



AMERICAN CONTRACT BRIDGE LEAGUE

2990 Airways Blvd. Memphis Tenn. 38116-3847



Richard G. Anderson
District 18 Director
2719 Jolly Place
Regina, Sk. S4V 0X8
Canada
H: (306) 761-1311
F: (306) 789-4919
Email: rgand@sasktel.net

(901) 332-5586
FAX: (901) 398-7754

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Spring ACBL Board Meeting - NABC Houston, TX

Our organization continues to be in excellent financial health. Subject to an adjustment, due to a 25% drop in the value of our employee's pension plan, our revenue will exceed expenses by about \$600,000 for 2008. Our membership numbers continue to rise. We are now close to 160,000 members.

Table counts for 2008 remained very good, despite the economic woes of the world.

Management is close to signing an agreement to purchase a building in Mississippi (15 minutes south of Memphis). This will cost several million dollars less to develop than starting from scratch, and reflects a strong fiscal move on our members behalf.

A new regulation will allow sponsors to stratify according to average master points for pairs games at Sectional and Regional tournaments. This does not include strati-flighted events.

Starting in May, clubs may hold either regular club championships (18+ boards) or shortened club championships that would pay 60% of a regular club championship.

The platinum pairs event was approved to begin at the spring 2010 NABC. This will be a three day event, starting on the first Friday. Pre-qualification is needed by satisfying one or more of the following criteria:

- have won 50+ platinum points in the previous 3 years
- person is a grand life master
- person is a platinum life master

The 2010 World Championship may be in North America. These events are open with no restrictions on the number of teams or pairs per country. A decision on location should be made by summer, so I will keep you posted.

This covers the high lights of our meetings in Houston. I hope to see many of you in Boise (May), Helena (July), Calgary (August) or Saskatoon (Sept.).

Bye for now.

Dick