



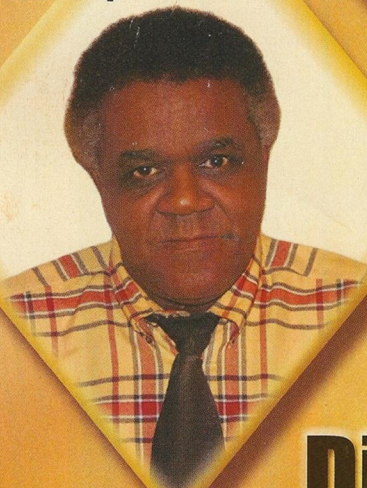
# Bridge Bulletin

March 2011  
www.acbl.org

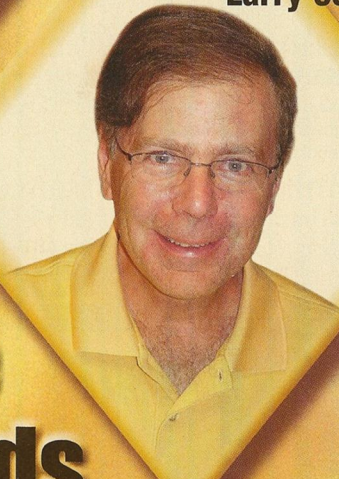
**Sportsman of the Year**  
**Betty Ann Kennedy**



**Volunteer  
of the Year**  
**Carl Sharp**



**Honorary Member  
of the Year**  
**Larry Cohen**



## Three Diamonds

#BXNDJCM \*\*\*\*\*5-DIGIT 48104  
 #1380312/5# 03/2011  
 01081677 3854873.4401 4401 73106 235  
 WILLIAM G PARLINGHUS  
 1964 BOULDER DR  
 ANN ARBOR MI 48104-4164

### Also inside:

Meckstroth takes 10th Top 500 title

Helms on double-dummy analysis



## The American Contract Bridge League

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**Craig Robinson**

Chair, Board of Directors  
**Richard DeMartino**

Chief Executive Officer  
**Jay A. Baum**

ACBL Counsel  
**Peter Rank**

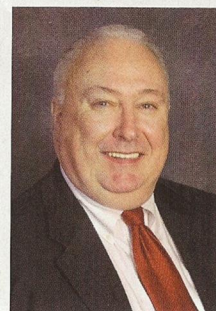
Chair, Board of Governors  
**Mike Kovacich**

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To contact your district director,  
address your e-mail to  
district#director@acbl.org.  
(Enter the district number  
where you see #.)

# From the CEO



## Bridge friends

By now, you may know that I plan to retire as ACBL's chief executive in the summer of 2012. I have thoroughly enjoyed my years with this organization and look forward to being able to play a bit more bridge once my responsibilities at Headquarters have come to an end.

The job of CEO has had many positive aspects for me, not the least of which is the chance to interact with many of the thousands of volunteers and other unpaid leaders who make the ACBL run and who have helped with our current renewal of interest in our game.

Thanks in large measure to the hard work of people like Carl Sharp, Volunteer Member of the Year (see page 26), membership in the ACBL has been climbing steadily. I have also enjoyed reporting in recent months about the gains in table count. These things don't happen by accident.

Carl, a Chicagoan, is one of the front-line people who make good impressions for the organization, principally through his work at the partnership desk for tournaments in the Chicago area.

Another great ambassador for our game is Betty Ann Kennedy, the latest recipient of the Sidney Lazard Jr. Sportsmanship Award. I can't think of a more deserving person than Betty Ann, who takes pride in being a Southern Belle and a real lady in every sense of the word. You can read more about her and the honor bestowed on her on page 27.

Finally, there's Larry Cohen, Honorary Member of the Year (see page 11). Although he is semi-retired from tournament play, he is still highly involved with the game as a teacher and writer. In all my years of being around bridge, I cannot recall ever hearing a negative word about Larry.

This is a wonderful trio of members who are deserving of the honors they have received.

## Sign up for Louisville

It's not too late to make plans for the 2011 Spring NABC in Louisville — and I encourage you to check out one of the South's most pleasant cities.

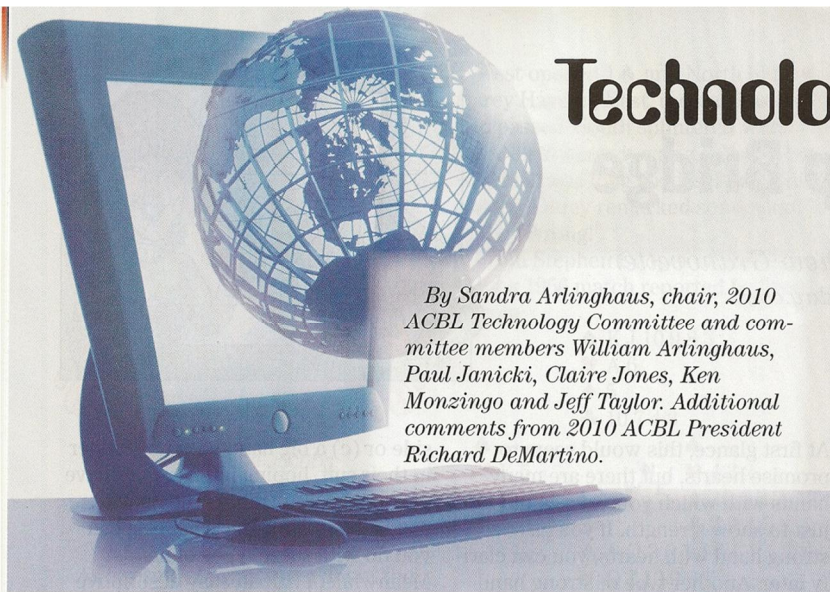
The city with the most famous horse race in the world — the Kentucky Derby — has lots to offer beyond Churchill Downs. The city on the Ohio River has one of the largest urban forests in the nation, the 6000-acre Jefferson Memorial Forest in the south part of the city.

If you have not attended an NABC, you should know that the tournaments are not just for the elite players. We have games practically around the clock for competitors at all levels of experience.

There is nothing like the excitement of our big tournaments, which these days have the flavor of world championships because of all the great players who come to compete at the NABCs.

Don't miss this chance for a wonderful bridge holiday. See you there.

Jay Baum, CEO



# Technology Matters!

*By Sandra Arlinghaus, chair, 2010 ACBL Technology Committee and committee members William Arlinghaus, Paul Janicki, Claire Jones, Ken Monzinger and Jeff Taylor. Additional comments from 2010 ACBL President Richard DeMartino.*

In 2010 the ACBL Technology Committee focused on two broad topics: improvement of navigation on the ACBL web site and strategy for the renovation of ACBLscore. A third area of interest focused on the hiring of new upper-level ACBL management. The Committee includes individuals with extensive experience as professionals and volunteers in computer science, mathematics, business applications of technology, technology in education and technology in bridge. Committee members also solicited advice from a variety of others. The ACBL has a wealth of individuals who know much about various facets of technology and bridge.

Generally our plan, expressed as a "Technology Master Plan" for 2010, includes these broad areas, around which, and within which, smaller pieces will fit. We view it as a dynamic process that responds, in an ongoing manner, to change.

## ACBL web site

Phase 1: Updating of the home page to a more contemporary form with improved navigation focused on bridge content.

Phase 2: Integration of some sort of content management system so that individual pages do not need hand

coding and integrate easily with the new home page. Maintenance of the site can proceed more easily by Management.

Phase 3: Introduction of various creative elements, improvement of site index, and so forth as Phase 2 moves forward.

## ACBLscore

The entire program will be redone to conform to changing times. The new program will serve not only as a scorekeeping device but also as a database management system with multiple functions. It will preserve the capability of the old program and add more; we seek minimal process with a high degree of flexibility. As development proceeds, we will know more what additional features will become feasible.

Consider, for example, a "boarding pass" to enter the system, buy entries in advance, and create a cashless society at bridge tournaments. Look around you in the day-to-day world: consider using a bar-coded ACBL card, like a credit/debit card to make purchases — swipe it to buy an entry. Ideas such as those are part of the "detail" or "small piece" picture: They are interesting to think about now, but at the outset, the major issues are

what is critical. One such major goal is to develop a modular-based product that can be easily and flexibly maintained and updated as change evolves: to create a flexible environment. A consultant in Systems Analysis is formulating an initial study to outline a strategy for moving forward with this complex project. We expect that study to be completed by early spring of 2011. The importance of having good project specifications cannot be overstated: careful planning and regular and frequent communication of those plans is critical. A Steering Committee of experts is in place to oversee project development.

There are also a number of other smaller projects underway. The reporting of club results with hand records and travelers is up and running and has been well received (with almost 1000 clubs using it). Some ideas still in the talking stages are, perhaps, predictable — *e.g.*, new bridge "apps" for smart phones.

Many ideas have been mentioned, and we would love to hear your ideas, dreams, thoughts, comments, and wishes.

To share your ideas and comments with us, e-mail them to your district director, who will pass them along. We may employ alternative means of communication once we gauge the level of interest from the broader membership.

All communications will be read and considered. We hope to acknowledge all correspondence, but the volume of response may not permit that wish. Some ideas may fit with the general plan, others may already be included. Still others may be better left to the future. Nonetheless, we will create an archive of all of them so that as time and technology move forward, we and our successors have them available as reference. □