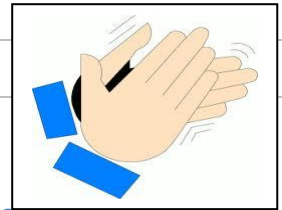




BOARD MEETING REPORT

Spring 2011
Louisville

A. Beth Reid, District11director@acbl.org



A hearty hand to Hannah Davis and her NABC

Committee Chairs:

Jo Ellen Amrine

Betsy Blakeman

Carolyn Carpenter

Susan Christian

Susan Cox

Jean Donoho

Ted Flach

Verna Goldberg

Sondra Holt

Terrell Holt

Diane Huguenard

Jean Jansen

Helene Katz

Cheryl Klein

Ellen Kozlove

Joan Lepping

Pat London

Sandra Marlin

Mike Marlin

Perry Moore

Frank Nelson

Cheryl Overy

Gary Peterson

Marilyn Riese

Elizabeth Rosenberg

Ellen Schmidt

Gail Slater

Vangie Smith

Rex Swauger

Ruth Warner

Joe Wright

Tinker Zimmerman

Patsi Harwood

District Volunteer Chairs:

Georgia Banziger

Joyce Brandt

Nancy Luetge

Sarah Sentman

Ron Sievers

Cheryl Schneider

WE DID IT!!!



Final Table Count: 9547

Number of Countries Represented: 29

Despite the best efforts of the Ohio River to drown us, our District 11 NABC in Louisville was a rousing success. Feedback on our volunteers was overwhelmingly positive—both their numbers and their attitude. Folks loved the city and the accessibility of restaurants and, for the most part, the Galt House. All agreed it was a terrific playing site. We certainly achieved what we set out to do: make Louisville an NABC to remember! Hospitality and entertainment were first class and there have certainly never been harder working volunteers. In my unbiased opinion, District 11 is the best District in the ACBL!!! Congratulate yourselves!!!

LATE BREAKING NEWS—PAGE 3



Meanwhile, prior to the fabulous tournament, the Board of Directors met as usual. There was a great deal of discussion as to how best to bring issues forward for discussion without making a formal motion calling for a “yea” or “nay” vote. Many committees, such as Marketing and Board Operations spent productive time working on strategy and goals. The Board took time to meet as a whole without agenda to air and review many issues that don’t lend themselves to motions. There was a lot of give and take (read spirited argument) but respect was accorded all views and I think this is essential to good Board function. After three long days, we took a break to honor the NABC volunteers at a dinner at the Kentucky Derby Museum. Another huge success for our planners. A great time was had by all and the Board met for another full day Thursday before adjourning—for the Ed Foundation, Charity Foundation, Laws Commission, etc, etc. No wonder my bridge stank. No comments, please.

FINANCE

Finance Committee

I am chairing the Finance Committee this year and it is a big responsibility.

Fortunately, I have a committee with a remarkable depth of financial expertise. This is mostly good news, but a very little bad. All Boards struggle with the issue of micromanagement. It is a Board’s job, and specifically a Finance Committee, to direct policy and approve the budget. When you have bridge players, many of whom have had significant careers in finance, there is a tendency to look over Management’s shoulder as it does its job—managing our finances. As you may have guessed, my philosophy is to give Management a lot more breathing room than it has had in the past—it’s a difficult line to draw and the financial well-being of the organization has to remain the goal for all. So far reaction has been cautiously positive—I have asked everyone to consider everyone else’s points of view and accord them respect. This revolutionary approach has many skeptics. Let’s see how it goes. And the good news is that the finalized 2011

budget required no major adjustments from that forecast in November. Another issue that I want the Committee to revisit this year is that of cost allocation. I and the majority of the FC believe that fees should be allocated based on costs (e.g., higher NABC fees based on higher costs to hold them versus across the board membership increases). This sounds great in theory but its application has some mechanical issues—we’ll try to work them out. In any event, I chaired the FC for five hours and did not utter a single obscenity or profanity. For those of you who know me, this alone counts as a miracle. Perhaps more are to come.

Audit

I continue to serve on the Audit Committee though no longer as chair. We met with the outside auditors and I can report that we are receiving an unqualified opinion.

MARKETING

I hope you’ve all had a chance to visit the new ACBL website. Please let me have your feedback. You should find it much easier to navigate. We are also working hard on improving the search function by “educating” the search engine to recognize synonyms for

and variants of common bridge terms. An RSS feed has also been added to the home page. We are using QR codes to allow you to instantly view promotional videos on your smart phone. (If you don’t know what a QR code is, ask your grandchildren). A new “Find a Club” app is in Beta and will be launched soon. I’ve seen it work and it really is too cool for school.

The Cooperative Advertising Program remains the most successful and popular resource for clubs and teachers. 340 beginner/newcomer ads were subsidized in 2010.

Youth NABC

This year’s Youth NABC will be held in Toronto. A “save the date” email blast has been sent to all youth members, teachers and Unit/District officials.

And if you or your students are going to Toronto—**DON’T FORGET YOUR PASSPORT!!!**





INTERNATIONAL BRIDGE

A lot of time and several motions at this meeting involved the ACBL's dues to the World Bridge Federation and contributions to the United States Bridge Federation. There are significant factions on the Board pro and con. I am not completely in either camp. Although I certainly think it's important for us to field US teams, adult and senior, to international events and to maintain an active voice in the WBF, I want an accounting of where the money goes. Right now, the ACBL gives \$50,000 a year automatically out of the Junior Fund to the USBF. That may be too much—it may be too little. Without an accounting, I can't know. I just want us to review the funding every year and receive a report on the expenditures. I managed to get both sides to agree on this point and come back in Toronto with a policy we can all agree on. If you have strong views on this topic, I'd be interested in hearing from you

**PLEASE FEEL FREE TO EMAIL ME AT THE ADDRESS ABOVE WITH ANY QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS OR SUGGESTIONS OR HEYHOWAREYAS YOU WISH AND I'LL DO MY BEST TO RESPOND PROMPTLY!
SEE YOU IN DAYTON!!**

BETH

Other News

MEMBERSHIP

After a sluggish start in January (-787) we rebounded with a gain of 234. We still trail 2010 by 533 members, but new membership number for the first two months averaged over 1,000 per month.

COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

Hall of Fame

Mike Passell, Ralph Katz and David Berkowitz

Competitions and Conventions

Doug Doub, Bob Hamman, Elaine Said and Jonathan Weinstein

Ethical Oversight

Denny Clerkin, Eric Rodwell, Arnie Fisher, Sherry Bjerkan and Bob Glasson

ACBL Disciplinary

Lisa Berkowitz, Nagy Kamel and Tom Peters

Laws Commission

Peter Boyd, Gary Blaiss and Howard Weinstein

MOTIONS

Barometer Events

The following Special Conditions of Contest are established for Barometer-style events (players playing the same boards at the same time):

For Barometer-style events, the Tournament Director shall, before the start of each round, advise all players to be seated. No cards shall be removed until the TD

announces that play shall begin. Any player not seated in a timely fashion may be subject to a procedural penalty.

Seeding Points

There's a new formula for seeding NABC+ KO events. All you math wonks out there let me know and I'll send it to you.

ACBL-Wide Games

These special games may not be conducted during any month that is designated as a special fund month. Currently, the months of February (Junior), April (Charity), and September (International) are designated as special fund game months. This motion was necessary because years ago we provided that the International Fund Game #1 must be conducted on Super Bowl Saturday. This was long before Super Bowls edged into February and the IF Game poached on Junior Fund time. All fixed now.

The Platinum Pairs

Were renamed the "Norman Kay Platinum Pairs".

DISTRICT 11 B PAIR SHINES!!!!



After a fabulous 7th place finish in the Bean Red Ribbon Pairs as a warm-up, our NAP B Team, Brad Bartol (our hard-working Midwest Monitor editor) and Matt Cory (our District's Junior Rep) finished 2nd in the Golder North American Pairs battle, fought the last 2 exhausting days of the NABC. Way to go, guys!

