
SEATTLE REPORT

Seattle was a good location for an NABC despite it being cold and rainy. The convention center had plenty of room and good lighting and there were numerous restaurants of all price ranges within walking distance. My one regret is that I never saw Mount Rainer because of the fog and overcast weather conditions. I did tour the Boeing plant and it was eye opening I recommend everyone who is in the area to go there. There were about 11,500 tables in play, which was good but not great. The local committee did a wonderful job.

NEW CEO

This was Robert Hartman's first meeting as CEO of the ACBL. Robert impressed everyone with his knowledge, hard work and leadership qualities. I am optimistic about the future of the ACBL. Our membership was static in 2011, after a good increase in 2010. Robert is planning to work hard on marketing and increasing our membership in 2012.

HONORARY MEMBER OF THE YEAR

OUR OWN GREG JOHNSON IS APPOINTED AS THE 2012 HONORARY MEMBER OF THE YEAR. Greg is an astronaut living in Clear Lake, who has volunteered his time to talk at the ACBL Youth Tournaments, carried the Ace of Spades into space, and is a great friend of bridge. CONGRATULATIONS GREG from all of us.

FINANCIAL

We are budgeting a small loss for 2012. Starting in April there will be a slight increase in Tournament Director Fees.

National Associate National director	\$174.10 raised to \$181.00
Tournament Director	\$159.10 raised to \$165.50
Associate Tournament Director	\$129.80 raised to \$135.00
Local Tournament Director	\$103.70 raised to \$108.00

MISCELLANEOUS

- Effective 1-1-2012, a teacher must be an ACBL member in good standing to receive the ACBL School Bridge Program Teacher payment.
- The Alert Chart has been amended effective 1-1-2012, to stipulate that for the purpose of defensive bidding, the 1 club opening on 4-4-3-2 will be considered a natural bid. However it still should be announced, "may be short".
- The ACBL is considering the "Strength of Field Formula" for regional and sectional pairs and Swiss Team games, like we have now for the Knock-Out teams. If anyone has strong opinions about

this, please e-mail me or the ACBL because this topic is on the agenda for the March board meeting.

- Nadine Wood, long time Bridge volunteer from Washington DC , who recently passed away, has been honored by having the President's Volunteer of the Year Award renamed the President's Nadine Wood Volunteer of the Year Award.
- A player who has been expelled or suspended for a total of 120 days or more for ethics violations will be considered ineligible to be awarded the rank of Grand Life Master even if the other requirements are satisfied.
- The rule that club directors of STaC's, who are eligible to play, (one section of play only and fewer than 18 tables) is modified so that they will receive master points.
- The restrictions on online master points being used for rank advancement have been removed.
- Effective 1-2-2012, a certain number of pigmented points will be required for achieving additional life master status for players who became life master status after 1989.
 - SILVER LIFE MASTER must have no less than a combination of 200 silver, red, gold, or platinum points.
 - GOLD LIFE MASTER must have no less than a combination of 500 silver, red, gold, or platinum points.
 - EMERALD LIFE MASTER must have no less than a combination of 1500 silver, red, gold, or platinum points.
 - PLATINUM LIFE MASTER must have no less than a combination of 2000 silver, red, gold, or platinum, points.
 - GRAND LIFE MASTER must have no fewer than 100 platinum points, no fewer than a combination of 2000 silver, red, gold, or platinum points.
- Other requirements remain the same. These changes will not cause any player to lose the rank which he/she has previously obtained. In addition, each player who has obtained the rank of Life Master or higher as of 12-31-2011 will not have to fulfill the new 2012 rank advancement requirements to obtain the next highest rank.

Good cards to all

Dan