

Kansas City Report

District 15 hosted a very nice tournament in Kansas City with final attendance of 8691 tables well short of the initial 10,000 table estimate and the revised budget of 9500 which was approved at the Board meeting. The Westin and Sheraton hotels were connected by a covered walkway and have great playing spaces and reasonable food options, which was nice as the temperatures varied from the 70s to the 20s.

At President Bob Heller's initiative, the Board spent over 7 hours focusing on improving its structure, processes, relationships and behaviors, given the current size of 25 District Directors. Our objective is to be more effective while improving our partnership with management and our new CEO who is expected to be on board later this year. I recruited Mr. Paul Lotts a colleague from both Shell and Executive Service Corps Houston to design and facilitate the workshop. Paul has extensive experience in organizational effectiveness and design and graciously volunteered his time for this work. The Board is committed to spend time at each of our 2017 Board meetings to assess our progress, provide feedback to each other, and encourage these changes.

The complete minutes are available on the ACBL website. Here are the highlights as I see them:

The Budget for the year was approved with a forecast of \$62,479 of net income based on revenue of nearly \$18million. An agreement was reached with the United States Bridge Federation for it to contribute \$50,000 in 2017 towards the World Bridge Federation dues which are paid by ACBL. The intention is to negotiate a long-term agreement during the year.

A re-write of ACBL's Code of Disciplinary Regulations is underway and is led by League Counsel Linda Dunn and District 8 Director Georgia Heth, and is expected to be complete in 2017. Bart Bramley spoke to the Board for about 30 minutes and gave the views of the Ethical Oversight Committee(EOC) on the changes they would like to see. The EOC hears ethical cases and spent a great amount of time on the cheating cases in 2016. Bart chaired the EOC in 2016 and has served on it for over 20 years. Thank you, Bart!!!

Hall of Fame selection procedures were revised to increase the number of members inducted by allowing each elector the opportunity to vote either for or against every candidate nominated.

There were changes to Masterpoint awards, and I believe these were the most significant. Club Masterpoint game awards were increased from 2.50 maximum to 4.00 maximum. Masterpoint awards for regional events at NABC tournaments will be increased by 15%. Masterpoint awards for 4 session open events other than Knockouts will be increased by 40%. These changes will be implemented on a schedule determined by management and are dependent upon revisions to ACBL Score.

Both the Club and Tournament task forces met in Kansas City. We are gathering data and planning how we will address the issues. My next Scorecard article will be devoted to these topics.

Feel free to e-mail with questions or comments. (paulcuneo@sbcglobal.net) I hope to see you at the tables.

Paul Cuneo