

District Director, Joann Glasson
July 2020

ACBL NEWS

By now you will all have received notification that the ACBL has canceled all face-to-face tournament play for the rest of 2020. This was a difficult decision to reach and there was some sentiment to try a more wait and see approach, but in the end, giving our tournament chairs and players some certitude was forefront.

In order to give masterpoints at an open ACBL tournament, the tournament needs to be staffed by an ACBL director. The health and safety of our ACBL directors was paramount in this decision. If some areas of the country, that are not so severely effected by the virus, decided they wanted to run a tournament, an ACBL employee would be forced to board an airplane to run the tournament, risking possible illness.

Another consideration was that if a tournament was held and a player contracted and spread the virus to others, the ensuing publicity, not to mention possible legal actions, would be detrimental to the ACBL and the game of bridge.

We all hope that a vaccine or treatment will emerge that will allow us to get back to the bridge table. We miss our friends and a few minutes with them online is not the same as that face-to-face smile and hug, but we have an obligation to our volunteers, employees and players to keep them safe.

As Chair of Finance, I distributed to the ACBL board this week some very good news. Management, with the help of Jay Whipple, has done an amazing job of moving virtual bridge clubs online and running both Regional Tournaments and Silver Linings Events so that our players can get the silver, red and gold points that they seek. These Events have also been financially very successful. The special events, coupled with increased club game play and major cuts in expenses should bring the ACBL into a profitable position at year end.

The tentative schedule of events planned for the balance of the year include robot pajama games in July and November, a broadcast team event for top level players, upgraded club championships, regional events in August, October and December and another Silver Linings Event in September.

Stay well and let me know if you have any questions or concerns. I have managed to be re-elected for another three-year term as your District Director, since I was the only one who applied for the job.

Joann