

District Director, Joann Glasson
June 2020

ACBL Special Board Meeting

The Board of Directors held a series of special Board Meetings last week to consider management's business plan for the ACBL for the remainder of 2020. Management presented a plan that includes running a special event each month in order to replace some of the income that has been lost because of the corona virus. The second online regional tournament will be held June 25 to June 28. Watch for notices in your email.

The financial projections at this time predict that the ACBL will lose about \$1MM in 2020 because of the effect of the pandemic on our game. In an effort to remain solvent, the ACBL has furloughed about 40% of their staff while maintaining their health insurance.

Virtual online bridge clubs have been very successful, expecting to reach 100,000 tables in the month of May. The Silver Lining Club games that were held last week had as many as 6,000 tables in one day.

It is impossible to predict when we will be able to enjoy face-to-face bridge again, but many think it will require a vaccine that is widely available to make that a reality. Let's hope that date is sooner rather than later.

Another motion considered at the special meeting was a plan that would allow units and districts to hold sectionals and regionals online. Although this might be a concept considered post-pandemic, at this time the primary consideration must be to keep our clubs operating and to keep the ACBL solvent. Units and Districts do not have extraordinary expenses during the pandemic and will be able to return to normal functions when it is safe to play face-to-face bridge again. The motion failed 20-5.

Two motions were also passed that established a special online Ethical Oversight Committee to deal with cases of online cheating. BBO has an algorithm that discovers unusual player actions and there is a recorder system in place for players to report unusual actions against them. Jess Stuart from our district has been helping review some of the reported deals. The Appeals and Charges committee has already reviewed three cases of cheating online that resulted in suspensions and probations for the pairs involved.

Please send me any questions or comments.

Stay well,
Joann