

District Director, Joann Glasson
August 2020

ACBL "MONTREAL" BOARD MEETINGS

Once again the ACBL summer board meetings were held on Zoom with work completed on July 16th. There were 3 full days of meetings with committee meetings held in the weeks prior to the full board meeting. Below is a summary of the major decisions.

BOARD REORGANIZATION

Last July, a Task Force was formed to develop a plan to reduce the size of the ACBL Board of Directors. David Lodge headed the Task Force and was joined in the effort by A.J. Stephani, Margot Hennings, Jay Whipple and me. Other groups have attempted to do this over the last ten years without success. We worked for months to formulate a plan that combined districts that were geographically contiguous into larger regions that will be represented by 13 regional directors, replacing the existing 25 district directors. Using this method we are able to keep districts intact, not disturbing district treasuries or NAP and GNT events. Our hope was that this plan would be sellable to the ACBL Board of Directors.

This motion was initially presented to the Board last fall in San Francisco and failed by 2 votes, 15-10. A super majority of 17 votes was needed to pass because bylaw changes are required. It is very difficult to convince board members to vote themselves out of a job.

The Board of Governors requested a reconsideration of the vote and the motion was reworked and presented again at the Spring virtual board meeting. Five new board members had started their terms in 2020, all five supported the changes, and the vote in "Columbus" was 20-4-1 in favor.

The plan was presented to the membership in the May bulletin, but because of the changes in the bylaws a second vote was required to pass the motion.

At the board meetings last week, the motion passed 18-7. The Board of Governors approved the motion at their meeting on July 19.

Implementation will begin with the election cycle next year when the first 8 regional directors will be elected. 4 more regional directors will be elected in 2022. District 4 and District 3 will be combined into Region 3 and our regional director will be elected in 2023. The elections are triggered by the ending of the earliest term of a district director in a region. As required by NY not-for-profit law, all current district directors will remain on the ACBL Board to finish out their terms.

TRANSITION TASK FORCE

The Transition Task Force, headed by Kevin Lane, is working on the process of moving non-core committees off the Board of Directors. This is a vital part of the implementation of the Board Reorganization. Four motions were presented by the Task Force and approved unanimously by the Board.

STRENGTH OF FIELD

A motion was presented by Doug Couchman, the chair of the Masterpoint Committee, that will attempt to equalize the masterpoints that are paid in all events. Doug presented a comprehensive 16 page analysis that was approved unanimously by the Board. When it is implemented, if a team game and pair game with the same number of entrants are held on the same day, the masterpoints awarded for each will be the same. The idea is to prevent "event shopping". In Doug's analysis, Gold Rush events will receive slightly more masterpoints while the difference in points in other events will change only by a small percentage.

APPEALS & CHARGES

The board approved a rewrite of the CDR (Code of Disciplinary Regulations) that will simplify the code for the use of District disciplinary bodies.

The ACBL will also begin the process of handling major cheating cases with the use of an arbitration panel administered by the American Arbitration Association and staffed with high level volunteer arbitrators. When completed, this change will provide protection for the ACBL from lawsuits resulting from these decisions.

ACBL TREASURER

The position of ACBL Treasurer was vacated by the resignation of a board member, and I was elected by a unanimous vote of the Board of Directors. I will continue in my role as Finance Chair as well, since it was determined there was no conflict between the two positions.

NABC

A new pair event was added to the Spring NABC schedule for players with fewer than 2,500 masterpoints.

A motion to approve a Spring NABC in Memphis in 2025 was defeated. The Board felt that it was not prudent to commit to conference and hotel space so far in advance since the future of face-to-face bridge is unknown because of the pandemic. This will be reconsidered next year.

The complete list of motions and votes will be available on the ACBL website shortly.
<https://www.acbl.org/about-acbl/administration/board-of-directors/meeting-motions-and-minutes/>

If you've lasted this long, here's a fun YouTube video about our game:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SIKfWioojWQ>

Remember to play in your local club virtual games and the ACBL support your club games so that our clubs will stay open for when we return to face-to-face play.

Please don't hesitate to contact me at joannglasson@msn.com with any questions or concerns

Stay well,
Joann