

District 18 Board of Directors Newsletter

Virtual Meeting March 16-20, 2020

These are surely uncertain times. As no surprise the Spring Board of Directors meeting was cancelled. The Columbus NABCs, along with numerous tournaments across the continent, have fallen victim to the Covid 19 virus. District 18 has cancelled its April Regional in Lethbridge and until the end of April all District 18 Sectionals have also been cancelled. You can check the www.wasumi.org web site for new cancellations. With all but essential travel suspended the Board had to be creative. Last week, March 16-20, the Board held virtual meetings using Webinar technology. More routine items were deferred to what we hope will be the July Montreal NABCs. Dealing mainly with urgent items a great deal was accomplished.

Head office has been working in conjunction with BBO on ways to help the many clubs that are unable to hold games. If you go to BBO in the ACBL section you will find an area called "Support your Club Games". Several times a day club masterpoint games are being held. The cost of these games is \$5.00 with \$4.00 of that fee going directly to your home club. If you play at two clubs the money will be divided proportionately between both clubs. This is an excellent way to get your bridge fix while at the same time helping clubs that have lost their source of revenue.

There have been numerous enquiries about what is happening to the cancelled Columbus NAP event and what will happen to the GNTs that are now unable to hold their qualifying games. No solution is perfect but considering all the obstacles we hope to have the best solution. The NAP National Finals have been moved to the Summer Nationals in Montreal while the GNT National Finals have been moved to the Fall Nationals in Tampa. To help Districts that have been unable to play District finals the deadline for District finals has been extended to Oct. 1. Full details and dates will be coming from the District 18 Board of Directors.

My letter is shorter as only high priority items were discussed. Aside from Covid 19 the main order of business was the passing of the Board of Directors reorganization plan. This will see the BoD reduced from 25 to 13. The process would start with the 2021 elections and be completed with the 2023 elections. In 2021, when our normal election is held, Districts 18 and 19 would hold a joint election to elect one person for the new position of Regional Representative. As such this person would represent both Districts on the ACBL Board of Directors. There is a loss in that each District will not have direct representation on the ACBL Board. These duties are to be taken up by expanded responsibilities for the District representative on the Board of Governors. To accommodate a smaller BoD committee work will be moved from the BoD to both Central Office and the BoG. The hope is that this new structure will be more efficient with the side effect of reduced BoD costs. There are still many details that need to be finalized. A report was received from the Transition Task Force with their final report expected this July in Montreal. These bylaw changes require two readings so nothing is official until the second reading is passed. I voted in favor of the motion but am reserving my approval until I hear the Transition Task Force's report this summer.

Complete meeting minutes will be posted on both the District 18 www.wasumi.org web site and the ACBL web site.

To keep abreast of the changing corona landscape the BoD plans on meeting every couple weeks. We will be doing our best to keep you fully informed. I look forward to meeting you at the bridge table on the other side of Covid 19 and until then best wishes and good health to everyone.

Sincerely,

Claire Jones

District 18 Board of Directors

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