



ATLANTA Summer 2018 NABC D25 Director Report – Mark Aquino

Atlanta Overview

At 11,268.5 tables, attendance at Atlanta met pre-tourney budgeted forecasts. The playing areas were well-lit and the conveniently located. There was great hospitality and a convenient food court. Outside of the hotel, there were a lot of great restaurants within a short cab ride. The weather wasn't great with 90+ temperatures and several days of heavy rains, but the tourney sponsors, HCL, (www.hcl-bridge.com) provided free umbrellas as a registration gift, so a lot of players spent their free mornings walking to nearby Pemberton Place that featured the Coca Cola Tour, the Georgia Aquarium, and the Civil and Human Rights Museum. Overall, most would agree that it was a pretty enjoyable tournament.

World Youth Team Championships - August 8-18, Wujiang, China

Follow all the action on BBO and the worldbridge.org website! One of the highlights of the Atlanta NABC was to see so many players warming up for the World Championships. Competitors included local area college students such as Zach Grossack from Tufts, Lucy Zhang from MIT (who won the Ft C GNT representing her home district in California), and Yale's Burke Snowden. Harrison Luba of Lynnfield, MA is representing us on the Under 16 Team.

I want to extend my congratulations and best wishes to all our fine young players. I also want to commend and congratulate all the youngsters who participated in these competitions. Some, like Marley Cedrone of Framingham, MA and Zach Posternak of Sharon, MA who competed in the U16 category but didn't win a trip to China, actually had a terrific tournament performance in Atlanta.

For a great summary of this event, see <https://bridgewinners.com/article/view/world-youth-team-championships-august-8-18-2018-2-cfiv0djbv2/>

2018 Youth (U19) NABC, August 2-4

For the past several years, David Metcalf of Newton, MA has been doing an amazing job leading the tournament directing efforts for the Youth Bridge activities at the Summer NABCs, and each year the events have been getting bigger and better. In Atlanta, approximately 250 youngsters participated in these events. Kudos to David, all the parents, and especially all the young participants!

"STARRS" OF THE DAY

New England players once again excelled in all levels of competition in Atlanta.

Topping the long list of our top performers was Yiji Starr of Wayland, MA and Douglas Doub of Hartford, CT. Yiji and Doug were on the winning Freeman Mixed Board-A-Match Teams. For Yiji, this big win was her 2nd NABC+ victory with 2 different partners. In 2015, she won the Smith Women's Life Masters Pairs with Pam Granovetter. For Doug, it was his 9th NABC+ victory -with now 4 different partners!

Rick Binder of Waltham, MA and Alan Watson of Lexington, MA captured the excitement of all New Englanders as they came within a whisker of winning their first ever NABC+ event. They led the Wernher Open Pairs after the 2nd and 3rd sessions, and were only narrowly defeated by a monstrous 68% game in the 4th session by a pair of International superstars - the eventual winners.

Richard Franklin of New Canaan, CT finished 2nd overall in the Red Ribbon Pairs.

All our GNT Teams had respectable performances and represented us well. The Flight C went the furthest – finishing tied for 3rd / 4th and only lost to the eventual winners.

Congratulations to all our champions and best wishes for continued success!

FREEMAN BOARD-A-MATCH TEAMS

Yiji Starr, Wayland, MA; Douglas Doub, West Hartford, CT **1st**

WERNHER OPEN PAIRS

Alan Watson, Lexington, MA; Richard Binder, Waltham, MA **2nd**

MOREHEAD GRAND NATIONAL TEAMS CHAMPIONSHIP FLIGHT

Douglas Doub, West Hartford, CT; Franklin Merblum, Bloomfield, CT;

James Streisand, Wayland, MA; Walter Lee, Sudbury, MA **5/8**

TRUSCOTT USPC SWISS TEAMS

Douglas Doub, West Hartford, CT, Franklin Merblum, Bloomfield, CT **10th**

SPINGOLD KO TEAMS

Phyllis Fireman, Chestnut Hill, MA **9/16**

D25 Top 25

Rank	Name	Residence	Masterpoints
1	Douglas Doub	West Hartford, CT	198.10
2	Alan Watson	Lexington, MA	138.51
3	Rick Binder	Waltham, MA	138.51
4	Yiji Starr	Wayland, MA	110.00
5	Neil Montague	Swampscott, MA	87.90
6	Zachary Grossack	Newton, MA	85.13
7	Harrison Luba	Lynnfield, MA	77.81
8	Franklin Merblum	Broomfield, CT	76.95
9	Adam Grossack	Newton, MA	67.00
10	Stewart Rubenstein	Chestnut Hill, MA	61.26
11	Alexander Frieden	Brookline, MA	59.21
12	Bill Irvine	Quincy, MA	59.02
13	Phyllis Fireman	Chestnut Hill, MA	57.50
14	Shome Mukherjee	Randolph, MA	56.31
15	Bernard Yomtov	Cambridge, MA	55.57
16	Christina Parker	Chestnut Hill, MA	55.07
17	Victor King	Hartford, CT	53.02
18	Douglas McCormack	North Dartmouth, MA	51.68
19	Richard Franklin	New Canaan, CT	51.62
20	Mark Aquino	Jamaica Plain, MA	48.54
21	Brenda Montague	Swampscott, MA	46.23
22	Geoffrey Brod	Avon, CT	45.26
23	Richard DeMartino	Riverside, CT	45.03
24	Robert Lavin	East Longmeadow, MA	44.01
25	Robert McCaw	Brewster, MA	43.92

NABC Top 10 Finishes by D25 Players

BEAN RED RIBBON PAIRS

Richard Franklin, New Canaan, CT 2nd

MACNAB GRAND NATIONAL TEAMS, FLIGHT C

Shen Duan – Meyian Duan, Andover, MA,
Jianqiao Gu, Lexington, MA, Cecil T C Chan, Wellesley, MA 3/4

BRUCE LM-6000 LM PAIRS

Stewart Rubenstein – Christina Parker, Chestnut Hill, MA 10th

1st or 2nd Finishes in All Other Events by D25 Players

International Fund Swiss Teams

Michael Smith – Susan Smith, Newington, CT;
Russell Friedman, Wilton, CT; Allan Wolf North Haven, CT 1st A

Fri-Sat KO Teams 4

Sarah Sykes, Brewster, MA 1st

Fri Daylight Open Pairs

Florence Mahony – Brian Mahony, Redding, CT 2nd B

Fri Stratified 299er Pairs

Jonathan Dahlberg, Cambridge, MA 1st A,B,C

Fri Eve Stratified Swiss Teams

Yumiko Hough, Barnstable, MA; Diana Lam, Boston, MA 1st C

Fri Zip KO

Alexander Frieden, Brookline, MA 1st

Harrison Luba, Lynnfield, MA 2nd

Saturday Daylight Open Pairs

Neil Montague, Swampscott, MA ; Robert Bertoni, Haverhill, MA 1st A

Saturday Stratified 299er Pairs

Jonathan Dahlberg, Cambridge, MA 2nd C

Sat Gold Rush Pairs

Gary Peterson, Marlborough, MA; Ann Johnson, Framingham, MA 2nd C

Sun-Mon Morning Compact KO 1

Lucia Enica, Belmont, MA 2nd

Fri-Sun Morning Side Game

Brett Adler, Norwalk, CT; Frances Schneider, Riverside, CT 1st A

Sunday Bracketed B (0-3000) Teams 4

Sarah Sykes, Brewster, MA 1st

Sunday Bracketed B (0-3000) Teams 5

Robert Gervis - Laurie Gervis, West Newton, MA;

Joseph Sackett – Jill Sackett, Winchendon, MA 1st

Sun Daylight A/X/Y Swiss

Burke Snowden, New Haven, CT 2nd C

Vero Beach Fri-Sun Side Game

Brett Adler, Norwalk, CT 2nd A

Jackie Scott, Norwalk, CT; Richard Jacoby, Stamford, CT 2nd C

Vero Beach Bridge Club Fri-Sun Side Game

Brett Adler, Norwalk, CT 1st A

Roger Zeiss, Westwood, MA 2nd B

Sunday Zip KO Teams 1

Marley Cedrone, Framingham, MA; Ethan Wood, Dover, MA 1st

Monday Compact KO 1

Doug Anderson, Quincy, MA 2nd

Monday Compact KO 2

Jill Sackett – Joseph Sackett, Winchendon, MA 2nd

Monday Daylight Open Pairs

Andrew Fenves, Boston, MA 2nd A

Monday Evening A/X/Y Swiss

Avery Silverstein, Ridgefield, CT 2nd A/ X

Monday Zip KO Teams

Barry Margolin – Eric Schwartz, Arlington, MA ; Nathan Glasser, Somerville, MA 1st

Tuesday Swiss Teams (Unlimited/3000/750)

Stewart Rubenstein, Chestnut Hill, MA; Cenk Tuncok, Amesbury, MA;

David Soukup, Arlington, MA 2nd B

Tue Open Pairs (Unlimited/3000/1500)

Lon Sunshine, Merrimack, NH; Emily Shen, Arlington, MA 1st B/C

Tues Zip KO Teams

Alexander Frieden, Brookline, MA; Harrison Luba, Lynnfield, MA;

Adam Grossack, Newton, MA; Lew Gamerman, Randolph, MA 1st

Wed Bracketed B Swiss 1

James Keegan, Cambridge, MA 2nd

Wed Bracketed B Swiss 2

Bart Bussink, Cambridge, MA 1st/2nd

Wed Daylight Bracketed B Swiss 8

Meredith Dunne – Joan Bergen, Royaton, CT;	
Jill Dimitrief, Boston, MA; Kim Smith, Southport, CT	1 st
<u>Wed-Thu KO Teams 2</u>	
Jack Mahoney – Dan Morgenstern; Brunswick, ME; Allen McRae, Portland, ME	2 nd
<u>Wed Eve Swiss Teams</u>	
Doug Thompson – Karen Barrett, Norwalk, CT;	
Meridith Dunne – Joan Bergen, Rowayton, CT	2 nd B
<u>2 Thurs Daylight Bracketed B Swiss 1</u>	
Doug Thompson – Karen Barrett, Norwalk, CT;	
Meridith Dunne – Joan Bergen, Rowayton, CT	2 nd
<u>2 Thurs Daylight Bracketed B Swiss 4</u>	
Lucy Hulse, Stoneham, MA; Elizabeth Wood, Arlington, MA;	
Rosemary Tator, E Hampstead, NH	1 st
<u>2 Thurs Daylight Bracketed B Swiss 7</u>	
Joseph Sackett, Winchendon, MA	2 nd
<u>2 Thurs Daylight B/C Pairs (3000/1500)</u>	
Douglas McCormac, North Dartmouth, MA	1 st B
<u>2 Thu Zip KO Teams</u>	
Marley Cedrone, Framingham, MA; Zach Posternak, Sharon, MA	1 st
<u>2 Friday Daylight Swiss Teams</u>	
Christina Parker – Stewart Rubenstein, Chestnut Hill, MA; Cenk Tuncok, Amesbury, MA	1 st A
Michael Drowetsky, Bloomfield, CT; Robert Lavin,	
East Longmeadow, MA; Harold Feldheim, Hamden, CT	2 nd A
<u>2 Saturday Compact KO Teams 3</u>	
Joseph Sackett – Jill Sackett, Winchendon, MA	2 nd
<u>2 Fri-Sun Side Game</u>	
Alexander Frieden, Brookline, MA	2 nd C
<u>YNABC Saturday PM Consolation Teams</u>	
Avery Silverstein, Ridgefield, CT	1 st A
<u>2 Sat Eve Swiss Teams</u>	
Alexander Frieden, Brookline, MA	1 st A/B/C
<u>2 Fri-Sun Side Game</u>	
Maureen Bitler, Hingham, MA	1 st C
<u>2 Sat Zip KO Teams 1</u>	
Barry Margolin, Arlington, MA; Nathan Glasser, Somerville, MA	1 st

2 Fri-Sun Side Game

Roger Zessis, Westwood, MA 2nd C

2 Fri-Sun Side Game

Barry Margolin, Arlington, MA 1st A/B

Roger Zessis, Westwood, MA 1st C

Congratulations, Colonel Lon Sunshine!

Lon Sunshine, of Merrimack, NH, his wife Ivanie Yeo, Brian Weiner Duran and Gloria McDevitt represented D25 in the Flight B GNT. On the last Saturday of the Atlanta NABC, I and several other bridge players were honored to be invited to Lon's impressive retirement ceremony after 32 years of exemplary service in the US Army Reserves. Lon worked with me and officials at Fort Knox a couple of years ago to try to get a bridge program started there, and now that he has more free time, he's hoping to be able to do a lot more in this regard.

Recap of Important Board Meeting Activities

Due to the number and intricacy of the motions before the board, these meetings were especially long - despite several lengthy teleconferences late into the night during the weeks before the actual board meetings. In my opinion, a lot of the motions were too detailed and should have been resolved in a less time-consuming manner. I'm not going to go thru each and every one, as a full recap will be available soon on the ACBL website. I will, however, discuss many. Before getting into the actual motions, I will review some of the discussion items that may indeed result in motions down the line, and would like to highlight some other activities that were associated with the ACBL Board meetings.

Goodwill Reception Once again, the Goodwill Reception was terrific! Pete Misslin, Chair of the Gatlinburg Regional, was most deservedly honored as the Volunteer of the Year. I want to take this opportunity to recognize the great work that Sandy DeMartino, of Riverside, CT has been doing for the past several years as Chairperson of the ACBL Goodwill Committee. As organizer and hostess of the Goodwill Reception, her grace, witty, and poignant slogans, coupled with her ever-pleasant smile and cheerful personality have played a huge factor in fostering a positive and pleasant playing environment for all at our NABCs. Her exemplary service has been a great credit to our district and to the entire ACBL.

Strategic Review Workshop One full day was devoted to a review of the path forward with promoting and growing ACBL membership and the game of bridge in general. The day started with a formal presentation from ACBL Marketing Director, Dan Storch whose emphasis was on the need to develop expanded utilization of technology – digital marketing, and online play. This was followed by a short talk by world famous teacher and author Audrey Grant, a presentation of various technological tools being developed today, a presentation of the vision for an ACBL membership "ecosystem", a detailed presentation by Betty Starzac of Houston around teaching bridge by the ACBL Bridge Teachers' Association, a brief discussion by Udo Vinatury, CEO of BBO, and by Sam Marks, owner of a small bridge club in the Atlanta area. The rest of the day was devoted to breakout sessions. The assemblage was divided into four groups, one of which I was appointed to lead. We did a lot of brainstorming of ideas on how to promote bridge, increase membership, the proper role of the ACBL HQ, the districts, units, clubs, teachers, etc., face-to-face vs. online competition. The Board's Strategic Review Committee, of which I serve as Vice-Chair, will be following up and developing a concrete, prioritized action plan between now and our next round of meetings in the fall.

Discussion Items

Bridge Symposium - Gary Blevins, ACBL Operations Director, gave a sales pitch for an elaborate symposium, similar to what is currently conducted on a regular basis by the European Bridge Federation. While the concept is admirable, I voiced strong objections to the time commitment, prioritization of resources, unverifiable ROI, and significant dollar costs projected for this. My objections were deemed to have merit by others on the BOD. My sense is that this idea will be put on hold.

Masterpoint Committee – This discussion item is deferred to the next meeting so as to allow the sponsors to add needed detail and clarity to help it get enacted. The concept of reducing the amount of non-strategic work at the board meetings has merit, but there are a lot of details that need to be improved if this is going to move forward. I would prefer a BOD-led consortium be established consisting of top TD staff, ACBL inhouse IT personnel, subject matter experts from outside of the Board of Directors, and district and unit officials to review and prioritize masterpoint revisions. I would also suggest this consortium ascertain the proper relationship between masterpoints as a vehicle for incentivizing increased participation and attendance, versus properly rewarding superior performance. This could take the form of a Task Force, and require no changes whatsoever to our codification, but would alleviate a lot of time currently being spent at board meetings on matters about which the decision makers may not possess the requisite background or expertise to make informed decisions.

Board Motions

182-21. Increase MP awards for NAP/GNT

I initiated and sponsored this complex motion because I was taken aback by the obvious disparity in awards granted at recent REACH events – especially compared to GNT Flight C awards. This motion proposed to significantly increase District finalist awards for the NAP and GNT as well as the % of Gold points awarded to Flt C at both the district and national level. There are different master point award levels depending upon meeting certain minimum attendance criteria and depending upon the number of rounds in the District Finals.

What this means for our upcoming NAP Finals in the fall is that the winners in Flight C are increased from 10 mps with 25% Gold to 15 mps with 50% Gold. Flt B winners will get 33.5 instead of 24, and Flt A will get 48 instead of 36.

Effective August 6, 2018
Carried 22-3

182-02. Modifications to CDR

Motion by ACBL Management to clarify revisions to the Code of Disciplinary Regs (CDR). Of unique pertinence to us is change to CDR 2.1.2(a) that allows us to cede our disciplinary jurisdiction to District 3 for any alleged disciplinary violations that might occur at the Danbury regional. It also clarifies jurisdiction rules between ACBL Disciplinary Committee and local Unit and District disciplinary committees.

I supported this motion which passed by a vote of 23-1-1, and is effective immediately.

182-20 Masterpoint Awards at Sections with Concurrent NLM Regionals (Second Reading)

If an NLM Regional and Open Sectional occur at the same site, 65% of the tables in the NLM Regional event will be credited to the associated Open event.

Carried 20-4-1 Effective immediately

I strongly supported this motion as our district tourney committee would like to add these events to the D25 Tourney Schedule as soon as possible. This motion directly responds to complaints that NLM Regionals have had an adverse impact on LMs playing in concurrent Open Sectionals because of the reduced attendance and associated MPs for the affected LMs. After some discussion, it was agreed that 65% of those in attendance at the NLM would most logically and fairly be the appropriate ratio.

182-24: NAP Substitutes

This motion loosens up the stringent requirement that essentially states that if a pair should qualify for the NAP National Finals at the District Level then one's partner from the district NAP finals must die for his/her partner to be authorized a sub to fill in for the NABC final of the NAP. This allows the Spring NABC DIC to grant exceptions under stringent medical conditions that might prevent a district finalist from traveling to the NAP finals.

Effective immediately. Passed 25-0.

182-26: Spring 0-10,000 KO

The intention is to help increase attendance in this event by limiting it to 3 days duration. The thinking was that many players are uncomfortable about planning or have difficulty in getting partner commitments for a 5 day event. The DIC will schedule as many 28 Board matches as will be needed to be played until 56 Board matches can be arranged, so as to ensure that the event is completed in 3 days.

This motion passed unanimously and will take effect 1/1/19

182-27: Zero Tolerance

The detailed procedures of the ACBL ZT Policy for NABCs is now expanded to include all Regionals and Sectionals (excluding STACs). Due to jurisdiction and enforcement concerns, it is not applicable to clubs or to STACs.

Effective 10/1/18. Passed unanimously.

182-29: Extend KO Experiments

The experimental method of running a KO with an all day qualifier (usually a Round Robin) and 2nd day semifinals and finals is extended thru 12/31/2018.

This motion was enthusiastically endorsed by everyone with whom I consulted prior to these board meetings - TDs, Tournament Sponsors, and players alike. When we run 4 session KOs in the future, we'll be able to have an all-day qualifying Swiss or Round Robin the 1st day. This means no consolation games or boring afternoons if your team is unfortunate enough to get KO'd in the 1st round.

Approved unanimously. Effective immediately. After 1/1/19, it is assumed that this will be incorporated as a part of 182-28 below.

182-28: Bracket Size Adjustment Factor (BSAF) KO Bracket Changes

To be completely honest, this motion is far from perfect. The biggest complaint I have is there seems to not be compelling justification for the increase of masterpoints associated with modifying the bracket requirements. The big advantage of enabling us to structure KO events with a full 2 session qualifier, be it in the form of a Swiss or a Round Robin before getting KO'd, more than justifies accepting this flaw, in my opinion - as well as in the opinion of the entire board.

This was approved unanimously but requires a second reading in Fall 2018. If successfully reviewed then, it will become effective 1/1/19.

182-31: Daylong Robot Tournaments

This motion reduces sanction fees from \$2.00 per table to \$1.00 per table for 18 boards and from \$1.00 to 0.55 for 12 tables.

I was 1 of only 5 board members who voted against this. I'm all in favor of online bridge, but I think our hard working and underpaid club owners and managers deserve a competitive advantage, and this essentially removes the advantage they currently enjoy.

182-33: Grand National Teams Special Conditions of Contest

My premise has been that the NABCs are the biggest and best events we have in the ACBL and if we are serious about increasing and retaining members, promoting our grass roots events is the best way to do so. The GNT - especially Ft C is a great exposure to our NABCs. Some participants will probably extend their trips to play in other NABC events, and many will keep coming back for many years.

The districts like ours that work so hard to promote the GNT -especially amongst our newer members - should be rewarded. It is only fair that those of our players who compete in an event with 8 or more teams should be provided an opportunity to qualify for advancement by finishing 2nd compared to finishing first in very small district finals.

Motion Failed, by a vote of 12-13. This is the 2nd time in 3 years that I filed this motion and the second time it failed by a single vote. It's certainly frustrating, but the Board of Governors overwhelmingly demanded the motion be reconsidered in Honolulu in November, and I am very confident that I will be able to get at least the Flight C approved by requesting that the Flight B and Flight C provisions be voted on separately when this matter next comes before the board.

182-36: Simplify Handicap Game

This motion changes the scoring of handicap games so as to make it easier to score with new proposed software.

I voted against this motion for a few reasons. First, I didn't think the proposed change was advantageous to the handful of clubs across the ACBL that have these games. Secondly, we don't even have a lot of handicap games in our district, so it's not very relevant to us. Finally, and perhaps most importantly, it seemed to me to be fundamentally backward thinking that we should develop a new policy in order to better accommodate our current IT capabilities - instead of expanding our IT capabilities as may be needed to support our policies.

Motion passed 22-2-1. Effective 1/1/19

182-42: Term Limits

I sponsored this relatively modest motion that limits board members to no more than 4 three year terms. This was the 2nd reading.

Motion passed 20-5 and will become effective 1/1/19

182-45: ACBL Temporary Memberships

This motion originated by D25 rep Bob Bertoni came out of the Board of Governors. It proposed some significant changes to the recently adopted Temporary Membership policy that was implemented this year by the ACBL. One of the biggest changes was to extend the Temporary Memberships from one to three months.

I strongly supported this motion because a couple of folks from D25 have told me the 1 month period was insufficient.

The ideas proposed seemed to be warmly received and my guess is that if Temporary Memberships are continued in 2019, then many, if not all of the recommendations will be incorporated in 2019. The larger question is whether or not this will be continued, as Management argued that the number of temporary members fell far below projections. The overwhelming majority of the board members were satisfied with management's tacit support for this and respected the request that changing before the end of a full year would be problematic, inefficient, and costly.

The motion failed 3-22. I was one of the 3 who voted for this.

182-46: ACBL Tournament Directors

This motion originated by D25 rep Peter Marcus was overwhelmingly endorsed by our Board of Governors. It merely stated that all TD charges to sponsors (units, districts, etc.) shall reflect the actual services provided, and be used specifically for the benefit of the sponsor's tournament.

I thought this was a "no-brainer". I supported it enthusiastically and thought it just a good business practice.

Turns out, I was in the distinct minority, and the motion failed by a vote of 1-24. The other board members did not believe there was any need to approve this as they did not believe there were any instances in which this was a real problem within their districts. Also, Management was hesitant to support personnel policy changes that may need new definitions with important enforcement requirements during a period in which the top management structure is in a state of transition at Horn Lake. Failure to codify these requirements at this time does not preclude their being implemented in one way or another down the road.

182-61: Executive Director Candidates

This motion requires that the Search Committee provide at least two candidates to the BOD along with its recommendations.

Opponents argued that it would be costly and restricting.

Proponents argued that last year only one candidate was presented to the full board, and that didn't turn out well.

Motion passed 13-12. I voted for it.

182-62: Executive Director Contractual Arrangements.

This motion required the full board to approve the detailed contractual hiring agreements of the new Executive Director.

I voted against this, for a variety of reasons. Having been involved directly and indirectly in a large number of hiring decisions for highly skilled and highly competitive positions during my extensive professional experience as an Engineering Manager for Polaroid, Gillette and P&G, I am aware of the need for confidentiality, flexibility, and speed in hiring decisions. While broad parameters should be established with full involvement of the board, I firmly believe that those chosen to be part of the search committee should be trusted to be able to use some good judgment in these matters, without having their hands tied.

Motion failed 11-14.

182-64: Board Cost Savings

This motion would provide a free room to board members only during the actual time frame of the board meetings - not the extra day or two until the Board of Governor meetings.

I voted against this. The Board of Governor meetings are extremely important and board members should attend. The benefits of maintaining the current policy far outweigh the relatively modest savings to the organization.

Motion failed 11-14.

182-76: Women's BAM

This motion proposed to eliminate the Women's BAM due to failure to meet attendance goals.

I voted against eliminating this. I didn't see our gaining anything by eliminating it and felt we should instead work harder to promote it.

Motion passed. 23-2. Effective 1/1/19

182-77: Baze Senior KO

This motion proposed to eliminate the Baze Senior KO from the Fall NABC Schedule effective 2019.

Motion passed 19-6.

I strongly objected to this for a number of reasons. Data reveals that while this event has failed to meet the previously established minimum standard of 30 teams, there has been about 25 teams participating in this in recent years – and entry fees were significantly increased after this minimum attendance standard was instituted. The Soloway KOs are going to start in 2019. Former D25 Director and Past ACBL President Rich DeMartino had proposed a very sensible 1-2 year experiment be initiated to test the viability of this event. Many believe that pulling the top pros into the Soloway will actually enhance attendance. I completely agree with Rich on this. I also believe that the ACBL should bend over backwards to encourage any group who is willing to pay the high NABC tournament fees demanded to play in these events should be

accommodated in any reasonable manner. We're losing attendance and we need money. Blocking groups of 100-150 players who are anxious to play opposite a brand new event without even finding out if it will have a positive or negative impact doesn't make sense to me at all. Good news is that the Competition and Conventions Committee on which top experts like Jeff Meckstroth and our own Doug Doub sit has recommended that the Baze be continued on an experimental basis on the Sunday following the 2 day qualifying Swiss at the start of the Soloway which will start in 2019. Stay tuned...

Executive Director Search Committee Update

Those of you who may have had the opportunity to meet with ACBL President Jay Whipple during our Summer Regional in Nashua just prior to the Atlanta NABC were given a concise update as to where we stand with replacing former CEO Bahar Gidwani. Jay appointed Paul Cuneo, District Director from D16 (Houston) to head a search committee. While I am not on the Search Committee, my input has been solicited and I have made a number of recommendations that have already been adopted. First, I suggested that the new leader be no longer given the title CEO, and instead called the Executive Director. This should correspond to a more realistic job scope and compensation expectation, in my opinion. The job has been posted, the committee has met and reviewed a number of resumes already – some of which have been considered to be quite attractive. Originally, Paul had proposed a very aggressive timeframe that would have resulted in a hiring decision by year end. Paul suggested flying candidates to Honolulu for a final board review and approval. Per my recommendation, the final decision will be deferred until Spring 2019 so as to afford ample time for a thorough contract review, extra careful screening, and ensuring that the board members who will actually be working with the new Executive Director will be the ones voting to approve his hiring. There are going to be a lot of changes on the board next year. 3 current board members are retiring at the end of this year, and several other board members (including myself) are currently involved in contested elections.

Will "Aloha" mean "Hello" or "Good-Bye"?

The upcoming Fall NABC in Honolulu, November 22 - December 2 at the Hilton Hawaiian Village Waikiki Beach Resort rates to be an amazing tournament. I can't imagine a more beautiful venue for a tournament at that time of year. I just checked some airlines and couldn't believe how relatively modest are air miles requirements for a round trip ticket there. I hope you will consider making a special effort to reward yourself with a nice sunny trip out to our final NABC of the year. I'd be thrilled to see another large New England bridge playing contingent at this NABC.

As you may or may not know, within the next few weeks, during the period from August 15 - September 15, your representatives on Unit boards will decide who will be your District Director on the ACBL Board for the next three years. The other candidate is EMBA President Bob Bertoni.

If I'm not re-elected, then Hawaii will be my last NABC as your District Director, and "Aloha" will mean "Good-bye".

If I'm re-elected, however, then "Aloha" will mean "Hello!" I will consider this a mandate to continue to try to make much-needed improvements in our organization for another 3 years.

Win or lose, I want to close this report by thanking all of you for the tremendous and overwhelming support that you have afforded me over these past three years – as well as for the many, many years you have helped me in a wide variety of bridge-related volunteer capacities.

Thank you! See you all in Warwick!

Mark

Mark J. Aquino, Sr.
Director, ACBL District 25