

## **District Director's Report – December 2012**

### **San Francisco NABC**

The 2012 Fall NABC was held at the San Francisco Marriott Marquis. Attendance was 13,441 tables, a bit below Management's pre-tournament estimate of 14,000 tables and over 1,400 tables below the table count at the last San Francisco NABC in 2007. San Francisco is clearly one of the premier sites for NABCs and most who attended had a great time. The local committee did a very good job on hospitality and most players loved the city and enjoyed both the sites and the numerous good restaurants near the host hotel.

### **Top 10 Finishers in NABC Events – District 25**

#### **LIFE MASTER WOMENS' PAIRS**

Kamla Chawla, Longmeadow MA      8

#### **WOMENS' BAM TEAMS**

Phyllis Fireman, Chestnut Hill, MA      8

#### **SENIOR KO TEAMS**

Lloyd Arvedon, Natick, MA  
Rich DeMartino, Riverside, CT  
Pat McDevitt, Brookline, MA  
John Stiefel, Wethersfield, CT      3/4

Geoffrey Brod, Avon CT      9/16

#### **SUPER SENIOR PAIRS**

James Keegan, Cambridge MA  
Melvin Marcus, Waltham MA      7

#### **0 – 5000 MINI BLUE RIBBON PAIRS**

Anlin Xu, Groton CT      6

#### **SENIOR MIXED PAIRS**

Ann Borgschulte, Lexington MA      8

#### **NORTH AMERICAN SWISS TEAMS**

Paul Fireman, Chestnut Hill MA      2

Geoffrey Brod, Avon CT  
Victor King, Hartford CT      5

Dean Panagopoulos, Lynn MA  
Robert Woodard, Dover NH      7

Rich DeMartino, Riverside CT  
John Stiefel, Wethersfield CT      9

## REISINGER BAM TEAMS

Doug Doub, W Hartford CT 5

Alan Applebaum, Brookline MA  
Frank Merblum, Bloomfield CT 8

## Highlights of ACBL Board Meeting

### CEO Report

CEO Robert Hartman reported that membership now stands at 166,494, a 1,000 member increase over 2011 figures. He also reported that Regional, Sectional and STAC table count is up about 1% year-to-date compared with 2011. Club table count is steady and on-line table count has increased by 10% to 750,000 through October.

The CEO also reported that the new ACBL Score+ project is presently on schedule. I plan to make a concerted effort to learn much more about the project over the next few months and encourage anyone who is interested in participating to let me know and I'll try to arrange a meeting or conference call.

### 2012 Financial Results and 2013 Budget

Following are the projected 2012 financial results and the proposed 2013 budget:

	<u>2012 Budget</u>	<u>2012 Projection</u>	<u>Difference</u>	<u>2013 Budget</u>
Change in Net Assets	+ \$ 86,000	+ \$ 367,000	+ \$281,000	+ \$ 69,000

Most importantly, there will be no increases in sanction fees or tournament director charges for 2013, which is good news for clubs, sectionals and regionals. Overall, the ACBL continues to be in excellent financial condition.

### 2013 ACBL President

Donald Mamula from District 19 was elected 2013 ACBL President.

### National Goodwill Committee Chair

I'm very pleased to report that my spouse Sandy was elected by the BOD from a list of 4 declared candidates as the National Goodwill Chair for a three-year term commencing in 2013. This is indeed a great honor for Sandy and I'm confident she will do us all proud in her new job. Be aware that she will be seeking the help of all of us in continuing to spread good will among our players.

### Electronic Devices at NABCs

As most of you know, for several years electronic devices have been prohibited in the playing areas during any session of play at NABC+ events at national tournaments. Management recommended and the BOD approved a modified policy to be effective at the next NABC that electronic equipment may not be operated or operable in any manner in the playing area during a session of play. Any such equipment must not be visible during the session and must remain off at all times. Violations of the policy will continue to result in automatic penalties.

Management's reasons for the proposed change are that we wish to add technological enhancements to our process such as real time automated results, hand record posting, electronic reminders and other ideas as yet unknown. Having our players "connected" immediately before and after bridge play is essential if we are to implement these improvements. Additionally, as many of you know, the prohibition of cell phones in the playing areas of NABC events is essentially unenforceable.

### Strategic Plan

Management made an excellent presentation on their progress on the Strategic Planning effort that we all have been working on during 2012. Based on input from the Board Strategic Planning Committee, Management has chosen six Strategic Projects for 2013:

- Develop an interactive web-based learn-to-play bridge solution, Phase 1
- Create an on-line partnership desk
- Understand why people choose to leave the ACBL and identify ways the ACBL can best retain our members
- Develop a vision of an ideal TD structure and identify the path to this structure
- Replace ACBL Score, Phases 4 and 5
- Centralize data and implement better web development tools

I and several other Board members had been somewhat skeptical about how much time we spent on Strategic Planning this year but I was quite impressed with management's presentation and am convinced that the ACBL staff is enthusiastic about both the plan and the benefits we will derive from the above projects.

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.

### **ACBL Goodwill Committee & Charity Committee Appointments**

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

#### National Goodwill Committee:

Polly Goedicke, EMBA

Wayne Burt, NHBA

Polly and Wayne are highly deserving of this honor because they have made major contributions to their Units and the District and also do much to spread good will to other bridge players.

#### National Charity Committee:

Joe Brouillard, RIBA

Helen Pawlowski, WMBA

Joe and Helen are heavily involved in activities that result in increased membership in the District and both have volunteered to be the Co-Chairs of the 2014 Providence NABC.

## **Top 25 Masterpoint Winners – San Francisco**

<b><u>Name</u></b>	<b><u>Total Points</u></b>	<b><u>Points Won In NABC+ Events</u></b>
1 Rich DeMartino, Riverside CT	159.70	123.33
2 Paul Fireman, Chestnut Hill MA	155.12	131.91
3 Douglas Doub, W Hartford CT	127.39	127.39
4 John Stiefel, Wethersfield CT	125.08	123.33
5 Geoffrey Brod, Avon CT	118.94	109.19
6 Pat McDevitt, Brookline MA	117.05	70.00
7 Alan Applebaum, Brookline MA	90.87	90.87
8 Franklin Merblum, Bloomfield CT	89.84	89.84
9 Phyllis Fireman, Chestnut Hill MA	89.03	79.56
10 Lloyd Arvedon, Natick MA	88.73	73.18
11 Victor King, Hartford CT	86.13	77.24
12 Dean Panagopoulos, Lynn MA	65.59	61.58
13 Robert Woodard, Dover NH	64.70	61.58
14 Joseph De Gaetano, Atkinson NH	52.94	3.60
15 Lewis Gamerman, Westwood MA	52.91	51.23
16 Bill Irvine, Quincy MA	51.33	5.78
17 Jayendu Patel, Newton MA	43.93	
18 Tom Joyce, East Hartford CT	41.55	
19 Margie Sullivan, Sagamore Beach MA	40.17	3.05
Stephen Rzewski, South Dennis MA	40.17	3.05
21 Mark Aquino, Jamaica Plain MA	39.57	39.57
22 Ann Borgschulte, Lexington MA	38.72	38.05
23 Karen McCallum, Exeter NH	38.49	34.76
24 Robert Bertoni, Haverhill MA	38.10	1.33
Peter Manzon, Waltham MA	38.10	1.33

## **Top Platinum Masterpoint Winner – 2012 NABCs**

Congratulations to Jay Stiefel, who won 291.18 Platinum masterpoints in 2012, to nose out last year's winner, Doug Doub, who finished the year with 271.49 Platinum masterpoints. Rich DeMartino was third with 255.47 Platinum points. Platinum points are awarded for nationally-rated events with no upper masterpoint limit (NABC+ Events).

### **2013 NABCs**

Next year, the three NABCs will be held at the sites listed below. We hope to see many of you there.

Spring – St. Louis, MO	Renaissance Hotel	March 14 - 24
Summer – Atlanta, GA	Hyatt Regency	August 1 - 11
Fall – Phoenix, AZ	Sheraton & Hyatt Regency	Nov 28 – Dec 8

I wish all of you a Happy Holiday Season.

Rich DeMartino  
District Director