

REPORT FROM THE FALL 2015 NABC IN DENVER

Denver was cold and dry, one of the driest places I have ever been, however the playing area was great and you did not have to go outside unless you wanted to go to dinner at one of the many good restaurants close by. There was a free bus that went up and down 16th street (right next to the hotel) that ran every 5 minutes and went to many shops and restaurants.

The attendance was down to 9058 tables, which was about 9% less than expected. I think the bad weather at the start was the main cause.

Membership

At the end of October membership stands at 168,418 an increase of 692 since the beginning of the year.

2016 Appointments

I appointed Cheryl Clark from Dallas and Linda Spangler for Fort Worth to the Charity Foundation.

I appointed Steve Shirey from Fort Worth, Jane and Bob Armstrong, and Barbara Grantham from Houston the National Goodwill Committee.

The National Goodwill Chairman also appointed Flora Pettit from Austin as the Goodwill member of the year for 2016.

Betty Starzec was elected a Trustee of the ACBL Education Foundation.

If you see any of these people be sure to congratulate them.

Non-Life Master Regionals

A new tournament that has just been made even better by increasing section tops and overall awards to 25% Gold from 10% Gold. This will make these events much more attractive to players trying to get their gold for Life Master.

Cheating

Because of the reports of cheating in high level Bridge the ACBL is putting a renewed focus on prevention.

- They have invested in more and better cameras and they are now posting some of our main events on you tube for all to see.

- A management advisory committee has been formed to study how the ACBL can more effectively police cheating. The response from these elite players who are volunteers has been enthusiastic.
- The Player Memo has been updated so that it can be completed and submitted online.

Miscellaneous News

- Limited games at clubs are currently allowed to declare their games open for STAC games. This is no longer allowed. Now if they declare their games open for STAC games it must remain open for one year.
- Pianola will be up and running in early 2016. The e-mail marketing feature has been customized for Unit, District and ACBL use. Check online or with the ACBL for all the new features.
- Technical advances
 - Job applications on line.
 - Web-based compliance training about harassment as well as TD training.
 - Mobile results and daily bulletins for NABC's
 - Tournament director university is up and running. In December 2015 twelve students will be in Horn Lake for the first of two five-day classroom training sessions.
- The Finance committee had projected a deficit of \$800,000 in 2016 due to large increase in Technology costs to bring our systems up to date. To lower this there have been a large number of fee increases at the club, sectional, regional, and NABC level. If interested, you can check online or with the ACBL.
- The ACBL Resource Center has been operation for nearly a year. The site is designed to be a convenient, easy to use tool, that allows bridge clubs, teachers, units, and districts to order and/or download materials they need to grow our game.
- In 2016 at the World Championships in Poland Sept 3-17. there will be a new World Championship, the World Mixed Teams. Anyone interested in this event should contact the USBF for more information on how to qualify to represent the US.

Good luck to all and I hope to see you at the Houston Regional in February.

Dan