

District Director, Joann Glasson December 2020

ACBL Board Meetings

Last week at the fall NABC board meetings, Jay Whipple was chosen as the ACBL Volunteer of the Year for his many years of work for bridge. Although there has been a prohibition against giving this honor to an ACBL board member or recently retired ACBL board member, there was a break in tradition to honor, in my view, the volunteer that has given more to the game of bridge than any other.

A successful entrepreneur who retired very young, Jay has spent the last 12 years using his expertise to improve the game for all. He is the creator of the Common Game and the originator of the online bulletins that we use at all District 4 regional tournaments. He has created our partnership desk and the step up function that you use to measure your progress in my ACBL, to name a few of his contributions. In addition, he has worked cooperatively with the ACBL on many I/T projects, most recently moving bridge clubs online when the pandemic hit.

Uday Ivatury of New York City was named Honorary Member of the Year. Uday retired a few years ago as Chief Executive Office of Bridgebase Online. When the pandemic hit, he came out of retirement, and as a volunteer, worked tirelessly with Jay Whipple and ACBL staff to create an online environment on BBO so that we could all continue to play bridge during these times.

Our gratitude as a community to both of these gentlemen goes beyond any recognition we can possibly name.

FINANCE

The ACBL board reviewed the preliminary budget for 2021 which estimates a net increase in assets of \$1M. The budget will be finalized either later this year or early next year. New staff will be added to the I/T department in order to respond to the continually growing technological needs. New staff will also be added to marketing to increase membership and maintain contact with members who are not playing online.

NAP

There will be a North American Pair National Final in the spring of 2021, either online or in St. Louis. This event will be for players who qualified to go to the cancelled National Final in Columbus in March of 2020.

Club qualifying for the 2022 National Final will begin in bridge clubs on June 1, 2021. You can qualify to play at your bridge club, either online or in person.

The 2022 NAP Final will be held in 2023 at the spring NABC in Reno, NV.

GNT

Grand National Team District finals will be held between January and June 2021, either online or in person. The 2021 National Final will be held in July - either online or in person in Providence, RI.

If you have questions on either the NAP or GNT events, contact our District Coordinator, John Dickenson dickenjb@gmail.com

EDUCATION

Mary Miller, District 4's new Education Chair, has initiated a new page on the District 4 website. It gives information that will be helpful to teachers who want to teach online and also contains a listing of teachers. [Here's the link.](#)

Teachers who are offering bridge lessons may send their name, contact information, and a brief bio to me to be included on that page. joannglasson@msn.com

Stay well,

Joann