

District Director, Joann Glasson
December 2019

ACBL Board Meeting - San Francisco

I am writing this message while still attending board meetings in San Francisco. I have asked our wonderful 4Spot Editor, Janet Johnson, to allow me to submit this report late and she graciously allowed me to do so.

ACBL President

The new ACBL President for 2020 is Georgia Heth from Morton, Illinois. Georgia represents District 8 and has been a member of the ACBL Board for seventeen years. She is very supportive of the changes that will make the ACBL board more effective and efficient.

Reorganization Task Force

The motion to reduce the size of the ACBL Board of Directors from the current number of twenty-five to thirteen members was defeated by two votes at this meeting.

I was a member of the Task Force that proposed this plan along with David Lodge, Jay Whipple, A.J. Stephani and Margot Hennings. The Task Force put months of work into the plan and felt strongly that it is a necessary step for the betterment of the ACBL.

I was optimistic that this motion would pass, but it required a two-thirds majority of the board since there were bylaw changes involved, and we were unable to get the required number of directors committed to the change.

The good news is that a motion that was part of the reorganization plan did pass that will begin the process of moving non-core committees off the board and have these committees formed with interested and experienced non-ACBL board members, as is currently being done with Masterpoints, Conventions and others. This is an important step in the transition process.

I am sure the reorganization issue will be revisited in some form at the spring ACBL meeting in Columbus and my optimism continues that change is coming.

Our new board will bring five new board members to the table, all of whom are supportive of change.

Finance

As Chair of the Finance Committee, I am happy to share the news that we are looking at a profit in 2019 of about \$1.5 million dollars. Approximately \$500K of that number is due to investment gains and \$1 million is a result of operations. Under our new management team operating expenses have been cut \$800K since 2018.

We reviewed the preliminary budget for 2020 (final passage is in Columbus) and we are estimating operating revenues to exceed operating expenses by \$400K.

The 2020 budget will include a 6% increase in tournament sanction fees in order to cover the cost of Square, the new program that is being implemented at this tournament, that will allow players to use credit cards for payment at all tournaments.

The 2020 budget also includes an 11.25% increase in the cost of tournament directing staff to both regional and sectional tournaments.

In my next report, I will give a complete summary of the other motions of interest that have been passed at this board meeting. Please let me know if you have any questions or comments