

# DISTRICT 5 DIRECTOR'S REPORT

## LAS VEGAS BOARD MEETINGS 2019

### BRIAN R. ELLIS

This NABC was well attended and probably finished slightly ahead of projections. The hotel was perhaps the best ever, although there was enough walking to do just inside the hotel. A negative factor was that the restaurants inside the hotel were quite expensive.

One significant issue on the agenda was collusive and premeditated cheating. The motion which passed begins with August 22, 2015. Boys Brogland, a top expert, declared that cheating was active in the game. His research was excellent. All players convicted of cheating after this date, or who resign their membership to avoid prosecution, will have their first and second place finishes vacated, and to include all such finishes even prior to this date. This includes partnerships and teams. There also was a second motion, this to bar forever the possibility of being readmitted. I voted in favor of this motion, but the motion did fail.

Another issue is the age for senior events. The Super Senior pairs age is going from 70 to 75. The age for Senior events is increasing from 60 to 65. Each January 1, beginning with 2020, will have an increase to 62 and thereafter to 63, 64, and 65, one year at a time.

Temporary memberships are being replaced by guest memberships. There will be fewer benefits. The subject covers two and a half pages of the minutes and is rather complex to absorb.

A potentially very large issue is in process: corporate restructuring. A motion to amend the bylaws was proposed. This motion had a 16-9 favorable vote. However, a 2/3 majority was needed, so the motion failed by one vote. I was one of the 9 against. There are many issues here, and very little of this was presented. First, there was no presentation of the favorable and unfavorable aspects of a reorganization. There is some literature which claims that a much smaller board is "best practices". There is also contrary literature. Nothing was presented relating to either side of the issue. Second, before we even begin to think about amending the bylaws, we should have a very clear picture of the powers and

responsibilities after the reorganization. Third, we should know how many board members will be deleted and whether smaller districts will be merged. Fourth, we need to discuss the fact that we may be different from other non-profit organizations. Our membership likes to be able to talk to a representative about any number of issues. There are probably additional issues to consider before the board does anything. In conclusion, I believe there is much to be done before there are any decisions on this issue.

The month of February will now be Education Foundation Fund month. Monies raised from Education Foundation Charity Games will be distributed to the Education Foundation. The foundation is well suited to work on education programs.

There are changes in disciplinary matters. The positions of Unit Recorder and Unit Disciplinary Chair are eliminated. All disciplinary matters will now be managed by the districts. District Recorders will appoint Assistant Recorders and Units can request that a member be an Assistant Recorder. The primary purpose is to have qualified people when the very small units may not have enough qualified people to serve.

One of the committees on which I serve is Finance. The theme this year has been to cut expenses. Some of this is fine, but this does not go far enough. There are five significant revenue elements and we also need to look at these as we go forward. I have urged that everything be on the table for consideration and believe that we will be working on this prior to the San Francisco nationals.

As always, I intend to be available to answer questions and to help in solving problems.

Brian R. Ellis  
[be1960@roadrunner.com](mailto:be1960@roadrunner.com)  
216-360-9811

