

PHILADELPHIA 2012 SUMMER NABC REPORT

It was hot in Philadelphia; maybe even hotter than Texas but inside the Marriott it was always cool. The table count was 11,913 - a respectable number but not quite as high as anticipated. The best thing about the location was that Reading Terminal was right across the street. Hundreds of good restaurants were open from 8 am to 6 pm in the converted train station.

The ACBL's Mission: To promote and sustain the game of bridge and serve the bridge-related interests of our members.

The ACBL's Vision: We will be a growing, thriving organization that actively meets the diverse needs of our members and bridge players.

GRASS ROOTS FUND

The ACBL hereby establishes a GRASS ROOTS FUND. The month of December is designated as "GRASS ROOTS FUND MONTH". Clubs may hold special games under the same rules and regulations applicable to the other special fund months (currently benefitting the Charity Foundation, Junior and International Funds). Funds raised shall be returned annually no later than March 31 to the individual District in which these funds were raised, and shall be used by the District to help fund Grass Roots Events such as the Grand National Teams and the North American Pairs.

The ACBL will not charge the Districts any fee for the cost of collecting and disbursing these funds.

The Grass Roots Fund is an additional, eligible beneficiary from regionally rated games at sectionals. (One game in a sectional can get Regional rating by charging an extra \$1.00 per person to benefit an approved cause).

MEMBERSHIP

For the period January 1 thru June 30 the ACBL has signed up 6,431 new members, an increase of 2.4% over the same 6 months last year. Here in District 16 our membership has decreased slightly which is disappointing as we have generally been in the top 5 Districts for new members.

SPECIAL CLUB GAMES

When a Sectional (excluding STAC's) or higher rated event is being conducted within 25 miles of a club game's playing site, the club is permitted to hold only its regular scheduled club master-point games (no special games). This regulation does not apply to Limited/Restricted Sectionals.

PLAYING DIRECTORS IN STAC GAMES

Playing directors in STAC games and their partners are ineligible to receive overall STAC master-points awards, but are eligible to receive section awards. Effective January 1, 2013.

VOLUNTEER DEVELOPMENT

I would like to recommend that each unit appoint a Chair for Volunteer's. Many players would volunteer for service if asked and we are an organization of volunteers.

ONLINE TEACHER DIRECTORY

Currently there are 1,743 teachers who have elected to be listed on the ACBL's "Find a Teacher" web site. This compared to 1,695 teachers listed on the site last year.

TEACHER RECRUITMENT

New members recruited by teachers: in 2011: 1,246; in 2010: 1,111.

TAP TRAINERS

Some of the current TAP trainers will be retiring within the next couple of years. Plans are underway to create a succession plan to identify and train new TAP Trainers.

COOPERATIVE ADVERTISING PROGRAM

During the first five months of 2012, a total of \$58,257 has been distributed to 131 qualified advertising campaigns. This compares to \$67,372 distributed to 153 advertising campaigns thru May 2011. This is a great program that should be used more by District 16 Clubs and Teachers.

TOURNAMENT ADVERTISING

A total of 259 tournament ad e-mail blasts were distributed during the first 6 months of 2012.

ACBL.ORG

The top site visited on ACBL.org is clubresults.acbl.org. This is a great service for any club that does not have there results on the internet.

CLUBS AND MEMBERSHIP

ACBL headquarters is now sending out Happy Birthday emails which have been well received.

About 4% of the clubs are still submitting their month-end reports by hard copy. In the near future we will be looking at ways to assist clubs to the use of ACBLScore thereby reducing processing costs and providing better service to our members. It would be nice if units would help educate clubs in their area in the use of ACBL score.

VOTING

Units now have the option on voting in person at a board meeting or voting by e-mail.

HANDICAP FORMULA

I am on a committee reviewing the handicap formula and rules for Handicapped KO's and Handicapped compact KO's. Anyone who would like to provide input can email me at danmorse@sbcglobal.net or Samwhitten@acbl.org.

I am looking forward to San Francisco in the fall and St. Louis next March. If you can attend I am sure you will have a good time.

See you at the tables.

Dan