

## **Regional Director Report – August 2025**

When you are reading this, the National Bridge Tournament in Philadelphia will still be in full swing. I hope you have a chance to play in Philly and enjoy some of the wonderful restaurants downtown.

One of the topics that will be discussed at our meetings is the concept of changing the look of our NABCs to more follow the European Bridge League Model. There are many reasons to try this in both the Fall and Spring NABCs. Changing to a “national event only” model will enable the ACBL to use smaller venues in interesting cities because the space requirements would be cut in half. It will also lessen the liabilities that the ACBL has experienced with room block numbers because the NABCs will have required pre-registration.

About 20% of the players who currently attend our NABCs play only in regional events. With no regional events on the NABC schedule, those players would either choose to go to regional tournaments around the country or to play in national events. Either of these options would be positive and hopefully would benefit regional tournaments throughout the ACBL that are currently struggling to maintain attendance levels.

Other exciting news that will be discussed at our meetings is the introduction of “sapphires”. Sapphires are achievement badges for new and upcoming players to reward things like bidding and making their first slam, playing in their first face-to-face bridge club or taking an online bridge lesson. The concept is modelled on other kinds of common reward programs and later you may even be able to turn a number of sapphires achieved into a masterpoint.

I will provide a complete report on the ACBL board meetings next month.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

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