

WESTERN CONFERENCE

CONTRACT BRIDGE

Forum



ScoreCard

Volume 85 Issue 3—March 2010

Denver Rocky Mountain Regional



Renaissance Hotel, Denver, Colorado

Denver's annual Rocky Mountain Regional is May 25-31 this year at the customary Renaissance Hotel venue at 3801 Quebec St., right across from the old Denver Stapleton Airport site.

The ad elsewhere this issue has all the details on the schedule of events.

There should still be good airfares from most points in the district. If you are driving, you can take in some excellent scenery in the Colorado (and/or northern New Mexico) mountains going to or from.

The stretch of highway from Denver to Grand Junction (Interstate-70) has to be one of the 10 most scenic highway drives in the country. Several Colorado mountain towns have limited gambling.

And the Denver area itself has many attractions. Make sure you get down to the 16th Street Mall.

But we know you are coming primarily for the bridge and the Denver Unit will be doing its best to provide its famous Mile High Hospitality.



¿Qué Pasa?

By Jerry Fleming
National Board Representative

¿What's Happening?

The Albuquerque regional was huge! The final table count was 1873. Thus 2010 is off to a great start here in District 17. As you read this, the Tucson NLM Regional will have just concluded. Up next is the Mesa Senior Regional, April 5-11, again scheduled at the Crowne Plaza San Marcos Resort. Grand National Team club qualifying games continue for the next several weeks, leading up to the district finals in Las Vegas in June.

District 17 Charity Recipients

I talked about this last time. Here's an update. A few years ago, the ACBL Charity Foundation switched from giving just one large charitable donation to allocating the money to districts, on a rotating basis, who then determine the recipients of Foundation contributions. This year District 17 was allocated \$30,000. At the district board meeting in January, the following six charities were named to receive \$5,000 each: A New Leaf, La Mesita Homeless Shelter in Mesa, Hospice of the Valley in Phoenix, Hospice and Palliative Care in Grand Junction, Colo., Self Help, Inc. in Los Alamos, New Mexico, Wyoming Air National Guard Family Program in Cheyenne, and Families First, Inc. in Denver.

If you're interested in other ACBL Charity Foundation contributions, go to the page on the ACBL website (www.acbl.org/about/charity/foundation.html).

Regional Allocation

Per ACBL policy, regional allocations will be reviewed in detail this year. This process takes place every five years, and its purpose is to determine whether any changes are needed in the number of regionals each district is allocated each year. Each district, no matter what its size, is presently allocated four regionals. Additional regionals are available if a district exceeds certain bridge population levels, starting at 9000. Special (formerly "ex-quota") regionals are granted on top of this. Here in District 17, besides the four that everyone gets, we are sanctioned for two others, the Mesa Senior Regional and the Las Vegas Regional.

You may have noticed that our district had 9200 members as of December 31. So are we entitled to another? The answer is probably no, because the date used for this determination is June 1, when our bridge population is below 9000. The big fluctuation is due to "snowbirds" who winter here and return home (presumably north) in the spring. My concern with any reallocation decision is to ensure that none of our very successful tournaments are taken from us.

Whether we would want another regional if we get to a membership of 9000 when the determination is effective is unclear at the moment, though it would be nice to have the option.

ACBL Move

In a couple of weeks ACBL headquarters will be relocated to Horn Lake, Miss. Please be patient if you are trying to contact League headquarters during this time. The whole infrastructure will be changed out and modernized.

(See ¿Qué Pasa? on page 15)

Grand National Teams

By Jerry Ranney
D17 GNT Coordinator

As of March 1, there are only two months remaining to qualify for the District 17 Grand National Teams finals, which will be held at the Las Vegas Regional in June. The finals will start on Friday, June 12 for all brackets. So check with your local clubs for dates and

times for GNT qualifying games. As of the end of January, I have received reports from 21 qualifier games totaling in excess of over 200 tables, and know that I have not yet received reports from some GNT qualifier games.

I want to remind club owners that the results of all GNT qualifier games along with a check for \$4.00 per table need to be sent to Jerry Ranney so I can prepare a

list of all qualified participants to use at the district finals in Las Vegas. For everyone's information, these District 17 table fees are used to reimburse teams that travel to participate in the finals for a portion of their travel costs.

In addition, District 17 provides additional funding to District 17 teams that qualify for and attend the national GNT finals held at the Summer NABC.

Mesa Roadrunner Senior Regional



Crowne Plaza San Marcos Resort.

The Mesa Roadrunner Senior Regional is April 5-11 at the Crowne Plaza San Marcos Resort. The ads in *ScoreCard* will provide all the details on the schedule of events.

The senior events are for age 55 and up, but there will be parallel open sectional events for everyone else Friday through Sunday.

The weather rates to be pleasant and the Phoenix area has many attractions for the occasional time off from bridge.

Deadline for special bridge rates is March 4.

Good airfares are still available throughout most of the southwest, so make your plans now to join us. Call 888 233-9527 to reserve.

Senior Regional Solves Air Problem

By Dale Sweetwood

If you haven't made your reservations for this year's Mesa Senior Regional, being held in Chandler, Arizona, April 5-11, don't delay. For those of you who are repeat visitors to our special tournament, you will be pleased to note that the air conditioning/air circulation problems that occurred last year have been solved with the use of special baffles.

This year's tournament promises to be exceptional. In addition to stellar competition, the great local dining and night life make this tournament one that you don't want to miss.

As one of only two Senior Re-

gionals, this is a special tournament for us older folks.

The tournament is being held at the prestigious San Marcos Golf Resort for the sixth consecutive year. Don't miss the chance to stay in a world class resort, in a visitor friendly area during a time of the year that provides spectacular weather. Wouldn't you like to bask in the sun beside a beautiful pool between bridge sessions?

For those of you who are new to competitive bridge, there is a special I/N program that provides excellent advice from the experts and a great chance to win those all important gold points.

Hope to see you all at the table in Chandler.

Deadlines

ScoreCard no longer accepts hard copy ads. All ads must be e-mailed directly to the publisher Ken Monzingo (see e-mail address right hand column on page two), with a copy to Jared Johnson, the *ScoreCard* editor.

Stories and all other articles of any sort still get e-mailed directly to the *ScoreCard* editor at: jaredjohnson@aol.com

Just regular e-mail, no attachments please. Deadlines are the fifth of each month for the following month's issue. Deadlines are firm, exceptions for only the most pressing and unusual of circumstances.

Stories past deadline still go to the editor, not the publisher, for inclusion in the following issue.

So now it's all e-mail. Ads to the publisher (with a copy to the editor, okay for attachment on ad copy), stories and all else to the editor. Thanks for your help.

Cactus Flower NLM Regional Correction

The past couple of issues of *ScoreCard* have erroneously listed the Tucson NLM Regional as a 299er Regional. This is incorrect - the tournament is open to all Non-Life Masters with less than 500 masterpoints. Our apologies. The Cactus Flower NLM Regional is scheduled the last week in February at the Desert Diamond Casino & Hotel in Tucson, and we hope you can make it. See the ad inside.

ScoreCard Editor Application

District 17 is accepting applications for the position of *ScoreCard* editor of the *Contract Bridge Forum*. Responsibilities include collecting, compiling and editing articles pertaining to district news, upcoming regionals, special events, player achievements, etc., and forwarding all to the publisher.

The *ScoreCard* editor is also responsible for timely coordinating and placement of all sectional ads as well as ensuring D17 sectional results are received by the publisher. If interested, or for a job description, contact Bonnie Bagley at 719 593-0205, bon1bon@comcast.net, or Lesley Davis at 602 955-0564, lesdavis1@aol.com