCallum, Exeter NH	53.77	50.92
21 Debbie Benner, Fairfield CT	53.07	
Arthur Crystal, Fairfield CT	53.07	
23 Kamla Chawla, Longmeadow MA	51.96	51.96
24 Melody Bi, Ashland MA	51.43	21.17
25 Richard Zeckhauser, Cambridge MA	51.21	51.21

2015 NABCs

The three 2015 NABCs will be held at the sites listed below. We hope to see many of you at these NABCs placing high in events and winning lots of masterpoints.

Spring – New Orleans, LA	New Orleans Marriott	March 12 - 22
Summer – Chicago, IL	Hilton	August 6 - 16
Fall – Denver, CO	Sheraton Downtown	Nov 26 - Dec 6

I wish all of you a Happy and Healthy Holiday Season. Please make an effort to support the District Regionals and your Unit's Sectionals.

Rich DeMartino
District Director