

Regional Director Report – September 2025

The National Bridge Tournament in Philadelphia was just wonderful! Kudos to John Dickenson and Ala Hamilton-Day and all the volunteers who worked so hard to make it such a success. Attendance exceeded expectations and the out-of-town players just loved Philadelphia.

For 3 ½ days before the tournament began, the ACBL Board of Directors met at the Marriott.

The not so good news from the meetings is a membership decline of almost 6% in the past year. Management has worked very hard on new programs and incentives but it is an uphill battle with the demographics of our membership.

The latest effort towards growing membership is awarding “sapphires” to new players to encourage bridge participation. Sapphires are badges that a new player can collect for bridge milestones – like the first time they bid and make a slam or their first bridge lesson or their first trip to a local bridge club. These badges can be collected and used towards bridge “swag” – tee shirts, caps, etc. that are also sold by the ACBL.

There was lots of discussion at the meetings about regional tournaments. The concept of having a day of online bridge games in conjunction with regional tournaments has been discontinued. There were several reasons for this decision but the primary one was that they require two directors to run and this expense has made them increasingly less profitable for the tournaments and most tournaments were losing money on them.

Lots of meeting time was spent on the most recent changes to the Code of Disciplinary Regulations. The major change was to allow players who have been suspended for cheating online to play in their local face-to-face club if the club manager approves. If permitted to play by the club manager they would not receive any masterpoints and would be unable to compete in any special games. More information is available on the ACBL website under “Ethics and Discipline”.

Another change passed in the Code of Disciplinary Regulations is that the ACBL will no longer investigate players who cheated online only during the pandemic (2020 to 2022) and have been proven to have stopped and not cheated since the end of the pandemic.

[Here](#) is the link to the full report on the summer board meetings.

Please contact me if you have any questions – <mailto:joannglasson@msn.com>

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