

From the Desk of the ABA National Secretary

ABA Secretary Newsletter

Greetings Club and Unit Secretary's,

December, 2009

Hope things are going well with you and your Clubs/Units this holiday season. We are enjoying our bridge games and holiday parties here in the Atlanta area. I hope that you are doing the same.

There are some changes and updates that you need to know about as we go into the New Year. Please share this information with your officers and members:

- Fee changes for sanctioned games:

C Games	\$3.00 to \$8.00
B Games	\$5.00 to \$8.00
A Games	\$7.00 to \$8.00
Sectionals	\$8.00 to \$9.00
Nationals	\$10.00
Nationwide	\$8.00
- Scrip Changes for sanctioned games:
 - 1st place awards equal playing fee
 - 2nd place awards equal 1/2 or playing fee
- Changes for pairing Knock-Out team games --- Reduced number of boards played:
 - National Tournaments- 1st to final round 24/26/28/32
 - Sectional Tournaments - 1st to final round 24/24/26/28
 - Grade A Tournaments - 1st to final round 24/24/26
- In Sectional Tournaments, when there is a Swiss opposite the third and fourth round of the Knock-out, the Swiss will pay 80% of a two session Open Pair Game.

- In an effort to recruit members as well as inform local communities about bridge, we are encouraging clubs/units to send articles to local newspapers about bridge events in your area.
- I do hope to send newsletters to you at least quarterly. It would really be helpful if I could e-mail them to you. However, we have addresses from less than half of the secretary's. If you have a valid e-mail address, please send it to the National Office so that, going forward, we can use e-mail to send newsletters and other information to you.
- Remember, ABA dues and Section Dues are due December 31, 2009 for the coming year. Each Independent Club or Unit is entitled to host a Membership Game during the month of January. This game pays sectional master points. Members have to be financial to win master points in this event. (If dues are not paid by Jan. 31, membership shall become invalid).
- Please help us recognize our Final Grand Slammers by appointing a club or unit member to send the information to the National Office. We don't want to miss anyone!
- Reminders:
 - Each chartered ABA independent/club **must** sponsor at least one A or B regional event, one scholarship game and one headquarters benefit game each year as a condition of charter renewal. If unable to sponsor these games, you must submit \$25.00 each for the required games. Sanction fees for these games can be found on the Application for Sanction Form. (see ABA Handbook)
 - All Members-At-Large must pay National and Sectional Dues.
 - Clubs/Units cannot include cost of meals in the entry fee at sanctioned events.
 - Directors may not play in sanctioned games that they are directing!

I hope that your holidays are merry and bright and look forward to seeing many of you in this 2010 Bridge year. We hope to make it one of the best ever!!

Willetta Phipps,
National Secretary

American Bridge Association, Inc. 2828 Lakewood Ave., SW Atlanta, GA 30315-5804 (404) 768-5517 (404)767-1871 (fax) wfhipps@msn.com
--