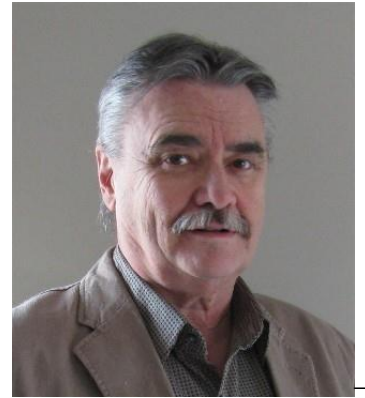


## President's Report October 2012



I will start the report with some sad news. After close to 25 years of working with husband Bob creating Daily Bulletins for Bridge Regionals, Carolla Christie died in her sleep on August 11<sup>th</sup> --- the last Saturday of the Calgary Regional.

Over many years they created Daily Bulletins (Daily Miner) for seven Edmonton ('Klondike') Regionals, White Hat Eye Opener for four Calgary Regionals, Daily Bulletins for four Lethbridge Regionals, and even three for Penticton Regionals.

Bob did the writing and Carolla the editing and formatting. Carolla strongly believed in providing a form of entertainment in Daily Bulletins and invested a lot of time in finding interesting stories she wrote on nearby shops and places of interest.

So why did Bob and Carolla provide all of this service appreciated by bridge players over so many years? Says Bob, "the long and short of it was that we both thought it was a lot of fun". "We both were strongly committed in giving back to the community and this was one way to do it"

On to business.. Our executive met in Kalispell and welcomed the company of Robert Hartman, ACBL CEO, who spoke to the Board about his vision for ACBL, and Gerry Marshall, one of our 3 representatives on the ACBL Board of Governors. Gerry is focused on increased liaison in his role and is specifically interested in opportunities to increase attendance at club games.

Clair Jones, our webmaster (WASUMI) encourages you to keep sending in ideas, including information from Units, as it keeps the website both fresh and informative

Some new business of note: We had decided to try handicapping KO events beginning at Calgary' regional to "test the waters" so to speak and the idea turned out to be a poor one. A majority of attending members were not in favor of handicapping all KO's for a number of reasons. In future we will only handicap a KO when there is only one bracket.

We had considerable discourse on our present financial situation that, although not in dire trouble, has had a downward trend over the last ten or so years where our coffers have steadily declined over 50% to approximately \$25 - \$30 K. We all agreed that we need to take a proactive approach to turn this around and to institute measures to reverse the downward trend.

We suggested two changes that were later incorporated. We did away with daily bulletins at regionals and instead replace with a posted board at our Regionals with information that might normally be found in the

bulletin. This will also have the benefit of not having to recruit someone to take on this onerous task. Not all cities have a Bob Christie at hand!

The second change is the hospitality allotment will drop \$1/table in future to \$5.25 per table US (for Regionals in the US) and \$6.25 per table CAN (for Regionals in Canada).

It was felt that these two steps alone will not, in the long term, solve the problem. The main increase in costs has been identified as escalating venue costs in the larger cities.

Our two largest cities of Calgary and Edmonton have been hardest hit with these rising venue costs and we are approaching both of their local units to help seek long term solutions. We discussed at length a number of measures that might be considered such as reduced hospitality, moving to hotel venues outside the cities to smaller cities, split venues, community halls or similar... etc.etc. Of course the solution in the short term may not solve the problems in 5 or 10 years. We are hoping the local units will pool their ideas to help us find a solution.

On to GST's, we are hoping for increased participation in GNT's with Marilyn Swandron's leadership and we will be in future tying travel subsidy to participation levels, guaranteeing \$1000/team with up to \$1500/team if the event has solid participation and shows a profit. So let's get some teams entered folks!

As for NAP's held in Kalispell - winners were:

Flight "A" Mike Keller of Kalispell MT with Tim Spencer of Great Falls MT.

Flight "B" winners were Marilyn Haggins and Murray Haggins of Calgary AB

Flight "C" winners were Gary Sears of Cascade, MT. and Bill Rice of Great Falls, MT.

I will close with a happy note.

The 4<sup>th</sup> annual Mind Games we held in Lille, France and the Silver medalists were from Canada - Daniel Korbel, Judith Gartaganis, Nicholas Gartaganis, Darren Wolpert, Hazel Wolpert and Linda Wynston.

Judy and Nick, as you all probably know are a District 18 couple from Calgary. With the Gartaganis's away to France the opportunity was there for folks like myself to garner a few master points in Calgary!

Til next report.. keep winning tricks folks