

DISTRICT 19 DIRECTOR REPORT DECEMBER 2020

As 2020 draws to a close, we look back at a most unusual year for District 19 and for the ACBL as a whole. We also can take this opportunity to look forward to a new year, with all the challenges and adventures we know we will face.

A LOOK BACK

- A motion to reorganize the ACBL Board of Directors was accepted this year. The transition of many functions away from this Board to other groups is presently underway. By the beginning of 2022, Districts 18 and 19 will be combined into the new Region 13.
- The Code of Disciplinary Regulations (CDR) has been updated. The ACBL Codification is presently also undergoing an update, with the goal of eliminating contradictory and repetitive references, and also to make this guide easier to use.
- ACBL membership has steadily declined over the last several months. This may be due to the fact that many players are not interested in playing online. The organization is working hard to reverse this trend, with marketing initiatives, online teacher training, and the new guest membership program.
- The financial status of the organization continues to be strong, though next year may be more challenging.
- The Office of the National Recorder continues to see an explosion of player memos, almost all involving possible unethical behavior. The work of minimizing opportunities for unethical actions by players in all online games is ongoing, and is considered to be of the highest importance.
- Congratulations to new National Goodwill Committee members from District 19 Karen Rise, Ralph Wilhelmi, and Bruce McIntyre, who were appointed in recognition of their many years of service to bridge in our District.

A LOOK FORWARD

- Sanctions for all face-to-face tournaments are presently cancelled through the end of February 2021. Management is currently considering the status of tournament sanctions through the end of June next year, but no decisions have yet been made.
- The North American Pairs (NAP) competition, scheduled for Columbus in 2020 will be held during the St. Louis NABC in March 2021. If the St. Louis tournament is cancelled, the NAP will be held online. The Grand National Teams (GNT)

competition will be held at the Providence NABC in July 2021, and will be held online if necessary.

- Effective January 1, 2021, a new alert procedure system will be introduced. Changes include that instead of announcing “transfer”, we will announce the suit shown, for example, “Hearts”. Support Doubles and Redoubles will no longer be alertable. Articles explaining the new system will appear in the Bulletin.
- There is general agreement that with a return to face-to-face bridge in the future, game sizes and tournament table counts will be smaller. Once the pandemic is under control and bridge can safely be played in person again, online bridge will continue to be offered by the ACBL, including opportunities to play in regionally-rated tournaments. While many people strongly prefer in-person bridge, some players have indicated that they plan to play only on-line in the future. Next year, the ACBL Board of Directors, together with Districts and Management, will be discussing best ways to plan for new opportunities and challenges.

For complete minutes of the latest Board of Directors meetings, use this link:

<https://www.acbl.org/about-acbl/administration/board-of-directors/meeting-motions-and-minutes/>.

In conclusion, it is with regret that I must announce my resignation as the District 19 representative to the ACBL Board of Directors, effective December 31, 2020, due to pressing family matters. I am pleased to let you know that Tim White, of Seattle, in his capacity as First Alternate District Director, will take office on January 1, 2021. I have every confidence that Tim will be an excellent representative for the members of our district.

Julie Smith