

Labor Day Has Come and Gone!

It's been almost nine months since my first message as your President. I appreciate the many kind and supportive words from players.

District 25 has a reputation for greatness as evidenced by the long list of players recognized in District Director Mark Aquino's Message sent after the Atlanta NABC. Congratulations to everyone that experienced even the smallest success!

### **Our Schedules**

Over the past few years the District 25 schedule has changed in many ways. The District addressed the needs of those players under 750 MPs by introducing the "egg" events. We then addressed those that exceeded 750 MPs and were looking for a comfortable place to play. We introduced the Mid-Flight 0-2500 events. In 2017 we celebrated the return of Knockouts in New England. A second Knockout was added in Nashua this past June and we are seeing interest in this event increasing. Players that had never played in a KO have embraced the competitiveness and the joy in moving forward from round to round.

### **Knockouts are for Gold Rush Too!**

Gold Rush means players in the 0-749 stratification. On Thursday in Warwick we posted six brackets. In Knockouts that means players are matched against their peers, including Gold Rush. When that happens, the event works!

### **Who Plays Night Games...Lots of Players Do!**

If you can believe it, another favorite event is the Super Point Series which is held every evening at 7:30 and during the day on Sunday. These games offer extra points – come and join the fun.

### **The Future of Credit Cards**

We were happy to participate in the ACBL credit card experiment in Nashua and in Warwick. The response has been mixed. Some players feel that offering credit cards has slowed the purchase of entry fees. Others don't like the ACBL model whereby only one credit card per team/pair can be used. Although we won't have credit cards available in Mansfield, the District Board is researching other ways to offer credit cards but would answer these concerns. More to follow...

### **How Can We Keep the Senior Regional/Cape Cod Sectional?**

We have seen the attendance at Regionals ebb and flow in the same way we experience it at Sectionals and Clubs. During the last year or more we have held our attendance steady with some large increases followed by marginal decreases. One exception is the Senior Regional on Cape Cod. Our attendance was down 145 tables this past April. Why? Some believe it was the work on the Sagamore Bridge; other felt the location in Falmouth is undesirable for the locals; possibly the delay in the return of the "Snow Birds" had an impact; or some didn't like the Not Your Average Gold Rush. Likely the answer lies in all these concerns.

Did you know it is one of only two Senior Regionals left in the entire ACBL? We hear from players that they “love” this tournament so please support it and if you have ideas how to bring back the players, we would welcome hearing from you.

### **Entry Fee Increase** 😞

Cost of living increases have finally caught up with us. The last increase was over six years ago. In that time the District has been able to hold the entry fee to \$14 (\$12 for 299ers), but we now we post more losses than gains. Beginning with the 2019 Presidential Regional in Cromwell, the price per player/session will be increased to \$15 and for 299ers to \$13.

### **North American Pairs**

If you qualified during June, July or August, you will be eligible to play in the NAP. The schedule is as follows:

October 27	Flight A Qualifier (open to all players)	Hartford Bridge Club
October 28	Flight A Final	Wethersfield, CT Sectional
November 10	Flight B Qualifier	Harvest Regional, Mansfield, MA
November 11	Flight B Final	Harvest Regional, Mansfield, MA
November 10	Flight C Final	Harvest Regional, Mansfield, MA

Mark Aquino reported from Atlanta that the Masterpoint Awards for the NAPs have been increased. This means that if you play in any of the events listed above, your Masterpoint awards will be increased dramatically, with a larger percentage being Gold. Winners in all Flights receive travel expense subsidies to participate in the Spring Nationals in Memphis, TN. If ever there has been a reason to use that “Q” you received this summer – now is the time!

### **What’s New for 2019?**

Have you noticed all the buzz about a new Regional? The Rainbow Regional, traditionally held in Sturbridge, MA has been reformatted to a Non-Life Master GOLD MINE Regional (April 11-14, 2019). If you have less than 750 MPs and have not yet reached the rank of Life Master, this event is for you. Go to [calendar.nebridge.org](http://calendar.nebridge.org) and download the flyer. If you have any questions, Sue Miguel is ready to talk to you about it. Email her at [inchair@nebridge.org](mailto:inchair@nebridge.org).

I continue to encourage you to reach out to me at any time.

*Lois DeBlois*

*President, District 25*