

District Director, Joann Glasson

August 2021

ACBL SUMMER BOARD MEETINGS

The ACBL Board of Directors' summer meetings were held from July 14th to the 16th. The main topics of discussion were the multiple issues related to our transition back to face-to-face bridge and the impact of the pandemic on online bridge.

In the near term, the current policies for virtual clubs and guest policies will be maintained, as face-to-face clubs attempt to reopen. Long range changes will be coming as management continues to analyze the trends and the marketplace.

Another hot topic of discussion was the ACBL policy on masks and vaccination requirements for tournament play. Although continually subject to change, the current ACBL policy is that players will be required to show proof of vaccination in order to participate in an ACBL tournament and that masks will not be required to be worn in the playing area, provided this is not contrary to state and local statute. Individual bridge clubs can establish their own policies.

FINANCE

Performing double duty as ACBL Treasurer and Chair of the Finance Committee, I provided a mid-year report to the Board of Directors on the organization's financial condition. As of May 31, 2021, the ACBL has \$19M in assets. Operating gain for the first five months of the year is just over \$1M. With the resumption of face-to-face tournament bridge, we have revised projections for the balance of 2021 that show a gain from operations of about \$150K. This number is highly dependent on the success of the Austin, Texas NABC in November, the first national tournament held by the ACBL in two years.

The reason for the reduction in projected operational gain is because face-to-face regional tournaments do not provide ACBL with the same level of income as online regional tournaments and the ACBL is currently only planning one more 2021 online regional tournament in August of this year. Any profits from local regional tournaments go to the District that hosts the tournament with the ACBL receiving only a small portion of the fees, while profits from online tournaments go directly to the ACBL.

PRE-REGISTRATION

The Board was given a preview of an exciting innovation that will allow for pre-registration for tournaments. The ACBL will be introducing this product over the next few months. District 4's Lancaster Regional in October will be one of the initial testing sites for pre-registration.

We will be asking all players who are planning on attending the Lancaster Regional - October 25 to October 29 at Spooky Nook - to fill out the advance registration form that you will be receiving from the ACBL to let us know which days you are planning to attend. This will register you for attendance at the tournament.

Hopefully, also available for Lancaster will be a pre-registration ability for the actual events that you are planning to play. Pre-registration for events will reduce the time spent standing in line to buy your entry and enable the directing staff to start the events promptly, since they will know exactly how many pairs to expect.

There are great advantages to pre-registration for our District because District 4 is unique in providing a meal in between sessions at all our Regional tournaments. With the ability to pre-register players in advance of a tournament, the tournament organizers will be able to provide adequate playing space, adjust staffing to an appropriate level and also better monitor hospitality costs, so please help us by participating in the pre-registration process.

REPORT FROM ACBL BOARD MEETINGS

In my monthly report I provide a synopsis of board actions. [Here](#) is a complete report from the July Board Meetings prepared by the Board Communications Group.

Stay well and please contact me anytime with any questions or concerns: joanglasson@msn.com

Joann