

**To: District 12 Unit Board Members and Other Interested  
District 12 Members!**

Re: New Orleans NABC/Spring Update

Date: 05/18/2015

Greetings!



New Orleans was, as was Providence, a more than suitable venue for a national tournament. March is a good month for New Orleans, as the heat and humidity hasn't set in yet. We did have several days of rain, but not enough to keep us out of many of the great restaurants that were located within walking distance from the host hotel. (Susan never thought she would say this, but after the first ten of thirteen days in NOLA, she said she had had enough gumbo! I, of course, disagreed.)

Congratulations to District 12 members Don Rumelhart and Jonathan Fleishman who were on the winning six-man team of the 0 – 10,000 KO. Also, congratulations to Dennis Kastle who finished second in the Lebharr IMP Pairs event.

### **Charity Foundation Grants**

Since 1964, the ACBL Charity Foundation has made substantial contributions to a wide range of charitable organizations. In an effort to respond to the needs of charities in local areas, in 2005 the ACBL Charity Foundation began issuing grants to districts rather than granting one \$100,000 contribution to a national Charity of the Year. District grants are now referred to as Charities of the Year. The ACBL Charity Foundation is a 501(c)3 organization, and contributions are fully tax deductible.

The districts are included in a four-year cycle with the exceptions of Districts 1 and 2 (Canada), where charity funds are collected by the Canadian Bridge Federation. Districts 18 and 19 share one grant because their membership is split between Canada and the U.S.

Last year's grant of \$30,000 to District 12 was awarded to our five units based upon their total percentage of the district membership. The ACBL limited our contributions to a maximum of seven checks. Thus, the two largest units were allowed to name up to two charities. All charities must be registered as a 501(c)3 organization. Here is a breakdown and report of where our charity contributions went:

Unit 105 (Northwest Ohio):	\$2,000 to Cedar Creek Food Bank (Perrysberg, OH)
Unit 137 (MBA):	\$7,800 to Northwestern University Cognitive Neurology & Alzheimer's Disease Center (Chicago, IL) – See <a href="#">Table Talk</a> , March, 2015, to read a Thank You letter to the MBA (thank you also received by the District)
Unit 195 (Western Michigan):	\$9,200 equally split (\$4,600 each) to Goodwill Inn of Traverse City and Child & Family Charities of Lansing (thank you's received)
Unit 200 (Eastern Michigan):	\$2,300 to Eastside Senior Citizens Assoc. (Flint) (thank you received)
Unit 203 (SOMBA):	\$8,700 to Development Centers (Detroit) (thank you received)

The ACBL had a long winter with the flood that engulfed headquarters at Horn Lake, MS and with the death of Jeff Johnson, who died suddenly and is believed to be irreplaceable. One of the last projects that Jeff worked on was securing a NABC for Columbus, Ohio in March, 2020. Jeff was the ACBL's Chief Operating Officer (COO) and was instrumental in running all the NABCs.

ACBL Score+ continues to be a topic of interest and controversy. In addition to replacing our COO, the CEO is busy hiring a Chief Information Officer (CIO) who will oversee this project. I am attaching a report from the ACBL President, Suzi Subeck, which she checked and double checked as up to date and accurate.

Our Technology Committee has had three meetings this year and is hoping to use some pieces of the recently failed Score project to become part of the newest ACBL Score+. We have only spent \$34,626 on the project this year, and we are in a holding pattern until the new CIO is hired. Here are links to their two most recent meetings:

<http://www.acbl.org/acbl-content/wp-content/uploads/2015/01/Technology-Minutes-02-27-2015.pdf>

<http://www.acbl.org/acbl-content/wp-content/uploads/2015/01/Technology-Minutes-04-03-2015.pdf>

ACBL membership is down slightly this year, basically due to the failure to retain members. We have averaged 1,000 new members a month this year, but can't keep even with retention (and death) rates.

The Grass Roots Fund games (the only Fund games allowed in May) return 80% to the Districts of the playing rates charged (\$7.00 per table at regionals; \$4.00 per table at club games).

Junior Fund Games are held in January; Educational Fund Games can be run in all months with the exception of January, April, May, and September. I support these fund games and would encourage you to ask your club managers to run these games, as they pay higher masterpoints and help the Juniors, the Educational Foundation, and the Districts. (During the past few years, the Educational Foundation has supported after-school bridge clubs, in-school bridge programs, summer youth bridge camps, American Bridge Teacher Association conferences, an online course module for teaching bridge to school teachers, bridge lesson programs to develop new players, and North American Collegiate Bridge Team Championships.)

A number of Convention Chart modifications became effective May 1, 2015.

<http://www.acbl.org/changes-to-the-general-convention-chart/>

Two, which are of interest to me, include:

- Over 1NT, double and 2 clubs were the only allowable bids to show an unspecified one-suiter. Now 2D can be used to show one (unknown) major.
- Transfers after an overcall are allowed by both the opener's partner and the overcaller's partner to show length in the transferred suit.

Effective January 1, 2016, in sectional and regionals KO events, players who sit out ½ of each segment will lose 5% of the total masterpoint awards for each segment in which they don't play.

The AARP ran a feature article about bridge and the ACBL in their March, 2015, [AARP Bulletin](http://pubs.aarp.org/aarpbulletin/201503_DC/?pg=36&u1=coverleaf&search=ACBL#pg36).

[http://pubs.aarp.org/aarpbulletin/201503\\_DC/?pg=36&u1=coverleaf&search=ACBL#pg36](http://pubs.aarp.org/aarpbulletin/201503_DC/?pg=36&u1=coverleaf&search=ACBL#pg36)

Featured in the article were two District 12 members: Leonard (Doc) Melander of West Bloomfield and Lily Hansen of Ludington. Advertisements in this magazine are very expensive, so the ACBL was very pleased that our game received this publicity without resorting to a paid ad.

For those planning to attend the Chicago NABCs this summer, you might try the Travel Lodge Hotel which still had room availability at a cost less than the host hotel, as of two weeks ago. The AARP and AAA rate was \$126 per night.

Denver housing has opened for registrations for the fall NABC and will sell out early, as have the last several nationals. Book early! Hope to see many of you at both tournaments.

Dennis Carman  
District 12 Director



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