

♠ 2026 SUMMER REGION 1 NEWSLETTER

Celebrating our people • Sharing Board news • Planning what's next

Hello Bridge Friends,

It has been an exciting and eventful few months, filled with accomplishments, milestones, and news from across Region 1 and the wider bridge world. I am delighted to share some of the highlights with you. My sincere thanks, as always, goes to our translation volunteer, Pierre Tremblay, for preparing the French edition.



Canada Welcomes Another NABC

After Toronto proudly hosted the Summer NABC in 2024, I am thrilled to share that Canada will once again welcome North America's premier bridge event. Montréal has been selected to host the Spring 2030 NABC! I am proud to have contributed to the efforts that brought another NABC to Canada.



In This Issue



Board, committee, governance, and NABC Site Selection updates



Celebrations of Region 1 members' achievements at home and abroad



Upcoming Regional and Sectional tournaments



The redesigned NABC experience beginning in Fall 2028



Key decisions from the Summer Board meeting in Minneapolis—and what they mean for our bridge community

My newsletters are designed to keep you connected with our bridge community, highlight opportunities to play, and share the stories that make bridge so special.



Board of Directors Meeting: Summer 2026 Highlights

The ACBL Board of Directors met in Minneapolis from July 6–9, 2026. Committee and Task Force meetings continue virtually throughout the year.

Strong Financial Position

Through May 2026, net assets increased by \$792,000—\$1.33 million ahead of budget. Strong tournament attendance, membership revenue, and careful expense management contributed to the result. The Board also updated ACBL's Investment Policy and financial management procedures to reflect current practices.

Clean Audit and Greater Transparency

The Board received a clean, unqualified audit opinion. Beginning this year, complete audited financial statements—including the auditor's opinion and notes—will be published on the ACBL website within two weeks after Board receipt.

Membership Update

Total membership is approximately 6% lower than last year. Guest memberships, however, have increased dramatically, creating an important opportunity to convert new players into full ACBL members.

Major Masterpoint Changes Coming in 2027

Effective January 1, 2027, the Board-approved changes include:

- Overall tournament awards increasing by approximately 20–30%
- Swiss Team awards becoming comparable to equivalent pair-event awards
- Substantially higher awards for Gold Rush and newer-player events
- More appropriate awards for strong single-flight events
- Greater scheduling flexibility for tournament organizers without affecting masterpoint awards

More Gold at Non-Life Master Regionals

Effective immediately, championship events at Non-Life Master Regionals for players under 750 masterpoints will award 50% Gold and 50% Red, replacing the previous 33% Gold and 67% Red split.

Local Sectionals Expanded

Beginning January 1, 2027, Units and Districts may use ACBL Certified Local Sectional Directors for Local Sectionals. These events will award 100% Silver masterpoints, helping make Sectionals more affordable and accessible.

Governance Modernization

The Board continues to modernize ACBL governance by simplifying the Codification, creating standardized committee charters, updating the Bylaws, and moving operational procedures into more appropriate policy documents. The goal is to improve transparency, accountability, and efficiency while preserving Board oversight.

Ethics and Discipline

The Appeals and Charges Committee reported that the first phase of computer-based cheating detection is complete. Work is underway on an ongoing monitoring process and a more efficient, consistent disciplinary system that preserves members' due-process rights.

Looking Ahead

The Board approved the following future NABC sites:

Spring 2029 — San Francisco, California

Spring 2030 — Montréal, Québec

Fall 2030 — Los Angeles, California

The Board also continues to support initiatives that strengthen local Units, improve member communication, and enhance tournament resources for clubs, Units, and Districts.

Full Board Report

Curious for more detail?

https://web2.acbl.org/documentLibrary/about/2026/July_BOD_Minutes.pdf

Welcome to the New NABC

Transforming the Tournament Experience Beginning in Fall 2028

Beginning with the Fall 2028 NABC at the JW Marriott in Austin, Texas, Spring and Fall NABC schedules will be organized around two continuous tracks. The goal is to give every player—from rising contenders to world champions—a clear route to compete for an official NABC title. The Summer NABC will not change.

Two Tracks to a National Title

Championship Track: The highest-level arena for world champions, top experts, and ambitious challengers, using traditional qualifying and knockout formats for ACBL's most prestigious NABC titles.

Signature Track: Balanced, bracketed competition in which players face others at a similar level. Players may begin here or move into it after a Championship Track run ends, while remaining eligible for an official NABC title.

Key Features

Titanium Masterpoints®

Advancing players with fewer than 10,000 masterpoints will be able to earn Titanium Masterpoints® exclusively at NABCs. Titanium will have its own race, and the points will convert directly to Gold and Red.

Shared Hands, Shared Insights

Players across the field will play the same deals in similar events wherever possible. Hand records will support post-game discussion and study, and video commentary will show how leading players handled the most challenging deals.

A Curated Newer-Player Experience

Spring and Fall NABCs will offer specially designed one- and two-day events for newer players, created with local NABC committees. Players can also move into a Signature event, join a side game, attend lessons or social programs, or explore the host city. An on-site Partnership Desk will help those arriving without a partner or team.

Host Hotels and Accessibility

Updated venue criteria prioritize excellent playing space inside host hotels—"stay upstairs, play downstairs." The approach expands the range of possible host cities while improving convenience and accessibility for players with mobility needs.

Frequently Asked Questions

How will Signature brackets be set?

Most likely by the average masterpoints of the partnership or team. Full details will be announced as planning is finalized.

Can partners at different levels play together?

Yes. Expected use of average masterpoints means regular partners can stay together in a bracket reflecting their combined level.

What if I simply want a good game?

Side games will be offered every day, whether or not you are pursuing a title.

What happens if I do not advance in a Championship event?

You can move seamlessly into a Signature bracket or a side game.

How does the 11-day tournament flow?

Day 1 features charity games and warm-up events. Days 2–9 contain the primary Championship and Signature competition. Days 10–11 use a playthrough format so final-weekend events continue to the end.

Will favourite events remain?

Yes. Core NABC championships remain, along with daily side games, I/N programming, and Gold Rush play.

Must I attend all 11 days?

No. Attend for one weekend, the full tournament, or anything in between; meaningful play is available every day.

Will there be social and educational programs?

Yes. Host committees will help plan social events, speakers, and lessons.

How do I buy entries?

Use Entry Express to purchase in advance, receive table and seed assignments by email, and go directly to play. Event pricing will appear in the official program and Entry Express.

Do I need to be an ACBL member?

Yes. Participants must be active members in good standing. Join or renew at acbl.org.

How can I follow developments or offer feedback?

ACBL will provide email and website updates. Local committees, The Bridge Bulletin, and NABC Daily Bulletins will also share news and invite feedback.

Is the Summer NABC Changing?

No. The Summer NABC will continue in its current form, with nationally rated and regional events, Gold Rush events, I/N games, learning opportunities, the Youth NABC, and the Collegiate Bridge Bowl.

Answers to Member Enquiries

Bridge Bulletin Delivery Delays

Several members have reported recurring delays in receiving their monthly Bridge Bulletin. I raised the concern with ACBL management to determine whether there was an issue with production or mailing and whether solutions were available.

ACBL advised that the magazine is produced and mailed on the same schedule each month, with copies generally entering the postal system on the 25th or 26th of the preceding month. Delivery is targeted for the first week of the publication month. According to ACBL, the delays reflect variable postal delivery rather than the production schedule. Because the magazine is sent by third-class mail, delivery times are determined by the postal service and can vary considerably by location.

Members who want immediate access can read the digital edition through MyACBL beginning on the 26th of the preceding month.

Availability of the Annual Independent Audit

Members have also asked where to find ACBL's audited financial statements and whether the accompanying notes are included. Motion 262-FN04 confirms that the Annual Independent Audit will include the auditor's opinion, complete financial statements, and accompanying notes. It must be posted on the ACBL website within two weeks after the Board receives it. A summary will continue to appear in The Bridge Bulletin.

Path: ACBL.org → Menu → About ACBL → Our Organization → Financial Statements

Spotlight: Inspiring Stories and Accomplishments

One of the most rewarding parts of serving as your Regional Director is recognizing members as they reach new ACBL milestones. The stories you share remind us that bridge is as much about friendship, perseverance, and lifelong learning as it is about masterpoints.



New Ruby Life Master: Dinshaw Burjorjee

Dinshaw says he never chased rankings; he simply enjoyed playing bridge. He credits much of his success to his longtime partner, Peter Barber, whose love of tournaments took them across Ontario. Dinshaw's bridge journey began at age 13, when he and his friends believed every hand should be bid to game—and doubled! Although he feels his card play was stronger in his younger years, experience has made him a better bidder. His wit remains just as sharp: when he once considered a military career, his wife remarked that his habit of ignoring rules probably would have led to a court-martial within a month.

Congratulations, Dinshaw, on becoming a Ruby Life Master, and thank you for sharing your delightful story!

CA Canadians Shine at the Summer NABC

Barbara Seagram — Blackwood Award

Barbara Seagram received the Blackwood Award, one of ACBL's highest honours, recognizing a lifetime of exceptional service to bridge. She has taught tens of thousands of players, authored 39 bridge books—including the bestselling *25 Bridge Conventions You Should Know*—and become one of the game's most influential teachers and ambassadors. She also co-founded the Zero Tolerance program, now widely adopted throughout North America. Beyond bridge, her charitable work has helped build schools and water projects in Cambodia. Congratulations, Barbara, on this well-deserved honour!

Lorraine Eaglesham — 2026 ABTA Teacher of the Year

A lifelong educator and former school principal, Lorraine has introduced more than 1,000 beginners to bridge over the past two decades. Known for her patience, enthusiasm, and dedication, she was nominated by a student and supported by 42 glowing testimonials. Congratulations, Lorraine, on this prestigious and well-deserved recognition!

Fred Gitelman — ACBL Hall of Fame

Fred Gitelman received one of ACBL's highest honours: induction into the Hall of Fame through the Open Award. Fred and Sheri Winestock founded Bridge Base Inc. in 1990 and, with Uday Ivatury, launched Bridge Base Online in 2001, transforming how bridge is played worldwide. Fred, Sheri, and their teammates also won the Freeman Mixed Board-a-Match Teams at the Minneapolis NABC, giving Fred his 10th NABC championship.

Truscott USPC Senior Swiss Teams

Congratulations to John Carruthers, Michael Gamble, Allan Graves, and their teammates on winning the Truscott USPC Senior Swiss Teams title.

Canada's Youth Champions

Canada's future is bright! Congratulations to Nina Ke (13), Rudy Cheng (14), Casper Gu (16), and Wilson Hall (17) on winning the ACBL Educational Foundation BridgeWhiz National Youth Swiss Teams. After a tie and a loss in their first two matches, they won six straight—including two blitzes—qualified third for the afternoon session, and captured the title by nearly a full match with a 17.6-VP victory. Congratulations as well to pairs champions Zachariah Willie and William Lui!



Celebrating You: Minneapolis Masterpoint Winners

At the Minneapolis NABC, 3,068 players earned a combined 80,988.65 masterpoints. The following Region 1 members appeared among the event's leading masterpoint winners:

Overall Rank	Masterpoints	Player	Home
54	154.91	Jeffrey Smith	Ottawa, ON
68	139.67	Frederic Pollack	Laval, QC
87	126.42	Nicolas L'Ecuyer	Montréal, QC
101	121.51	John Carruthers	Kingsville, ON
188	96.07	David Grainger	Etobicoke, ON
213	85.99	Leslie Amoils	North York, ON
215	85.27	Richard Chan	Markham, ON
302	66.84	Edward Xu	North York, ON
421	52.53	Ghassan Menachi	Fabreville, QC
422	52.53	Clement Maamarbachi	Montréal, QC
430	52.37	Michel Lorber	Baie-D'Urfé, QC
547	44.21	Jonathan Steinberg	Toronto, ON
552	43.93	Simon-Pierre Goulet	Montréal, QC
553	43.93	Frederic Belanger	Verdun, QC

559	43.47	Charles Faille	Saint-Constant, QC
560	43.47	Chantal Dube	Montréal, QC
565	43.27	Shih-Chieh Fuh	Montréal, QC
566	43.27	Ashot Harutyunyan	Montréal, QC
610	40.57	Daniel S. W. Chui	Markham, ON
643	37.88	Cheryl Macintosh	Orléans, ON
658	37.03	Ranjan Bhaduri	Toronto, ON
795	30.73	Yimei Cao	Aurora, ON
808	30.12	Terri Verret	Montréal, QC
809	30.12	Pierre Daigneault	Montréal, QC
823	29.79	Peter Peng	North York, ON
970	24.65	Barbara Seagram	Toronto, ON
971	24.65	Alex Kornel	Toronto, ON
980	24.48	Suzanne Maurice	Gloucester, ON
981	24.48	Donald Duncan	Ottawa, ON
1002	23.81	Lois Sherwood	Norton, NB
1072	21.68	Lorraine Eaglesham	Unionville, ON
1073	21.68	Harry Eaglesham	Unionville, ON
1084	21.43	Fengming Chen	Dorval, QC
1087	21.34	Louis Daigneault	Mississauga, ON
1088	21.34	Denys Skalskyi	Mississauga, ON
1130	20.20	Andrew Risman	Toronto, ON
1145	20.00	Daniel Miles	Toronto, ON
1159	19.66	Mark Caplan	Mulmur, ON
1300	16.35	Anant Rege	Ottawa, ON



District 1 Mini-McKenney races —

<https://my.acbl.org/mpraces?year=2026&district=1&race=MM&showDeceased=Y>

District 2 Mini-McKenney races —

<https://my.acbl.org/mpraces?year=2026&district=2&race=MM&showDeceased=Y>

District 1 Helen Shanbrom Ace of Clubs races —

<https://my.acbl.org/mpraces?year=2026&district=1&race=AC&showDeceased=Y>

District 2 Helen Shanbrom Ace of Clubs races —

<https://my.acbl.org/mpraces?year=2026&district=2&race=AC&showDeceased=Y>

Canadian Top 100 race —

<https://my.acbl.org/mpraces?year=2026&country=CD&race=CDN&showDeceased=Y>

CA Canadian Bridge Federation Events

An announcement from Shelley Burns, CBF President:

The CBF is developing initiatives for B Flight players as well as top players. Players are encouraged to participate and spread the word.

2027 Celebrity Auction — Top players, teachers, and bridge personalities can sign up at cbf.ca to offer a lesson or play in the Celebrity Game. The auction opens Nov. 1 with “Buy Now” opportunities. The online Celebrity Game is listed for Monday, Mar. 8 at 1:00 p.m. ET.

Team League on RealBridge — Open and B Flight; beginning Oct. 1 and continuing Thursdays at 8:00 p.m. ET.

Online Canadian Mixed Pairs on RealBridge — Open and B Flight; Nov. 7–8.

Friday Maple Leaf Game on RealBridge — Fridays at 7:00 p.m. ET; players worldwide are welcome.

Learn more at cbf.ca

FR French-Language Convention Card

District 1 is pleased to announce the completion of a French-language ACBL Convention Card guide. Although the original English guide appeared in The Bridge Bulletin in 2023, discussions with French-speaking clubs highlighted another important benefit: the guide is an excellent teaching resource for instructors working with beginners.

District 1 collaborated with the Club de Bridge de Rimouski to create a comprehensive French version. After six months of work, the guide is now

available to French-speaking beginners and their teachers. Special recognition goes to Xavier Combey, whose original French translation of the convention card greatly facilitated the project.

[!\[\]\(b8a72a3753dcf585f9661ac843b3f6db_img.jpg\) Consulter la ressource électronique de la carte de conventions en français](#)

The District 2 Kibitzer

The Kibitzer has kept Ontario ACBL players informed and connected since September 1959. It has had only a handful of editors, including John Carruthers and Sammy Kehela. John Armstrong holds the record for the longest tenure, at 17 years, and Andy Stark has served as editor since 2014.

Today's Kibitzer builds community by highlighting club activities, member achievements, teachers and volunteers, District news, upcoming events, and interesting bridge stories.

[→ Read The Kibitzer](#) • Have a bridge hand or story to share? Email Andy at andy.kibitzer@gmail.com.

Upcoming Tournaments: Plan Your Calendar

Regionals

Location	Dates	Event
Montréal, QC	Aug. 18–23, 2026	Regional
Sudbury, ON	Aug. 26–29, 2026	Regional
Ottawa, ON	Sept. 22–27, 2026	Regional
Winnipeg, MB	Oct. 14–17, 2026	Regional
Toronto, ON	Jan. 8–10, 2027	I/N Regional
Pembroke, Bermuda	Jan. 23–30, 2027	Regional
Toronto, ON	Mar. 23–28, 2027	Regional
Fredericton, NB	June 23–27, 2027	Regional

Sectionals

Location	Dates	Type
Tillsonburg, ON	Aug. 8–9, 2026	
Saint John (Rothesay), NB	Aug. 14–16, 2026	
Niagara-on-the-Lake, ON	Aug. 14–16, 2026	I/N
Moncton (Riverview), NB	Sept. 4–6, 2026	
Oakville, ON	Sept. 5–7, 2026	
St. Thomas, ON	Sept. 12–13, 2026	
Québec City, QC	Sept. 18–20, 2026	
Brampton, ON	Sept. 19–20, 2026	
Port Williams, NS	Oct. 2–4, 2026	
Montréal, QC	Oct. 16–18, 2026	
London, ON	Oct. 17–18, 2026	
Charlottetown, PE	Oct. 23–25, 2026	
Toronto, ON	Oct. 23–25, 2026	I/N
Niagara-on-the-Lake, ON	Nov. 6–8, 2026	
Halifax (Bedford), NS	Nov. 13–15, 2026	
Québec City, QC	Nov. 27–29, 2026	
Toronto, ON	Jan. 8–10, 2027	
St. Catharines, ON	Feb. 19–21, 2027	
Burlington, ON	Mar. 13, 2027	I/N
Shediac, NB	May 21–23, 2027	
Cambridge, ON	May 29–30, 2027	
Toronto, ON	June 12–13, 2027	
Saint-Bruno, QC	June 18–20, 2027	

NAP Finals and STaCs

Event	Format/Year	Dates
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District 1 NAP Final	Online	Oct. 31–Nov. 1 and Nov. 7–8, 2026
District 2 NAP Final	Online	Nov. 21, 2026
District 1 STaC	2026	Sept. 14–20; Nov. 9–15; Dec. 7–13
District 1 STaC	2027	Apr. 5–11; May 3–9
District 2 STaC	2026	Dec. 7–13
District 2 STaC	2027	May 3–9; Dec. 6–12

Next NABCs

Host City	Dates
San Diego, CA	Nov. 26–Dec. 6, 2026
Dallas, TX	Mar. 10–21, 2027
Las Vegas, NV	July 14–25, 2027
Seattle, WA	Nov. 25–Dec. 5, 2027

→ [More Details on These and Find a Tournament](#)

Tournament Etiquette and Masterpoints

If an issue arises at a tournament or club table, call “Director, please” immediately. Keep your hand raised until the director sees who made the call. The same practice applies when calling for a caddy.

A gentle reminder: ACBL’s Zero Tolerance policy applies throughout the entire playing site—not only at the table. It covers interactions with opponents, directors, staff, caddies, volunteers, and, most importantly, your partner.

Please play nicely, be kind, and—most importantly—have fun!

Masterpoint Changes

Effective January 1, 2027, overall tournament awards will increase, including awards for Gold Rush events and strong single-flight events. Championship

events at Non-Life Master Regionals are already moving to a 50% Gold / 50% Red split, replacing the previous 33% Gold / 67% Red split.

Masterpoint Colours

- Black — Club games and many local events
- Silver — Sectional tournaments and STaCs
- Red — Regional events and certain special games
- Gold — Regional and national events that meet Gold-point requirements
- ◆ Platinum — NABC+ events
- ◆ Crystal (colourless) — Certain online events; these do not satisfy colour requirements unless specifically permitted

All about Masterpoints here: [American Contract Bridge League](https://www.acbl.org/masterpoints)

ACBL Masterpoint Ranks & Requirements

- Fewer than 5 masterpoints - Rookie
- 5 masterpoints —Junior Master
- 20 masterpoints —Club Master (including at least 5 Black)
- 50 masterpoints —Sectional Master (including at least 10 Black and 5 Silver)
- 100 masterpoints —Regional Master (including at least 15 Black, 15 Silver, and 5 Red/Gold/Platinum)
- 200 masterpoints —NABC Master (including at least 20 Black, 25 Silver, 20 Red/Gold/Platinum, of which at least 5 must be Gold or Platinum)
- 300 masterpoints —Advanced NABC Master (including at least 50 Black, 50 Silver, 50 Red/Gold/Platinum, of which at least 25 must be Gold or Platinum)
- 500 masterpoints —Life Master (including at least 75 Black, 75 Silver, 100 Red/Gold/Platinum, of which at least 50 must be Gold or Platinum)
- 750 masterpoints —Bronze Life Master
- 1,000 masterpoints —Silver Life Master (including at least 200 Silver/Red/Gold/Platinum)
- 1,500 masterpoints Ruby Life Master (including at least 300 Silver/Red/Gold/Platinum)
- 2,500 masterpoints —Gold Life Master (including at least 500 Silver/Red/Gold/Platinum)
- 3,500 masterpoints Sapphire Life Master (including at least 700 Silver/Red/Gold/Platinum, of which at least 350 must be Gold or Platinum)

- 5,000 masterpoints —Diamond Life Master (including at least 1,000 Silver/Red/Gold/Platinum, of which at least 500 must be Gold or Platinum)
- 7,500 masterpoints —Emerald Life Master (including at least 1,500 Silver/Red/Gold/Platinum, of which at least 750 must be Gold or Platinum)
- 10,000 masterpoints Platinum Life Master (including at least 2,000 Silver/Red/Gold/Platinum, of which at least 1,000 must be Gold or Platinum and 100 Platinum)
- 10,000 masterpoints Grand Life Master Platinum Life Master status, plus a victory in an eligible national or world championship event.



For Newer Members: Region 1 at a Glance

Region 1 includes District 1—Prince Edward Island, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Newfoundland and Labrador, Québec, and Eastern Ontario—and District 2—Southern and Northern Ontario, Manitoba, and Bermuda.

Explore the official District websites for tournaments, masterpoint races, youth and junior bridge resources, charity initiatives, interactive maps, and other community information:

➔ [District 1](#) — GNTs, NAPs, youth and junior bridge resources, charity initiatives, and more.

➔ [District 2](#) — interactive Unit maps, NAPs, GNTs, tournaments, and more.



Learn and Practice Bridge

Whether you are learning the game or sharpening a specific skill, these ACBL resources offer several ways to practice:

Learn to Play Bridge: A modern browser-based version of ACBL's classic training program. Play through hands, receive immediate feedback on bidding and card play, and review explanations at

<https://web3.acbl.org/newmembers/free-learn-software>

Bridge Master: Focused declarer-play puzzles that explain mistakes and demonstrate the correct line of play. <https://www.acbl.org/bridge-master/>

Tricky Bridge: A mobile app recommended by ACBL that uses a game-style approach, with 38 interactive lessons and automated feedback.

<https://www.trickybridge.com>

Just Play Bridge: An endless stream of robot deals for relaxed practice without formal lessons. <https://www.acbl.org/just-play-bridge2/>

♥ Let's Stay Connected

Your feedback matters! Please share your ideas about how ACBL can improve your bridge experience and support your goals. Contact me at [→ region1director@acbl.org](mailto:region1director@acbl.org)

Important: Please do not click "Reply" to the newsletter email. It is generated by an ACBL Headquarters account, and I will not receive your response.

See you at the tables,

Darlene Scott

