

CONTRACT BRIDGE FORUM



Albuquerque in February



The world's longest double reversible bi-cable aerial tramway, a glorious mountain setting and a varied recreational playground come together to make a marvelous getaway anytime of the year. The Sandia Peak Tram travels 2.7 miles from the base of the foothills northeast of Albuquerque to the 10,378-foot Sandia Peak

February in Albuquerque is an unusual time for the Navajo Trail Regional. But this year (only) this tournament will be held from February 24-March 2, 2014. The location is the same as always, the lovely Albuquerque Marriott Pyramid North, 5151 San Francisco Road NE, just off Interstate 25 at the north end of town.

Some of the finer features of

this tournament are daily hospitality and speakers. New Knock-out Teams start every day except Thursday, which has the annual Board-A-Match Teams. The normal game times are 1:00 & 7:00 p.m., but for those who prefer earlier game times there is a "Day-light" Pairs at 9:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. Gold Rush Pairs are being played Wednesday through Saturday. See the ad in this issue of

ScoreCard for all the details.

The Sandia mountain range turns red, orange, purple, and pink every day at sunset, providing a great show from eastward facing hotel rooms.

The temperature at the end of February is usually in the high 50s, but it can be warmer or colder. The sun shines every day and there is almost never any rain or snow at this time of year.

Come to Tucson's Non-Life Master Regional



Holiday Inn on Palo Verde Boulevard

By Adair Karlin
Tucson, Arizona

February weather in Tucson is ideal, so come and play bridge in Arizona and earn gold points—yes, for the first time you can win gold by participating in two-session events – as well as red points. Unit 356 welcomes all Non-Life Masters with less than 750 points to the Cactus Flower NLM Regional from February 20-23. In addition to warm, sunny days and beautiful sunsets, Tucson is full of attractions for you to visit after your bridge game. Here is a list of a few favorites: Pima

Air & Space Museum, Sabino Canyon, Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum, San Xavier Mission del Bac, University of Arizona, and several good casinos. In February Tucson also hosts the Tucson Rodeo and the Tucson Gem and Mineral show.

The regional will be played at the Hotel Tucson in downtown Tucson. Both single and double rooms are \$59/69, and include continental breakfast and wi-fi. When booking online or by phone, you must use the group booking code of NLM 0214 - re-

(See Cactus Flower page 12)

Grand National Teams Update

By Rod Southworth
Cheyenne, Wyoming

District 17 Grand National Team (GNT) qualifying games are well under way this year. If your club or unit has not had any qualifying games yet be sure to ask your local GNT coordinator to schedule some before May 19. District 17 will pay some of the travel expenses for qualifying teams to attend the district finals (at the Denver Regional in May, 2014), depending on how much is collected from the

following sources:

- (1) GNT qualifying games (many units have already had games this Fall).
- (2) GNT Fund Raisers (one per sanctioned game per year).
- (3) Grass Roots Fund Month games in January.

The complete GNT Conditions of Contest are posted on the D17 website - d17acbl.org - in the GNT portion of the Tournaments tab.

Please contact the D17 GNT Chairman, Rod Southworth, at southworth15@yahoo.com if you have any questions.



Bon's Mots

By Bonnie Bagley
National Board Representative

Happy New Year! I hope this is the beginning of a great year ahead for all of you, with family, friends and lots of bridge.

League Elections

Yet again, the ACBL Board completed the third meeting of the year, during which league elections are held. Phyllis Harlan (D15) ran unopposed for 2014 ACBL President. Merlin Vilhauer (D20) was elected to a three year term as a Zone 2 (that's us) representative to the World Bridge Federation, of which there are five on our board: the others being Bruce Blakely (D21), Georgia Heth (D8), Paul Janicki (D2) and Alvin Levy (D24). Phyllis Harlan was also re-elected as a trustee of the Charity Foundation. Jay Whipple was elected to the Educational Foundation, as Barbara Heller and Mike Bandler were re-elected.

We welcome three new national board members this year: Jay Whipple, (District 9), Russ Jones (District 10) and Dennis Carman (District 12), replacing respectively, Shirley Seals, Bill Cook and Bill Arlinghaus. Those three served on the board a combined total of thirty years, and will be missed.

Management Report Highlights

Robert Hartman, our CEO, reported membership stands at 1,679,912, as of the end of October, which is a 1,504 net increase over 2012. Table count attendance at regional, sectional and STAC is down slightly, as well as at clubs, but online table count has shown a slight increase.

- The ACBLscore+ project is in Phase 4 and 5. The internal testing and rollout program is in development.
- Online Learn to Play Bridge is currently being beta tested with a rollout planned for early 2104.

- ACBL will host four Regionals at Sea this year: an April Panama Canal Cruise with 16-time North American champion John Mohan; a May Western Caribbean Cruise with national champion and author Mel Colchamiro, accompanied by ACBL's CEO Robert Hartman; an October Bermuda/Caribbean Cruise with national champion and best-selling author Mike Lawrence; and a Southern Caribbean Cruise with teacher and author Barbara Seagram.

Board Meeting Highlights

The board agenda was a light one as far as motions were concerned. Motions passed:

1. To ban electronic smoking devices in the playing area at NABCs, to be consistent with the policy banning smoking.
2. Adoption of authorizing a Youth Protection and Abuse Prevention Policy - to communicate ACBL's commitment to ensuring the safety of its young players, volunteers and caddies.
3. To apply the Code of Disciplinary Regulations to unit sponsored clubs. Unit sponsored games had been covered, but not unit sponsored clubs. A unit sponsored club meets one of the following criteria: a board which is the same as the unit board, or which is appointed by the unit; or there is a co-mingling of funds with those of the unit; or there is placement of funds in a unit-owned account; or the unit appoints the club manager or director.
4. To move to the Opening Bids section of the ACBL General Convention Chart any opening of a Weak Two Bid which also includes a four-card minor. This convention also requires an alert.

Las Vegas goes Cosmopolitan

Of special interest to D17 members, the Las Vegas Cosmopolitan Hotel & Casino was approved as the playing site for the Summer 2019 and the Fall 2024 NABCs. The Cosmopolitan is a new luxury resort in the heart of the famous strip, an exciting venue for our Las Vegas NABCs.

A motion presented by the Board of Governors that the Board of Directors establish a permanent Club Committee that will include club managers/directors, ACBL management and board of directors failed. The consensus of the BOD was that this would be better handled by Management. Management agreed to this.

A new mission statement was adopted: The Mission of the ACBL is to promote, grow, and sustain the game of bridge and serve the bridge-related interests of our members.

Don Mamula (D19), starting with the 2013 March meeting, implemented an avenue for board "discussion items" which allows us to consider issues in depth before a motion is filed to pass, fail or be deferred with possible unintended consequences. This has been very well received by the board, and will be continued.

Committees

All our committees work diligently, but there are two committees that deserve special recognition for going above and beyond. The first is the Conditions of Contest Committee that spent hours and hours going through all of the league Conditions of Contest, standardizing the format and correcting errors. A phenomenal task, which will make the job of future updating much easier. The Committee for NABC Schedules (Spring, Summer and Fall) also did a superb job again; with many, many hours spent juggling events and adding new 0-10,000 events. The ap-

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ScoreCard Deadlines

Steve & Kitty Cooper, Editors

ScoreCard's deadline for District 17 articles and ads is the fifth of the preceding month; However, earlier submissions are encouraged.

Although we welcome unsolicited articles, there is no guarantee of publication.

Articles submitted will be edited and may be cut; the author will receive a copy of the edited article before publication.

E-mail all ads and copy to: D17editors@contractbridgeforum.com

Change of Address

Send change of address to: addresschange@ACBL.org or by snail mail to:

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