

✨ Fall 2025 Bridge Highlights & Local News ✨

Hello Bridge Friends,

Welcome to the second edition of my Region 1 Newsletter since stepping into the Board of Directors role this year! 🎉 My sincere thanks go to our translation volunteers, Marc-Andre Fourcaudot and Pierre Tremblay, for the French version.

At the NABC San Francisco, it was great to see and visit with friends from District 1 and District 2! I'm excited to share what's happening both locally and across the bridge world.

In this issue you'll find:

- 🎯 Updates on what I've been working on at the ACBL Board level
- 🏆 Celebrations of our members' achievements at home and abroad
- 📅 A handy list of upcoming tournaments you won't want to miss
- 🌎 News on the ACBL International Stakeholders Task Force
- 📋 Summary of the Fall Board Report from the San Francisco NABC – key takeaways, decisions, and what they mean for our bridge community

My newsletters will keep you connected to what's happening in our bridge community, highlight exciting opportunities to play, and share the stories that make bridge so special.

For those who may have missed the earlier edition, my newsletters are posted on both the District 1 and District 2 websites. The first newsletter provided background information for both districts, which I have not repeated in this newsletter.

District 1: ➡ <https://district1acbl.org> District 2: ➡ <https://www.d2acbl.org>

Spotlight: Inspiring Stories & Kudos

One of the true pleasures of my role is sending congratulatory notes to members who achieve new ACBL ranks. The replies I receive are always a delight and often come with a few smiles attached. Many recount learning bridge as children, then spending what they now describe (with a wink) as “unhealthy” amounts of time playing in university. Real life eventually intervened—careers, families, and responsibilities took over—until bridge made its inevitable comeback in retirement. Then the pandemic struck, and for a time, play moved entirely online.

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These stories are a cheerful reminder that no matter how many twists, turns, and detours life throws our way, bridge patiently waits for us to return. And when life becomes a little less hectic, I hope you'll emerge from behind the computer screen and head back to the club, where the friendships, challenges, and enjoyment of the game can once again be shared face to face.

Kudos

I've heard praise from several members about Unit 192 and the Almonte Bridge Club executive—especially Rob and Cille Harris. Their efforts clearly made a strong impression, and are deserving of special recognition.

Celebrating YOU!

🏆 NABC San Francisco Fall 2025

Congratulations to our tournament winners! Your achievements reflect dedication, skill, and many well-played boards. Special recognition goes to **David Grainger**, whose top score of **205.72** masterpoints really stood out!

1. **David Grainger** — 205.72 (Etobicoke, ON)
2. **Edward Xu** — 152.68 (North York, ON)
3. **Nicolas L'Ecuyer** — 151.73 (Montreal, QC)
4. **Yan Wang** — 146.20 (Richmond Hill, ON)
5. **Richard Chan** — 102.95 (Markham, ON)
6. **Yimei Cao** — 70.49 (Aurora, ON)
7. **Jeffrey Smith** — 68.57 (Ottawa, ON)
8. **Frederic Pollack** — 68.57 (Laval, QC)
9. **Jonathan Steinberg** — 64.66 (Toronto, ON)
10. **Leslie Amoils** — 58.65 (North York, ON)
11. **Jacques Leblanc** — 58.00 (Maria, QC)
12. **Maxime Rioux** — 41.16 (Sutton, QC)
13. **Marc-Andre Fourcaudot** — 40.66 (Montreal, QC)
14. **Sylvain Dionne** — 36.83 (La Prairie, QC)
15. **Peter Wong** — 36.33 (North York, ON)
16. **Jessica Lin** — 36.33 (Aurora, ON)
17. **Daniel SW Chui** — 30.02 (Markham, ON)
18. **David Zhang** — 30.02 (Markham, ON)
19. **Paul Janicki** — 29.43 (Markham, ON)
20. **Linus Lee** — 28.23 (Waterloo, ON)
21. **Carolyn Overland** — 27.09 (Toronto, ON)

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22. **Simon-Pierre Goulet** — 22.38 (Montreal, QC)
23. **Alain Rioux** — 21.86 (Sutton, QC)
24. **Frederic Belanger** — 21.47 (Verdun, QC)
25. **Ranjan Bhaduri** — 19.59 (Toronto, ON)
26. **Edward Betteto** — 19.55 (Holland Landing, ON)
27. **Leigh Ives** — 19.00 (Alliston, ON)
28. **Kim Jenkinson** — 18.29 (Burlington, ON)
29. **Sylvie Gauthier** — 17.92 (Sutton, QC)
30. **Yuan Chen** — 17.49 (North York, ON)
31. **Mingmin Zhu** — 15.83 (Mississauga, ON)
32. **Cheryl Macintosh** — 14.13 (Orleans, ON)
33. **Darlene Scott** — 13.92 (Oakville, ON)
34. **Michael Kammermayer** — 13.92 (Oakville, ON)
35. **Ihsan Erdin** — 13.35 (Ottawa, ON)
36. **Normand Houle** — 13.27 (St-Hubert, QC)
37. **Anu Goodman** — 12.99 (Toronto, ON)
38. **Jeffrey Imber** — 11.67 (Bolton, ON)
39. **John Carruthers** — 11.09 (Kingsville, ON)
40. **Maryse Hambrick** — 10.53 (Saint-Laurent, QC)
41. **Sarko Kassabian** — 10.53 (Saint-Laurent, QC)
42. **Marc Boisvert** — 10.14 (Laval, QC)
43. **Donna Silver** — 9.89 (North York, ON)
44. **Chantal Dube** — 8.80 (Montreal, QC)
45. **Robert Guerard** — 8.80 (Brossard, QC)
46. **Donald Duncan** — 8.73 (Ottawa, ON)
47. **Julie Wood** — 8.73 (Toronto, ON)

Masterpoint Races

- ➡ [District 1 Mini-McKenny races](#)
- ➡ [District 2 Mini-McKenny races](#)
- ➡ [District 1 Ace of Clubs races](#)
- ➡ [District 2 Ace of Clubs races](#)
- ➡ [Canadian Top 100 Masterpoint races](#)

🍁 Canadian Bridge Federation (CBF) – Friday Night Maple Leaf Games

On-line games featuring a modern user-friendly interface with video and sound delivering an authentic face-to-face experience to players. Fill out your on-line registration form and share 50% of the revenue with your Home Club.

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How it works:

- Fill out the online registration form. 🌟 ➔ [Registration & Home Club Selection](#)
- Choose your Home Club from the dropdown menu at the bottom of the form.
- 50% of the revenue goes directly to your Home Club!
- Support your local clubs while enjoying a lively, engaging game night from the comfort of home.

More details about the Maple Leaf Online Games: ➔ [Maple Leaf Online Games](#)

What I've Been Working On

Since January, I've served on several ACBL committees: Audit, Governance/Communications, Bridge/Executive Initiatives, and the International Stakeholders Task Force.

Audit

In my August newsletter I reported that I participated in the Audit Committee's review of the annual independent audit of ACBL's financials by the outside firm CBIZ and that it was an unqualified (i.e. a "clean") audit.

Since then several members contacted me with concerns about access to the ACBL financial statements. In addition to being difficult to locate, management proposed a change to the Codification that would have excluded the **Notes to the Financial Statements** from what members receive, citing a potential employee privacy concern. Given the significance of this proposal, I undertook extensive due diligence before responding. I consulted with a local university professor in the chartered accountant stream, a chartered professional accountant, and several interested members of Region 1 to fully understand the implications.

Based on this research and consultation, I developed a detailed argument outlining why the notes are an **integral and inseparable part of any complete financial statement**. The notes explain critical information such as significant accounting policies, estimates, commitments, contingencies, related-party transactions, donor restrictions, and other essential disclosures. Excluding them would result in non-compliance with GAAP, as financial statements without notes are considered incomplete.

I also raised concerns about:

- **Potential non-compliance with Executive Law §172-b**, as members should not receive a version of the financial statements that differs from what is officially filed.
- **Transparency and governance optics**, since limiting disclosure undermines member confidence and public trust.

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- **Audit implications**, because an auditor's opinion does not apply to incomplete financial statements.

I am pleased to report that, after reviewing these concerns, the Audit Committee agreed that the Codification should **not be changed**. The financial statements will continue to include the notes, and members will have full access to the same audited information that is filed. There will be **no change to the Codification**. 🙌

🔍 How to Find ACBL Financial Statements

- Visit acbl.org → ⚡ Menu → **About ACBL** → **Our Organization** → **Financial Statements**
- Audited financial statements are published **one week after the Spring NABC**, in accordance with the Codification.

More recently, the Audit Committee participated in a review of the Conflict of Interest Policy and the COI form all Board are required to complete and submit annually.

⚙️ Bridge/Executive Director Initiatives

As part of the Bridge/Executive Director initiatives, we are continuing a review to update policies and procedures for Local Sectionals. This is a complex process, requiring careful consideration of masterpoint awards, financial and staffing impacts on management, and sponsor profitability. Because each region has unique circumstances, there is no one-size-fits-all solution—policies must be tailored to reflect the varying needs and realities of different areas.

🌐 International Stakeholders Task Force

In recent years, ACBL Presidents have created Task Forces (TFs) to focus Board attention and resources on priority issues for the year. The establishment of this TF proved timely. Its mandate included examining ACBL's relationships with other bridge governing bodies in North America: the World Bridge Federation (WBF); the North American Bridge Federation (NABF), which serves as the WBF's Zone 2 authority; and the three Zone 2 National Bridge Organizations (NBOs)—the United States Bridge Federation (USBF), the Canadian Bridge Federation (CBF), and the Federación Mexicana de Bridge.

Representatives from each of these organizations were invited to participate in a joint session during the Spring 2025 Board meetings in Memphis. In conjunction with that meeting, the Board, NABF, and NBOs were informed of a 20% increase in WBF dues, raising serious affordability concerns—particularly for the NBOs. Both the USBF and CBF had already been experiencing difficulty meeting their WBF financial obligations.

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Additional concerns were raised regarding global dues equity, stemming from a lack of transparency in membership figures reported by some NBOs worldwide.

The situation escalated to a crisis during the World Championships in Herning, Denmark, in July, when Canadian teams already on site were barred from competition by WBF officials due to arrears in dues. Following intervention by North American bridge officials present in Herning, the Canadian teams were ultimately permitted to compete. The incident underscored the urgent need for North American bridge organizations to work collaboratively to address the WBF dues issue going forward.

In the months that followed, ACBL President Margot Hennings, Executive Director Bronia Jenkins, and board member, Tim White undertook a concerted effort to “get North America’s house in order,” while Ms. Jenkins engaged directly with newly elected WBF President Franck Riehm. Through a series of Zoom meetings involving leaders of the North American bridge bodies—and in parallel with Ms. Jenkins’ discussions with Mr. Riehm—the organizations collectively developed and agreed upon a three-year (2026–2028) framework for meeting WBF dues obligations, with compromises made by all parties.

At the Fall Board Meetings in San Francisco, the Board approved a motion contingent upon the finalization of a formal agreement among the North American bridge organizations and the WBF.

Tournaments & Plan your Calendars

What a joy it was to attend the St. Catharine’s and Barrie Regionals, the London Sectional and the Gatineau and MOBridge Local Sectionals! All had great attendance, were well-run and a wonderfully friendly vibe.

Up next, I’ll be chairing the Toronto January NLM Regional, the Toronto Winter Sectional, and the Toronto Easter Regional. Can’t wait to see many of you there—come say hello!

■ **Regionals**

- Toronto NLM Regional, ON | Jan 3–4
- Hamilton, Bermuda | Jan 31–Feb 6 (🌴 one of my favourites!)
- Toronto Easter Regional, ON | Mar 31–Apr 5
- Arnprior I/N Regional, ON | May 1–3
- Kingston & Islands Split Regional, Kingston, ON | May 5–10

■ **Sectionals (not Local Sectionals due to table limitations)**

- Toronto New Year Sectional, Toronto, ON | Jan 3–4

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- St. Catharines Open Sectional, St. Catharines, ON | Feb 13–15
- Oshawa Sectional, ON | Feb 28–Mar 1
- St. Catharines I/N Sectional, ON | Mar 14–15
- Halifax Joe Currie, NS | Mar 20–22
- Caledon Sectional, ON | Apr 25–26
- Arnprior Sectional, ON | May 1–3
- Don Cox Memorial, Truro, NS | Apr 17–19
- Kingston & Islands Split Regional, Kingston, ON | May 5–10
- Sault Ste. Marie Sectional, ON | May 8–10
- South Shore Sectional, Bridgewater, NS | May 22–24
- Nancy Gamlin-Légère Memorial, Shédiac, NS | May 22–24 (max 750 mp's)
- Sudbury (Garson), ON | May 22–24
- Cambridge, ON | May 23–24

■ GNT's, STaC's & Special Events

- CBF Winter STaC | Feb 16–22
- GNT Flight C | Mar 28
- GNT Flight A | Mar 29
- GNT District 2 Final | Apr 4–5
- District 1 STaC | Apr 6–12
- GNT Flight B | Apr 11
- GNT Flight Championship | Apr 12
- District 2 STaC at Clubs | May 4–10
- ACBL Stardust Week | May 24–31
- Summer is Here, District 1 STaC | May 18–24

■ NABC's

- St. Louis, MO | Feb 25–Mar 8
- Minneapolis, MN | July 9–19
- San Diego, CA | Nov 26–Dec 6
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→ [More Details](#) on these and find a tournament.



Player suggestions for tournament organizers

Bridge players shared some helpful tips to make tournaments run smoothly and enjoyably.

-  **Include “Zero Tolerance” wording in your tournament flyers**
(Reminds players of expected behavior and promotes a respectful environment.)

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-  **Make an announcement about the Zero Tolerance policy at the start of each game**
(Sets the tone and ensures everyone is aware before play begins.)

Interested in Teacher Certification?

Info on Certification Calendar, workshop details, free tools and teaching materials, being placed on the top of the Find a Teacher database here: www.acbl.org/bpteacher

Visit the ACBL Teachers' Lounge for Education Programs, ACBL teaching materials, resources (convention cards, articles, lessons, posters, templates for table cards, business cards etc.), cooperative advertising program, recruiter incentives, and much more
<https://www.acbl.org/portfolio/teacher-certification/>

Bringing bridge to the next generation of players!

Over the past 24 months, Jump Start Bridge has made our game visible to over 4,000 educators. Of those educators, 628 teachers in 40 states and 3 provinces have received the materials, support and supplies needed to introduce bridge to 21,688 students. To continue this phenomenal growth, we need your help!

To find out more visit <https://jumpstartbridge.org> or contact Patty Tucker at patty@jumpstartbridge.org

Board of Directors Meeting – Fall 2025 Highlights

- **Meeting Overview**
 - The ACBL Board met in person in San Francisco, November 22–25, 2025.
 - Committees and Task Forces continue to meet online throughout the year.
 - Key focus areas included financial stability, membership trends, integrity of play, tournament structure, and governance.
- **Financial Outlook**
 - The 2026 operating and capital budgets were approved.
 - Operating budget projects approximately **\$18.19M in revenue** and **\$18.17M in expenses**, resulting in a modest surplus.
 - The **\$780,000 capital budget** supports continued migration from the AS400 system to the new Back Office platform, with completion expected in fall 2026.
- **Membership Trends**
 - Overall membership declined **7% year over year**.
 - Guest memberships increased by **more than 167%**, indicating strong interest from new players and a pathway to future growth.

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- **Protecting the Integrity of the Game**
 - Continued focus on combating online cheating through **EDGAR (Everyone Deserves a Game Above Reproach)**.
 - Since February 2024, over **31,000 players** have been screened.
 - The estimated online cheating rate is expected to stabilize at approximately **3%** once all reviews are complete.
- **Tournament and NABC Updates**
 - Introduced **“Championships for All”**, a new initiative to modernize the NABC business model.
 - Plans include streamlined schedules, right-sized venues, pre-registration, and tiered pricing.
 - The **Fall 2028 Austin NABC** will pilot this approach.
 - The **Rio Hotel & Casino in Las Vegas** was selected for the **Summer 2031 NABC**.
 - Local sponsors may now choose whether to include online events with in-person Regionals, replacing a one-size-fits-all requirement.
- **Sectionals and GNT Financial Adjustments**
 - Ongoing discussions to refine Local Sectional guidelines with a focus on fairness and sustainability.
 - A review of Grand National Teams finances uncovered a long-standing chargeback error.
 - The Board agreed to forgive negative district GNT balances for one year while providing education and fundraising support.
- **Governance and Resources**
 - Approved a new **Board Resource Manual**.
 - Continued revisions to Codification chapters to improve clarity, consistency, and use of gender-neutral language.
 - Launched a new **online Unit Presidents Handbook** as a practical leadership resource.
- **Elections and Appointments**
 - **Cindy Shoemaker** elected ACBL President for 2026.
 - **Dennis Carman** elected Vice President.
 - **Joann Glasson** elected Treasurer.
 - Additional Board, Executive Committee, and international federation appointments were confirmed.
- **Annual Honors (2026)**
 - **Honorary Member of the Year:** James Holzhauer (of Jeopardy fame)

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- **Volunteer Member of the Year:** Susan Bridges
- **Aileen Osofsky Goodwill Member of the Year:** Noel Stewart

Curious for more details? You can check out the full Board Report here:

➡ District 1 Board Report – [Click here](#); District 2 Board Report – [Click here](#)

Looking Ahead to 2026

As part of the normal rotation of board elections across different regions each year, the Board will see its usual turnover. I believe that bringing in new members with diverse experiences, skills, and perspectives is healthy for the organization. Interestingly, for the first time, women will hold a majority on the Board in 2026, with a 9-to-4 composition.

Missing Communications?

If you know of members who are not receiving my newsletters, tournament announcements, or other communications, please have them contact membership@acbl.org to request that they be added to the appropriate mailing lists. Some newsletter emails didn't make it last time—including mine! Between accidental removals and overzealous spam filters, even I sometimes miss my own ACBL updates.

Helpful distinction: ACBL emails go through two different systems.

1. Automated emails (billing notices, Live for Clubs, etc.)
2. Marketing and informational emails (news, reminders, promotions)

Unsubscribing from one does *not* unsubscribe from the other. They're separate lists.

That's why you get some but not all emails. Unfortunately, past emails don't get re-sent once a "block" is removed. Lifting the block just means those addresses can receive *future* emails.

Let's Stay Connected

Your feedback matters! Share your thoughts on how ACBL can improve your bridge experience and support your goals. **Please contact me at:** region1director@acbl.org

NOTE: Please do not "Reply" to this email—it is generated by an ACBL HQ email account.

See you at the tables,
Darlene Scott, Region 1 Director

