



The District 5 Newsletter  
District Director's Report

January 2010

We found a gem in San Diego, a gorgeous hotel right on the harbor with space for everything, restaurants nearby and lots to do and enjoy. I hope we will go back to that location again! Attendance was better than anticipated but who wouldn't want to be in San Diego for Thanksgiving and after?

The report from the CEO indicates that membership is up and our total active membership now exceeds 162,000.

Table counts are good: Regionals probably will finish with 177,000 tables. Sectionals will be more tables than last year due to more sectionals not bigger ones. STaCs are on a record-breaking pace expected to top 100,000 tables. Club tables are showing a small gain and Online games are expected to top 400,000 tables.

The Club Director's Handbook has been updated and is available on the website.

The new Headquarters Building is under construction and our expected moving date is March 8<sup>th</sup>.

League Counsel reports that there are no current law suits against the league. The last one reached a settlement last month.

**ACBL Disciplinary Sanction Guidelines** were revised in a serious effort to make the disciplines consistent and appropriate to the offenses.

Some of the things you should be aware of that were amended or added:

Egregious slow play is specifically listed as an offense that can be disciplined. While this was enforceable before, it is now specifically listed.

Failure to notify an official of a score you know is wrong... (wording changed to clarify) Suggested penalty is 180 days probation and/or 180 days suspension.

Purposely failing to disclose partnership agreements with intent to deceive carries a suggested penalty of 1 year probation and/or up to 1 year suspension.

Intentionally

1. change a score
2. submit a false result of a hand, round, or match.
3. change or submit any information that could result in awarding incorrect masterpoints or.
4. enter an event for which you are not eligible

Suggested penalty is 1-3 years probation and or up to 2 years suspension

Playing in or being present in the playing area of an ACBL sanctioned event while serving a term of suspension. Suggested penalty is extension of the suspension to twice the original term up to expulsion.

Knowingly partnering or playing on a team with a person who is presently serving a suspension from ACBL or who is presently expelled from ACBL. Suggested penalty is 1 year probation and or up to 1 year suspension.

The Regulations were also amended to include an attempt to influence a decision of a disciplinary body outside of the hearing processes and discussion of the content of the hearing, other than the committee decision outside the hearing room by a disciplinary body member with any party (whether a party to the hearing or not). If you are asked to participate on a conduct and ethics committee you are included. You cannot discuss what was said in committee, only state the final result. Please don't ask a committee person what went on and tempt them to violate the rules.

For complete details of the changes, please refer to the minutes of the San Diego meeting available on the ACBL website.

**Other Board Actions:**

The Board voted to move the election of the ACBL President from the summer meeting to the fall meeting. With a summer election the President becomes a virtual lame duck only half way through their term but it also gives the new president little time to pull their administration together.. but the US President can manage it with a fall election so we should be able to as well.

A motion to change the mini-Spingold to a bracketed KO event was defeated.

A motion to increase the number of strata in a stratified event from 3 to 5 and in a flighted event from 3 to 4 or 5 was defeated.

Motions to lower the masterpoints in special games and to restrict the number of such games that can be run by clubs were deferred to the next meeting.

A motion to raise flight B in the North American Pairs to 2500 also failed.

A motion to add another flight to the North American Pairs of 0-5000 was defeated.

A preliminary budget for next year was passed showing a \$65,310 deficit for the year. Short game sanction fees were increased from \$.40 to .46 per table. Dues were increased from \$35 to \$37 per year, Life Master Service fees go from \$32 to \$34 per year, Household memberships go from \$64 to \$68, and junior memberships go from \$14 to \$15 and new memberships from \$26 to \$28. These dues increases are the first in 5 years and take effect April 1, 2010. A word to the wise: if your dues are due soon, pay before then for 3 years to save a few bucks!

TD session fees will also increase 8% beginning April 1.

Members not in good standing (unpaid dues if dues are required, on suspension, indefinite probation, on a probation of 24 or more months or serving a term of probation following a suspension, the initial term of which was in excess of 90 days) shall not be entitled to serve in any elected or appointed position in ACBL, receive any subsidy from ACBL, participate in and receive recognition for achievement in masterpoint races, receive recognition for achievement in masterpoint rankings on the ACBL website or in its official publication, or have an article published on the ACBL website or in its official publication.

The honorarium given to those members of the National Appeals Committee who participate in a hearing is a one-session entry inclusive of any surcharges excluding an entry for Foundation Games.

Newcomer games now have a minimum of 6 boards instead of 10.

The 0-5000 Mini Blue Ribbon event will be 6 sessions instead of 4.

The ACBL General Conditions of Contest were amended to include entrants agreeing to filming of events, equal conditions for all participants, accommodating special needs without granting an advantage to those players and decks of cards that don't look like ACBL cards requiring approval of ACBL.

The cell phone policy has been adjusted. As before no communication device may be taken into the playing area in NABC+ events, even by kibitzers. In all NABC events all such devices must not be operated, operational in any manner, or even visible. Units and Districts are encouraged to adopt a similar policy. Violations for either will be 1 full board or 12 IMPs for the first offense and disqualification for the second. Kibitzers who violate the policy will be removed from the playing area for the remainder of the session.

Warren Buffet and Bill Gates were selected as the Honorary Members of the Year.

Pat Rasmus of District 5 was named Volunteer of the Year by ACBL President, Jerry Fleming. Here is a quote from his report to his District on his Presidential travels, "From there I went to Buffalo, where the weather was really quite nice. While hospitality is terrific everywhere I've been, I think the apex is Buffalo. They had food and drink between and after every session, had a hospitality room open throughout, and had an amazing variety of section top prizes. This is not a large tournament but it was great." He praised Patricia for her efforts to provide the best for the players. Congratulations, Pat. ACBL will fly Pat to the Summer NABC to receive her award. This award was first presented in 2004 and Pat is our second District 5 volunteer to receive this award (Roni Gitchel Atkins received it in 2005). Pretty impressive I think!

The 2013 Spring NABC will be held at the Renaissance/America's Center in Saint Louis. The 2014 Spring NABC will be in Dallas. The 2014 Fall NABC is scheduled for Providence, Rhode Island. The summer 2015 NABC will be in Minneapolis or Chicago. The fall of 2015 will probably find us in Denver Colorado. The fall of 2016 will be in Orlando Florida.

### **Upcoming events:**

The Rock and Roll Regional will take place January 13-17, 2010 at the Holiday Inn Independence. Chairpersons Jan Assini and Susan Stark are eager to welcome you and make sure you have a good time. There will be lots of KOs to enjoy, pair games and a special 299er program.

The Grand National Teams will be held in Cleveland this year on May 1<sup>st</sup> (1:00 PM and 7:00 PM) and 2<sup>nd</sup> (10:00 AM and TBA). Join us at the Solon Valley Party Center (The site of the Cleveland sectionals). Bring a team, join the fun and maybe win your team the right to represent District 5 at the Summer NABC in New Orleans LA. There are 4 levels of competition: Championship Flight (Unlimited), Flight A (0-5000), Flight B (0-2000), and Flight C (0-500, Non Life Master). No prequalification is required.

District 5's new appointees to the ACBL Charity Committee and Goodwill Committee are:

Goodwill Committee - Mary Jo Johnson, Patricia Rasmus, Charles "Pat" Smith, and Marc Sylvester; Charity Committee - Sharon Rohr and Steve Grzegorzewski. Congratulate these fine winners who are an asset to our District! Happy New Year!

Questions, complaints and suggestions are welcome. Just call 440-333-2536 or email me at [shortsuit@sbcglobal.net](mailto:shortsuit@sbcglobal.net). Sharon Fairchild