

# Summer 2017 NABC Report - Toronto

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Toronto is a beautiful vibrant city that made a great site for the summer NABC. The playing spaces in the Convention Center were fabulous and attendance at 13,289 tables was above budget. Bahar Gidwani, ACBL CEO, is off to a strong start.

The Board spent more time talking about key issues for ACBL rather than working on the motions presented for the meeting. Key topics were the Tournament Taskforce, Club Taskforce, new Convention and Alert Charts, Volunteers, and NABCs. I'll address these in future articles.

Key Board decisions were:

- Adopted a new version of the Code of disciplinary Regulations. This was the first major re-write in several years, and it is clearer and hopefully better for the disciplinary committees at all levels of ACBL. A big "Thank You" to Linda Dunn - League Counsel, Sabrina Gooley – Disciplinary Coordinator, and Georgia Heth – District 8 Board Member and Chair of Appeals and Charges.
- The Stop Card – A motion was approved to eliminate the use of the Stop Card which will be effective January 1, 2018. The Bridge committee had been considering this action for several months. Their feeling is that the Stop Card is misused too often and that it is better to remove it from the bidding boxes and remind everyone that we must pause for 10 seconds after a skip bid is made.
- The new Laws of Duplicate Bridge were accepted with the usual ACBL exceptions, so no significant changes to our current laws.
- Approved the use of prepared lesson hands in club games of 6 to 12 boards for teaching purposes in conjunction with lessons when the game is limited to players under 20 masterpoints.
- International Bridge – In a motion which had been deferred from Kansas City, the Board made significant changes to the payment of dues to the World Bridge Federation. In 2018, the responsibility for payment will shift from ACBL to the national bridge organizations – USBF, CBF and MBF. ACBL's contributions will drop over time from 100% in 2016 (167,000) to 30% by 2012. The motion was approved 12 for, 11 against and 2 abstentions. For 2017 and 2018, the only significant change is a reduction in contributions by ACBL from 100% to 67% and this was agreed by the national bridge organizations who will raise the difference by contributions. While everyone professes support for international bridge, the challenge is to agree how the money will be raised

and who selects the representatives to the WBF Executive Council. Historically, ACBL and its Board were responsible. Bahar Gidwani has agreed to lead discussions with the national bridge organizations to develop a proposal on long-term funding mechanisms and a governance structure. I've volunteered to help in that effort. I voted against the motion as I believe we should have negotiated first rather than doing a pass and correct option.