

District Director's Report – December 2015

Denver NABC

The Fall NABC was held at the Sheraton Denver Downtown, in Denver Colorado. Attendance was 9,059 tables, about 10% below the pre-tournament estimate of 10,000 tables. The downtown area was well decorated for the holidays creating a festive atmosphere for the players. The playing space was all in the main hotel and was generally quite good. There are also several good restaurants fairly close to the playing site. It seemed there were far fewer District 25 members at this NABC than normal but nonetheless those who attended had a good time and we had three winners.

Top 10 Finishers in NABC Events – District 25

LIFE MASTER PAIRS

Richard Budd, Portland ME
Zachary Grossack, Newton MA 3

SENIOR KNOCKOUT TEAMS

Lloyd Arevdon, Woburn MA
Rich DeMartino, Riverside CT
Pat McDevitt, Brookline MA 5/8

OPEN BAM TEAMS

Allan Graves, Saint Johnsbury VT 1

WOMENS BAM TEAMS

Karen McCallum, Exeter NH 4

SUPER SENIOR PAIRS

Steve Becker, Old Greenwich CT
Larry Bausher, West Haven CT 1

WOMEN'S PAIRS

Sandy DeMartino, Riverside CT 5

SENIOR MIXED PAIRS

Pat McDevitt, Brookline MA
Margie Sullivan, Sagamore Beach MA 2

NORTH AMERICAN SWISS TEAMS

Lloyd Arvedon, Woburn MA
Rich DeMartino, Riverside CT 5
Phyllis Fireman, Chestnut Hill MA 9

Highlights of ACBL Board Meeting

CEO Report

The CEO reported that membership at the end of October is 168,418, an increase of 692 since the beginning of the year.

Through September, total club table count remains relatively flat compared with 2014. Face-to-face tables are down 0.70% while the online count is up slightly. Regional average table count through October is down 1% (1,336 versus 1,318); Sectional average tables are down 3% (157 versus 153); and STAC table count is down 18% (1,673 versus 1,379).

2015 Financial Results and 2016 Budget

	<u>2015 Budget</u>	<u>2015 Projection</u>	<u>Difference</u>	<u>2016 Budget</u>
Change in Net Assets				
From Operations	\$ 9,500	\$ - 199,900	\$ - 209,400	\$ - 61,500

Following are proposed increases for 2016:

Club table fees are increased from \$0.74 to \$1.00 but the game fee of \$1.25 is eliminated, except for STACs and NAP qualifying games. Regional and Sectional sanction fees are increased by 2% (\$4.31 to \$4.40 for Regionals and \$3.00 to 3.06 for Sectionals). STAC fees will increase by 3%.

TD fees will increase by 9%. NABC entry fees will remain the same except for NABC+ events that will increase from \$20 to \$25 but the highly unpopular \$10 per person screen charge will be eliminated. See below for additional increases for 5 and 6 person teams.

The total fee increases will generate additional income of \$792,000 but unfortunately we are still budgeting a small loss for 2016. Those involved in planning and running Regionals and Sectionals need to be cognizant of the fee increases, especially the 9% increase for TDs.

Board Composition Review Committee

The board passed a motion by a 21- 4 vote that the 2016 ACBL President form a Board Composition Advisory Committee of 9 members (3 from the BOD, 2 from management, 2 from the Board of Governors and 2 members at large). The purpose of this committee is to review the current size of the BOD, areas from which they are selected and the method by which they are selected. The committee will submit a status report at each NABC meeting with the final report due no later than the Spring 2017 board meeting. Formation of the committee is in response to input from several sources that the ACBL BOD is too large.

Entry Fees For Team Events

As mentioned above, we passed a motion that entry fees for all events of two or more sessions at an NABC (NABC or Regional event) will be changed to a per person basis rather than a team basis. I voiced my strong objections to this motion to no avail.

National Goodwill Chairman

I am pleased to report that Sandy DeMartino was re-elected by acclamation to another three-year term as the Aileen Osofsky ACBL Goodwill Chair commencing on January 1, 2016. I may be partial but I believe Sandy and her Committee are doing a great job promoting goodwill among ACBL members.

0-1500 LM Pairs

The conditions of contest for the 0-1500 LM Pairs are modified to allow all players with fewer than 1500 masterpoints to participate. The event will be renamed the 0-1500 Pairs.

Disqualification of Pairs/Teams when a Partner/Teammate has been Convicted of Cheating.

I was the initial motion maker of the following motion which passed unanimously:

The partners and teammates of said participants (who have been convicted of cheating) shall forfeit all masterpoints, titles and status rank earned while playing with said participants during the four years preceding the admission or finding of guilt.

New Life Master Designations

The BOD approved two new LM designations, one for 1500 the other for 3500 masterpoints.

Ruby Life Master: An LM with over 1500 masterpoints including no fewer than a combination of 300 silver, or red, gold or platinum points.

Sapphire Life Master: An LM with over 3500 masterpoints including no fewer than a combination of 700 silver, red, gold or platinum points.

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: Susan Rodricks and Susan Fronapfel

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: Linda Robinson, for her outstanding contributions to both the 2008 Boston NABC (as NABC Finance Chair) and the 2014 Providence NABC where she served as a mentor to the Finance Chair and was also responsible for auditing the financial results.

Adam Grossack for his strong efforts in developing our younger players including the guidance and support he has provided to the Brandeis University college team.

Top Platinum Masterpoint Winners – 2015 NABCs

Congratulations to Allan Graves who won 359 platinum masterpoints for 2015 and to Lloyd Arvedon who was second with 269 platinum masterpoints.

Top 25 Masterpoint Winners – Denver

	<u>Name</u>	<u>Total Points</u>	<u>Points Won In NABC+ Events</u>
1	Allan Graves, Saint Johnsbury VT	210.43	149.61
2	Lloyd Arvedon, Woburn MA	122.26	117.11
3	Rich DeMartino, Riverside CT	113.04	100.30
4	Douglas Doub, West Hartford CT	107.90	76.29
5	Pat McDevitt, Brookline MA	96.50	90.15
6	Cenk Tuncok, Amesbury MA	93.64	91.60
7	Zachary Grossack, Newton MA	89.30	89.30
8	Margie Sullivan, Sagamore Beach MA	75.41	68.23
9	Adam Grossack, Newton MA	72.70	69.95
10	Yiji Starr, Wayland MA	70.95	17.39
11	Richard Budd, Portland ME	70.31	70.31
12	Karen McCallum, Exeter NH	61.33	55.48
13	Phyllis Fireman, Chestnut Hill MA	60.32	56.87
14	Franklin Merblum, Bloomfield CT	58.90	58.90
15	Sandra DeMartino, Riverside CT	50.99	32.80
16	Larry Bausher, West Haven CT	46.92	43.41
17	Lewis Gamerman, Randolph MA	45.87	39.81
18	Steve Becker, Old Greenwich CT	41.00	41.00
19	Paul Fireman, Chestnut Hill MA	37.54	37.54
20	Walter Lee, Sudbury MA	37.20	37.20
21	Jay Borker, Greenwich CT	35.63	35.63
22	Kamla Chawla, Longmeadow MA	35.53	33.62
23	Harold Feldheim, Hamden CT	30.66	3.30
24	Alix Taylor, Lincoln MA	30.10	0.94
25	Jeffrey Lehman, Newton Center MA	29.78	

Final Report

This is my 45th and final report. When first elected, I promised to produce a report at the conclusion of every NABC and am pleased to say I fully met that goal. I have truly enjoyed the opportunity to represent District 25 on the ACBL Board these many years and I extend my sincere thanks to all for your continued support. I wish Mark luck in carrying out the DD responsibilities starting on January 1.

2016 NABCs

The three 2016 NABCs will be held at the sites listed below.

Spring – Reno, NV	Silver Legacy, Circus Circus, Eldorado	March 10 -20
Summer - Washington DC	Marriott Wardman Park	July 21-31
Orlando, FL	Swan & Dolphin	Nov 24 – Dec 4

I wish all of you a Happy and Healthy Holiday Season.

Rich DeMartino
District Director