

# District Director Report from Philadelphia

The weather was on the chilly side as the temperature rarely made it above 50 degrees, but the people and venue were warm and welcoming. Table count was 10317.5 which was above the estimate of 10,000 tables. The Philadelphia Marriott was a fine venue and tournament co-chairs Joann and Bob Glasson as well as their key volunteers did an excellent job.

Congratulations to Michael Heymann who won the Leveritt Silver Ribbon pairs with his partner Tom Chang from Toronto and to Jeff Datar and Scott Nason who won the NAP Flight B pairs event!!!

The Board continues to focus on improving our processes and relationships and progress was demonstrated by all of the pre-work done by committees so that we were able to have about ½ of our board time to focus on discussions of important topics.

A motion was approved to increase the percentage of Gold points awarded at Non-Life Master regionals from 25% to 33%. This takes effect in time for Austin's NLM regional in May. The logic for 33% is that is equivalent to the award when the average masterpoints in a bracket/strat fall to 500 or less in an open regional.

An accompanying motion will allow an Open Sectional to count 65% of the concurrent tables in the NLM regional for its Open events when the tournaments are held in the same location. Just as Austin is doing in May, many tournament organizers prefer concurrent events to help manage site costs and volunteer load. This motion requires a 2nd vote in Atlanta before it can take effect.

The Board approved a new set of convention charts which will take effect later this year. ACBL plans a major communication effort through the Bridge Bulletin explaining the changes. This work has been done by the Competitions and Conventions Committee over the past few years. A big thanks to all who contributed to the effort especially Chris Compton from D16.

Revisions were made to the STaC conditions of contest to required clubs to use the hands designated for the date/time by the sponsor in order to qualify for overall awards. Clubs that do not comply will be entered into a separate pool with awards reduced to 65%. I felt this penalty was too severe and penalized the players rather than the club or director if an error was made, but I was outvoted on the issue.

An expansion of Regionals at Sea from 4/yr to 8/yr was approved. The increase will be gradual with 5 in 2018. One change is that the District must approve the cruise when either a port of origin or destination fall into district territory. I pushed for this amendment to avoid having cruises overlap our tournaments.

A number of changes to the bylaws were approved on their first reading. These are primarily being made to conform to New York law which has been changed in the past couple of years. These along with Board term limits will have a second vote in Atlanta and those that pass will be presented to the Board of Governors for ratification in Atlanta as well.