

District Director's Report – March 2013

St. Louis NABC

The Spring NABC was held at the St. Louis Renaissance Grand Hotel and America Convention Center. Attendance was 9,661 tables, fairly close to pre-tournament expectations and almost identical to the Spring 2012 NABC table count. The playing space was generally excellent.

The local committee did a very good job with evening hospitality, which was generally accompanied by music. Many of the attendees also commented how impressed they were with the courtesy and friendliness displayed by the entire hotel staff.

Table count at the new 0 – 10,000 Swiss on the first weekend was great – 81 tables. The fact that the new event did not detract from the other two National events starting on the same day (Platinum Pairs and IMP Pairs) is very good news. On the negative side, even with the success of this event, attendance on the first weekend was not appreciably higher. Between now and the Summer NABC, the Bridge Committee will evaluate possibilities for other such events. Whether you played in the new event or not, I would appreciate any feedback you may have on other such events.

Congratulations to our NABC winner, noted below: Richard Wieland in the Silver Ribbon Pairs.

TOP 10 FINISHERS IN NABC EVENTS – DISTRICT 25

IMP PAIRS

Lewis Gamerman, Westwood MA	
Robert McCaw, Sudbury MA	2
Lloyd Arvedon, Woburn MA	5

SILVER RIBBON PAIRS

Richard Wieland, Redding CT	1
Harold Feldheim, Hamden CT	
Robert Lavin, East Longmeadow MA	3

MIXED PAIRS

Richard Zeckhauser, Cambridge MA	6
Kimberly Gilman, Carlisle MA	
Zachery Grossack, Newton MA	7

RED RIBBON PAIRS

Reid Barton, Arlington MA	
Michael Lieberman, Cambridge MA	7
Cenk Tuncok, Amesbury MA	8

WOMEN'S PAIRS

Kamla Chawla, Longmeadow MA	2
Yiji Starr, Wayland MA	8

NORTH AMERICAN PAIRS – C

Reid Barton, Arlington MA	
Emily Shen, Arlington MA	2 (Late correction)

WOMEN'S SWISS

Phyllis Fireman, Chestnut Hill MA	3
Karen McCallum, Exeter NH	
Yiji Starr, Wayland, MA	6

OPEN SWISS

Geoffrey Brod, Avon CT	
Victor King, Hartford, CT	10

Highlights of ACBL Board Meeting

CEO Report

CEO Robert Hartman reported that membership at the end of February is 166,881, the highest total in more than a decade. For January and February, membership has increased by 473 players.

Through February, Regional table count is down 13% and STAC table count is down 14%. In 2012, both Regionals and STACs got off to an extremely strong start so the 2013 figures are not as bad as they appear. Average Sectional table count was down by 4%, due in part to bad weather. Finally, preliminary 2012 table count for clubs is 3,120,600 tables, of which 906,000 tables are from on-line games.

The CEO reported that the ACBL is making a concerted effort to move all clubs over to electronic reporting through use of ACBL score. Presently, 160 out of our 3,200 clubs continue to report manually. I strongly support this effort so encourage any clubs still using manual reporting to make every effort to convert to ACBL score.

Finally, numerous Board members and others have made it clear to the CEO that there are significant problems with the implementation of the new TourneyTRAX system. Hopefully, these problems will be resolved fairly quickly. My opinion is that the system was installed with neither sufficient testing nor adequate training and feedback from the system's principal users.

Financial Results

The final result for calendar year 2012 is a net gain of \$368,000, which compares very favorably with the 2012 approved budget of \$86,000. Management and the Finance Committee proposed and the Board approved a final 2013 Budget which projects a gain of \$32,000. This is a very good result especially since there are no fee increases for Tournaments for 2013. The ACBL continues to be in excellent financial shape.

[Non-Member Entry Fees](#)

Effective immediately, entry fees for non-members and unpaid Life Masters will include a mandatory additional fee of \$4 (up from \$2) for Regional events and a mandatory additional fee of \$3 (up from \$1) for Sectionals. Charity events, STACs and events limited to players with no more than 20 masterpoints are excluded.

[Senior Age](#)

Effective January 1, 2014, the minimum age for ACBL sanctioned senior events is being increased to 60 years of age. Those who reach age 55 before January 1, 2014 will remain eligible in subsequent years. The initial motion made by the Board of Governors did not include a provision to grandfather those who are already eligible or will become eligible before the end of this year. The Board believes it is unfair to those already eligible to play in senior events to be prevented from playing in these events in the future so passed a modified motion.

[Playing Directors at STACs](#)

A motion was recently passed that would make playing directors and their partners ineligible to receive overall awards in STACs. This motion was causing problems for many small Units and clubs so, after much discussion, the regulation is being changed effective immediately to permit the above restriction to be waived, at sponsor option. Such waiver shall be noted on the sanction application submitted to ACBL Headquarters.

[Goodwill Committee](#)

I'm pleased to report that our new National Goodwill Committee Chair Sandy DeMartino and her six Co-Chairs got rave reviews from those who attended the Goodwill Committee reception in St. Louis. Following is a comment from the Daily Bulletin under a heading: "Good start for new Goodwill Chair."

"Debuting as chair of the Aileen Osofsky Goodwill Committee, Sandy DeMartino handled a heavy agenda with ease while maintaining focus on the overall purpose of the institution: Making sure people enjoy playing bridge."

I know Sandy and her co-chairs worked very hard on planning for the reception and it's gratifying to know how much their efforts are appreciated. At the conclusion of the meeting, Sandy encouraged Goodwill Committee members to wear their pins to remind others that "we can be competitive and still be caring, friendly and ethical." Good advice for all of us.

The Summer NABC will be held at the Hyatt Regency in Atlanta, Georgia from August 1 through August 11. Please note that National events in Atlanta will start at 10:00 and 3:30. The Fall NABC will be in at the Sheraton Phoenix Downtown and Hyatt Regency in Phoenix, Arizona from November 28 through December 8. I hope to see many of you at one or both of these NABCs.

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.

Top 25 Masterpoint Winners – St. Louis NABC

	<u>Name</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Platinum</u>
1	Lew Gamerman, Westwood MA	126.28	81.88
2	Richard Wieland, Redding CT	108.32	104.00
3	Douglas Doub, W Hartford CT	101.83	101.83
4	Bob McCaw, Sudbury MA	98.70	77.68
5	Frank Merblum, Bloomfield CT	98.03	98.03
6	Victor King, Hartford CT	92.64	90.42
7	Lloyd Arvedon, Woburn MA	82.55	69.71
8	Kamla Chawla, Longmeadow MA	77.93	77.93
9	John Stiefel, Wethersfield CT	70.69	13.36
10	Phyllis Fireman, Chestnut Hill MA	70.55	45.48
11	Robert Lavin, East Longmeadow MA	64.80	56.25
12	Alan Applebaum, Brookline MA	64.41	64.41
13	Yiji Starr, Wayland MA	63.36	63.36
14	Harold Feldheim, Hamden CT	59.33	59.33
15	Adam Grossack, Newton MA	58.03	28.00
16	Karen McCallum, Exeter NH	54.49	28.63
17	Geoffrey Brod, Avon CT	52.12	42.42
18	Richard Zeckhauser, Cambridge MA	50.79	37.67
19	Anton Tsytkin, Ashland MA	49.76	20.00
20	Gloria Tsoi, Somerville MA	47.69	22.20
21	Cenk Tuncok, Amesbury MA	47.01	2.12
22	Simon Kantor, Feeding Hills MA	43.34	35.21
23	Rich DeMartino, Riverside CT	42.62	24.68
24	Edward Spear, Bangor ME	42.18	2.52
25	Robert Lurie, Wayland MA	40.18	32.46

Rich DeMartino
District Director