

DISTRICT 5 DIRECTOR'S REPORT
SPECIAL REPORT, PART 3
RESTRUCTURING
BRIAN R. ELLIS

The proposed election process is perhaps the worst flaw in the restructuring proposal. Using some combination of merging districts is just plain wrong.

We should have some idea of what size board we need. It will help if we know how successful the new committees are.

One solution is to have at large voting. The new board members can come from anywhere. Our real interest should be in improving the skill set of those who are to serve.

1. Any candidate should have some ideas about defining and solving the problems facing ACBL.
2. If data is available, candidates should be able to answer questions about how they voted in prior fiascos.

3. There will be mechanical issues about the number of votes to be cast and the length of term. These can all be resolved later.

Board meetings

It is possible to have one face to face meeting per year. The more routine work can be done online. I believe that this meeting should take place at Horn Lake, or wherever the headquarters may be. The same would apply if a second meeting is necessary. Expense reimbursement would follow the same methods as currently.

Perhaps, to save money, benefits relating to attending the NABC's should be adjusted. The major categories are transportation, hotel, per diem, and free entries. Some or all of this can be eliminated if we are to be a "bare bones" outfit. And, reading between the lines, many of those who complain about inefficiency may really be complaining about the dollars being spent on the board.

Overall conclusions:

1. The proposed restructuring has many serious flaws. Perhaps the worst is that a small district when paired with a much larger district, has virtually no chance to elect one of its members to the board.
2. There are serious issues, both short and long term, which need to be considered. The size of the board is not one that is a priority.
3. I believe it is important to improve the skill set of our board members. At large elections may help with this issue.
4. It is critical that ACBL management and the board understand what it is selling. In part, how can we make tournament attendance a more attractive activity.
5. When it becomes time to consider the size of the board, the committee should include differing points of view. This should help to produce a more rational situation.

6. A parting thought. If we were to try to learn what the membership thought about the board size, we could easily learn that of 160,000 members, an amount exceeding 159,000 might have little or no interest in board size and also in board activity. Most likely an additional amount might want to see fewer dollars going to board activities.

Therefore, when we actually do something, it had better be the right something. The current proposal is not even remotely the right something.