

District Director, Joann Glasson May 2020

As this message reaches you, I hope that you and your family are sheltered, safe and healthy. Our family has personally experienced the devastation of this pandemic, as our otherwise healthy son contracted the corona virus. He is on the road to recovery, but it is a traumatic experience to have a loved one hospitalized with no ability to visit them. This virus is particularly nasty - please take the necessary precautions to safeguard your health.

A lot has happened in ACBL World in a very short period of time...

ACBL board meetings were held online for the first time ever in March and we met two sessions per day for five full days. Thanks to Bob Bertoni of District 25, who handled the technology, and our President, Georgia Heth, the meetings were well organized and productive.

As Chair of the Finance Committee, I presented the 2020 budget to the Board of Directors for their approval. The budget was prepared at the end of 2019, but because of the scheduling of board meetings, it traditionally does not receive final approval until the spring meeting. The Board was well aware that since the advent of the corona virus, the budget expectations for 2020 will no longer be a reality.

The ACBL earns income from four major sources - membership dues, tournaments, club sanction fees and NABCs. Virtually all face-to-face bridge has been halted in North America. Sectional and Regional tournaments are being canceled and both the Columbus and Montreal NABCs have been canceled. With no income from these sources, the ACBL is in a serious financial situation.

Our Finance Committee is meeting continually in this time of crisis and management is working to plan for the future, adjusting as more information about the effect of Covid-19 on our game becomes available. Every effort is being made to preserve the assets of the ACBL.

SUPPORT FOR YOUR LOCAL BRIDGE CLUBS

Bridge clubs around District 4 are closed in order to protect our membership who are at risk because of their average age. Hit hard by the pandemic are our local clubs that are closed in an effort to contain the spread of the virus. Bridge clubs are the lifeblood of the ACBL. It is important to keep them alive until the virus is under control.

The ACBL and former Board Member, Jay Whipple, have worked together to create games online at BBO (bridgebase.com) that will funnel money back to our club owners to help keep them afloat during the crisis. You can access other detailed information about the ACBL support your club games [here](#).

A list of virtual bridge clubs in District 4 is available [here](#) and on the District 4 website. Every effort will be made to keep this list updated as new clubs are added and changes are made. In order to play in these games, you must have played at that particular club within the last year or request permission through the club owners. Register online at BBO to play at your club and make sure that BBO has your ACBL number on file. Registration opens two hours before the game is scheduled.

BOARD RESTRUCTURE

The Board of Directors voted 20-4-1 to reduce the size of the ACBL board from 25 members to 13 members. The transition to a smaller board will be done gradually over the next few years. ACBL is incorporated in New York state and New York not-for-profit law requires that all elected board members are entitled to complete the term for which they have been elected. Since the motion needs a second reading to approve the bylaw changes at the summer board meeting, the first election for the regional board will not occur until 2021 for terms beginning January 1, 2022.

This restructure is the culmination of many efforts to reduce the board. I served on the task force that produced the current proposal and we focused on maintaining geographic representation in an effort to produce a plan that would be acceptable to current board members. The reorganization plan doesn't resolve all issues, but it is a major step into a sounder future.

For those who are interested in the details, the full motion is available in the [board meeting minutes](#). You can also click [here](#) for a slideshow that we produced of frequently asked questions about the restructure plan.

NAP/GNT

Players who won the NAP District finals this year and were scheduled to play in the 2020 national will instead play in the event (and receive their travel stipend) at the spring NABC in 2021. There will be no NAP qualifying games this summer. The GNT event for 2020 has been canceled.

Stay well and stay home. We will get through this together.

Joann