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# D5 Director's Report

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## Bahar Gidwani takes the helm

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We are pleased to announce that Bahar Gidwani has accepted the position as CEO of the ACBL.

Bahar, originally from the Columbus Ohio area, had been residing in New York.

He has an amazing resume and will be an asset to the organization. [Read more](#)

*"It seems that the pre-dominant use of the stop card is to wake up partner to the fact that there has been a jump in the bidding."*

## Say Goodbye to the Stop Card

The Competitions and Conventions Committee has recommended eliminating the use of the Stop Card. This is effective January 1, 2018.

### THE STOP CARD

The Stop Card should not be used. No verbal or visual Skip-Bid Warning is required. Following the Skip Bid, LHO is obligated to wait approximately 10 seconds (while giving the appearance of studying his hand and not in excess time to determine a choice of bids) before making a call.

NOTE: If a player accidentally uses the stop card, there is no penalty. It is each player's responsibility to maintain appropriate tempo at all times.

Please see *STOP CARD* on page 3

## Two NABCs Approved

The Fall 2022 NABC will be held at the Phoenix Convention Center and the Hyatt Regency Hotel, Phoenix AZ on November 24-December 4, 2022. Originally this was to be at the Swan and Dolphin in Orlando but ACBL listened to the pleas of the membership about the difficulties at this site in 2016 and negotiated out of the contract for 2022.

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*"Our problems are many but having the hotels sold out as soon as reservations are opened is wrong."*

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The Summer 2023 NABC will be held at the Sheraton Grand Chicago, IL on July 13 to July 23, 2023.

We are actively working on a plan to make arranging hotel rooms for NABCs less difficult. Our problems are many but having the hotels sold out as soon as reservations are opened is wrong. The chief problem is that people reserve rooms and decide a couple of weeks in advance whether they are going to attend. If they decide no, they cancel their rooms and ACBL has problems meeting their room block and the players are staying elsewhere or decided not to come because of the problems. Our new CEO is already working on this.



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## Top District 5 Toronto NABC Masterpoint Winners

73.68	Hao	Ge	Westlake	OH	23.15	Paul	Holmes	Wadsworth	OH
60.08	Marc	Sylvester	Edinboro	PA	20.32	Sharon	Fairchild	Rocky River	OH
53.05	Peter	Merker	Mentor	OH	19.19	Sue Lan	Ma	Kirtland Hills	OH
52.83	Philip	Goulding	Wexford	PA	18.49	Warren	Oberfield	Pittsburgh	PA
51.75	Bernie	Greenspan	Beachwood	OH	17.74	Shakeel	Ahmad	Clarence Center	NY
37.53	Davis	Heussler	East Aurora	NY	17.74	Manju	Ceylony	Clarence Center	NY
35.00	Craig	Biddle	Pittsburgh	PA	17.07	Dan	Roseberry	Dover	OH
35.00	James	Fox	Canonsburg	PA	17.05	Greg	Michaels	Cleveland	OH
35.00	Russ	Sheldon	Pittsburgh	PA	16.04	Steven	Grzegorzewski	Meadville	PA
30.04	John	Welte	Buffalo	NY	15.71	Randy	Pearson	Pittsburgh	PA
30.04	Martha	Welte	Buffalo	NY	15.09	Janet	Rice	Cleveland	OH
28.28	Michael	Ryan	Buffalo	NY	15.09	Thomas	Rice	Cleveland	OH
27.62	Jay	Levy	Amherst	NY	15.09	James	Stahl	Chagrin Falls	OH
27.12	Linda	Burroughsford	Fort Erie	ON	15.09	Linda	Stahl	Chagrin Falls	OH

## Other Board Decisions

1. The Anti-Cheating Commission was approved as a non-board committee to address the issues of collusive cheating.
2. The Workplace Harassment Policy was extended to include sexual harassment against unit and district tournament volunteers.
3. A total rewrite of the Code of Disciplinary Regulations was approved. The changes were to make it more consistent and to make it easier for unit and district disciplinary committees to run a hearing. Effective August 1, 2017.
4. ACBL has obtained a \$2,000,000 Line of Credit to be more flexible. There is no charge unless it is used.
5. 3 units out West have been dissolved and their members absorbed into other units. This is done when a unit becomes too small to operate on their own.

*STOP CARD* from page 1

It seems that the predominant use of the stop card is to wake up partner that there has been a jump in the bidding. This was not the intent of the original use of the stop card.

This decision affects all ACBL Tournaments but we encourage the clubs to adopt this policy for their games as well. It is recommended that the stop cards be removed from the bidding box so players cannot accidentally play one. Please note that no verbal warning is given either. It is always the responsibility of the left-hand opponent to pause and study his hand for 10 seconds before bidding.

*“It is always the responsibility of the left-hand opponent to pause and study his hand for 10 seconds before bidding.”*

## Upcoming Events

[Pittsburgh Roni Regional](#) Monroeville PA August 29- September 4.  
[District Finals North American Open Pairs](#) Erie PA October 7-8.  
[Buffalo Regional](#) Adam's Mark Hotel October 17-27.  
District 5 STaC December 4-10.

## Laws of Duplicate Bridge

### Item 172-10: The Laws of Duplicate Bridge

The Laws of Duplicate Bridge as reviewed and promulgated by the ACBL Laws Commission and published and copyrighted by ACBL are accepted with the following elections:

#### Elections by The ACBL Board of Directors under the 2017 Laws of Duplicate Bridge

1. Law 1B: The back of each card must be symmetric (Law 1C) and the ACBL encourages the use of packs where the face of each card is also symmetric.
2. Law 18F: The ACBL Board of Directors authorizes tournament organizers in ACBL sanctioned events to use bidding boxes. Any alternative method which is necessary to enable a person with a disability to compete is authorized subject to the approval of the Director.
3. Law 40B1 and Law 40B2(a): An opening bid of 1NT and an opening bid of one in a suit, which by partnership agreement could show fewer than 8 high-card points, is designated a special partnership agreement. These two special partnership agreements are disallowed in all ACBL sanctioned events.
4. Law 40B2(a): Both members of a partnership must employ the same system that appears on the convention card.
  - a. During a session of play, a system may not be varied, except with permission of the tournament Director. (A Director might allow a pair to change a convention but would not allow a pair to change its basic system.)

b. At the outset of a round or session, a pair may review its opponents' convention card and alter its defenses against the opponents' special understandings and preemptive bids. This must be announced to its opponents. The opponents may not vary their system after being informed of these defensive alterations.

c. A partnership, by prior agreement, may not vary its understanding during the auction or play following a question asked, a response to a question or any irregularity.

5. Law 40B2(b): Whenever written defenses are required or permitted, they may be referred to by any player whenever it would be appropriate to refer to an opponent's convention card.

6. Law 40B2(c): In addition, a player is permitted to consult an opponent's convention card at his RHO's turn to call.

7. Law 93C1: A further appeal to the Regulating Authority (ACBL) may be allowed only as follows:

a. On a point of law to and at the discretion of the ACBL Laws Commission.

b. On an allegation of bias of a committee member or members to and at the discretion of the ACBL Appeals and Charges Committee. The appellant is required to present evidence that the bias was not known at the time of the hearing.

c. The appeal must be filed within thirty (30) days of the decision of the Bridge Appeals Committee that heard the issue.

8. Law 93C3(a): Except as noted in 7 above, the responsibility of dealing finally with any appeal of a Director's decision is that of the tournament's specified tournament body.

Effective September 26, 2017