

District Director's Report – December 2013

Phoenix NABC

The 2013 Fall NABC was held in Phoenix, Arizona at the Sheraton Phoenix Downtown and the Hyatt Regency. Attendance was 12,565 tables, more than 10% above Management's pre-tournament estimates and over 100 tables higher than the last Phoenix NABC in 2002. Playing conditions were generally excellent at the Sheraton, where most events were held, but a bit below our usual standards at the Hyatt, primarily because the restrooms nearest the playing space were being renovated, which made getting to the restrooms a bit more difficult.

As anticipated, the weather was generally excellent though a little cooler than normal for this time of year. Many players made day trips to Sedona, the Grand Canyon or other places of interest. I extend our sincere thanks to the local committee volunteers who did a great job.

You will be pleased to know that Joe Brouillard, Lois DeBlois and Helen Pawlowski set up a table in Phoenix to promote the Providence NABC. Also attending was Erin Degulis, Director of Convention Services for the Providence Convention and Visitors Bureau. In my view, this effort was quite successful so the plan is to do a similar presentation in Las Vegas next July. We encourage each of you to do whatever you can to promote the 2014 Providence NABC. I'm confident the NABC will be a great event for players at all levels. The 2008 Boston NABC attracted 10,600 tables. Let's aim for 12,600 tables!

Top 10 Finishers in NABC Events – District 25

LIFE MASTER WOMENS PAIRS

Karen McCallum, Exeter NH	3
Kamla Chawla, Longmeadow	9

WOMENS BAM TEAMS

Phyllis Fireman, Chestnut Hill MA	1
Karen McCallum, Exeter NH	3

OPEN BAM TEAMS

Allan Graves, St. Johnsbury VT	7
Paul Fireman, Chestnut Hill MA	10

REISINGER BAM TEAMS

Doug Doub, W Hartford CT	4
Paul Fireman, Chestnut Hill MA	9

NORTH AMERICAN SWISS TEAMS

Lloyd Arvedon, Woburn MA	3
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Despite the fine performances from those above, there were far fewer top 10 finishers than usual for District 25 players.

Highlights of ACBL Board Meeting

CEO Report

CEO Robert Hartman reported that ACBL membership as of the end of October is 167,912. This year there has been a net increase of 1,504 members, the highest membership gain for a single year since 1993 (with the exception of 2008 when the new life master level was introduced).

Regional and Sectional table counts have shown small declines compared with 2012. Overall, the Regional average table count declined by 3% and the average Sectional table count is down 2%. STACs are the bright spot, with table count up over 2012 by 10% due primarily to the addition of 5 STACs (53 vs. 48). Total Sectional table counts (Sectionals plus STACs) increased approximately 5,000 tables over last year.

Face-to-face club table count is down 2.4% but counting on-line games, club table count is down less than one half of one percent. Clubs are the lifeblood of our organization so any decrease in club attendance is cause for concern.

The CEO also reported that the new ACBL Score+ project is running slightly behind schedule (perhaps 2 - 6 weeks). I continue to be concerned that we are not providing enough user support for this very large project and have expressed that concern to the CEO.

2013 Financial Results and 2014 Budget

Following are the projected 2013 financial results and the proposed 2014 budget:

	<u>2013 Budget</u>	<u>2013 Projection</u>	<u>Difference</u>	<u>2014 Budget</u>
Change in Net Assets From Operations	+ \$ 32,300	+ \$ 223,000	\$190,700 favorable	+ \$ 5,800

Proposed fee increases for 2014:

- A 1.5% increase in Tournament Sanction Fees (prior increase 2012) effective April 1:

	<u>Current</u>	<u>Proposed</u>
Regionals	\$4.17	\$4.23
Sectionals	2.90	2.94
STACs	Increase of 1.5%	

- An modest increase in Membership Fees effective April 1:
\$37 to \$39 for a one-year regular membership
\$28 to \$29 for a one-year new membership
- Most importantly, there will be no increases in TD Session Fees or Club Sanction fees.

The Finance Committee and Board determined these fee increases are necessary because expenses continue to rise but the Board believes the increases are both necessary and quite modest.

2014 ACBL President

Phyllis Harlan from District 16 was elected 2014 ACBL President.

[2013 and 2014 Strategic Plan](#)

Following are brief status updates on some of the strategic projects as presented by the CEO:

Online Learn to Play Bridge, Phase 1

- A soft rollout is planned within the next 60 days or so with a full rollout in early 2014

On-Line Partnership Desk, Phase 1

- Development will take place in 2014

Develop a Vision of an Ideal New Tournament Director Structure & Identify Path to This Structure

- Start delayed to delays in implementing TourneyTRAX
- Project Leadership has transitioned to the Human Resources Department under the capable direction of Sylvia Hardin

In my view, timely completion of this project in 2014 is critical to the organization.

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:

Members selected should be 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: Phyllis Chase & Lois DeBlois

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 those 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: Chris Soares & Megan Diorio

Top Platinum Masterpoint Winner – 2013 NABCs

Congratulations to Allan Graves who won the most platinum masterpoints in 2013. The top 10 leaders are: Allan Graves, 337; Doug Doub, 294; Lloyd Arvedon, 215; Paul Fireman, 210; Victor King, 183; Karen McCallum, 154; Alan Applebaum, 137; Phyllis Fireman, 135; Lewis Gamerman, 131; and Rich DeMartino, 130.

Top 25 Masterpoint Winners – Phoenix

<u>Name</u>	<u>Total Points</u>	<u>Points Won In NABC+ Events</u>
1 Lloyd Arvedon, Woburn MA	148.03	103.33
2 Douglas Doub, W Hartford CT	142.59	124.39
3 Allan Graves, Saint Johnsbury VT	137.96	81.51
4 Paul Fireman, Chestnut Hill MA	111.93	110.76
5 Buddhadeb Biswas, Lexington MA	71.10	4.24
6 Karen McCallum, Exeter NH	66.79	56.30
7 Joe Degaetano, Atkinson NH	61.82	13.97
8 John Stiefel, Wethersfield CT	56.61	53.59
9 Larry Hudgens, Bass Harbor ME	49.96	
10 Bill Irvine, Quincy MA	49.15	1.30
11 Stephen Gladyszak, Chelsea MA	45.64	1.59
12 Walter Lee, Sudbury MA	44.43	19.34
13 Nathan Glasser, Somerville MA	42.77	4.24
14 Shekhar Sengupta, Marlborough MA	40.65	
15 Dean Panagopoulos, Lynn MA	39.77	1.59
16 Lewis Gamerman, Westwood MA	39.46	28.47
Mark Aquino, Jamaica Plain MA	39.46	28.47
18 Lucia Enica, Belmont MA	39.18	
19 Arthur Crystal, Fairfield CT	38.35	0.97
20 Timothy Pettus, Northborough MA	37.43	
21 Robert Woodard, Dover NH	36.87	1.59
22 Rich DeMartino, Riverside CT	35.48	30.98
23 Barton Buffington, North Kingstown RI	35.23	1.59
24 Barry Margolin, Arlington MA	35.05	3.98
25 Cenk Tuncok, Amesbury MA	34.96	14.72

2014 NABCs

The three 2014 NABCs will be held at the sites listed below. We hope to see you at these NABCs and I especially encourage as many of you as possible to support our own NABC in Providence next November. The Providence NABC Committee is doing a wonderful job planning to make our own NABC a most enjoyable experience for all who attend.

Spring – Dallas, TX	Sheraton Dallas	March 20 – 30
Summer – Las Vegas, NV	Las Vegas Hotel	July 17 - 27
Fall – Providence, RI	RI Convention Center*	Nov 27 – Dec 7

* Omni, Biltmore, Hilton and Marriott Courtyard – See District 25 website for complete details

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

Rich DeMartino
District Director