

DIRECTORS PLEASE

I am honored to have been asked to serve the American Bridge Association as the Chairman of the Staff Development & Certification Committee. I accept the duties and responsibilities of this position and pledge my support to all active directors in the American Bridge Association. I have recently coordinated an updated list of ABA directors. If you feel that your name should be included on the list, contact the Staff Developer in your section with your qualifications and experience and if you meet the requirements they will submit your name. It is my intention, with the assistance of the staff development team, to totally revamp the director certification/upgrade program.

Today's director must be intimately familiar with the ACBL Scoring Program in order to effectively run, score and report all games above the club level. This scoring program is the mainstay of the Bridgmate Electronic Scoring System and the American Bridge Association Tournament Scoring System. It is the goal of your Staff Development Team to ensure that you gain the knowledge and proficiency to effectively use these systems and thus provide a much more harmonious environment for our members to play this game they love so much. We will be planning director retreats and seminars across the country for your benefit. In our revamp of the program, I believe we have better spelled out the requirements for certification and upgrade. You will be able to see the skills you need to master and then demonstrate proficiency in those areas before certification or upgrade. Your staff developer will be scheduling events in your area and will keep you informed of other staff development activities. The first of these is scheduled for March 23-25, 2012 in Austin, Tx. This is the second year of a concentrated retreat and those who attended the first liked it so much, they requested it for a second year. We are also trying to have a similar event two days before the Spring National in Tampa. Watch the schedule and attend an event that is close enough for you.

The American Bridge Association is in dire need of enthusiastic bridge players who are willing to train to direct the games. As a director you will learn the various games and their setup, the laws of duplicate bridge, duties and responsibilities of the director-in-charge, use of the Electronic Scoring system (Bridgmate) and Electronic Reporting of results to our National Headquarters. As you learn directing skills, you will understand why it is so important for players to follow instructions and the problems imposed by players in the game. This training program will not only make you a better director, but it will make you a better player also and hopefully help you have a better appreciation for the director-in-charge of the game.

Those of you with the interest may contact the team member in your area or you may contact me directly to get certified or upgraded. The ABA website has contact information for all of us.

LOOKING FOR YOU IN DIRECTOR TRAINING,

Henry (Hank) Irwin, Chair
ABA Staff Development/Certification