

# DISTRICT 5 DIRECTOR'S REPORT



SHARON FAIRCHILD SHORTSUITD5@GMAIL.COM

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## BOB HELLER ELECTED PRESIDENT FOR 2017

Bob Heller from Knoxville TN was elected the next president of the ACBL at the fall meeting. He will take office on January 1, 2017.

He plans to focus on four things:

Our volunteers are our lifeline. We need to work on developing new ones.

Our clubs are our source of new members. We need to help them succeed.

Our tournaments and attendance are declining. Why? How can we fix this problem?

The board needs to operate more efficiently. We have begun by shortening the meetings and moving the meetings closer to the NABC.

With those goals in mind, he has created task forces for the first three and is actively looking at ideas for the fourth.



## RICHARD POPPER TO LEAD BOARD OF GOVERNORS

Richard Popper of Wilmington Delaware was chosen as Chairman of the Board of Governors for the next two years. The Chairman of the Board of Governors not only presides at the meeting of the Board of Governors but sits in at the ACBL Board meetings to represent the views of the members of the Board of Governors. Popper will replace the outgoing chairman, Richard Anderson.



## BOARD OF DIRECTORS LOSES 2 AND GAINS 2

Two members of the Board of Directors are retiring.

Dan Morse from Houston Texas is the longest serving member of the board. He also is a World Champion and very knowledgeable on the bridge and international scenes.

A. Beth Reid from Louisville KY is an amazing word-smith, a very capable finance chair and a dear friend.

Replacing them on the Board are Paul Cuneo of Houston TX and A.J. Stephani of Cincinnati OH. Big shoes to fill.

## EDUCATION FOUNDATION BY-LAWS APPROVED

The new by-laws of the Education Foundation were approved. Instead of the Trustees being elected by the ACBL Board of Directors, they will be chosen for their talents by a specially selected panel. They will be charged with active fund raising to provide a greater ability to promote bridge. All donations are still tax deductible.

## OTHER BOARD ACTIONS

Two women's events were eliminated: The Wagar Women's KOs and the Machlin Women's Swiss. ACBL has a rule that events having 30 tables or less will be eliminated. These events were under that number for some time. The Wagar Women's Pairs is a new event that will be added to the Summer NABC.

In the interest of efficiency, the Board meetings will be moved later in the week. They will end on the first Saturday of the NABC and in 2017 we will try to finish the meetings in 3 days instead of four by meeting by phone or computer before the meetings.

Cell phone policies were further delineated. For a first offense of a ringing phone, the penalty is  $\frac{1}{4}$  board, 3 IMPS or 1 VP. For a first offense of answering or initiating a call, texting or browsing,  $\frac{1}{2}$  board, 6 IMPs or 2VP. For a second offense: two full boards, 20 IMPs or 50% of the maximum available VPs per match. For a third offense: disqualification of the pair or team from the event. A first-time offense by a kibitzer will cause him to leave the playing area for the remainder of the session. Sponsors of Regional and Sectional tournaments may choose to substitute a warning in lieu of the penalty for the first offense or may insert a warning as the first item in the schedule of penalties. The hope is to have penalties consistent ACBL wide.

Management is continuing to test having people participate in Regional events on line. This is a complicated program that is being tested but has huge implications for the future. Stay tuned.

The Appeals and Charges upheld the finding of guilt and the discipline handed down in the case of Fantoni -Nunes and Fischer- Shwartz. Both pairs have been expelled from the ACBL.

## EDDIE WOLD NAMED HONORARY MEMBER OF THE YEAR FOR 2017



Eddie Wold of Houston Texas, a member of the ACBL Hall of Fame, is the new ACBL Honorary Member of the Year. He gives freely of his time and expertise in bridge for the good of our game. Eddie will receive an article and a picture in an upcoming ACBL Bulletin as well as free plays in NABC events for the 2017 calendar year. Congratulations to a fine gentleman.

## MAKE YOUR RESERVATIONS FOR THE JANUARY REGIONAL

Reservations close this week for our held block for the January Regional at the Embassy Suites in Independence OH. The hotel will sell out that weekend so please make your reservations **NOW!**

The link for these reservations is below. Just click on it or paste into your browser.

[http://embassysuites.hilton.com/en/es/groups/personalized/C/CLEINES-AMC-20170105/index.jhtml?WT.mc\\_id=POG](http://embassysuites.hilton.com/en/es/groups/personalized/C/CLEINES-AMC-20170105/index.jhtml?WT.mc_id=POG)

## INPUT REQUESTED

Do you have a great idea for bringing new members into the ACBL? Please email [shortsuitd5@gmail.com](mailto:shortsuitd5@gmail.com) with any suggestions. As always you may contact me with questions.

Sincerely,

Sharon