

**Education Status Report**  
Management Report – Summer 2010

**The main goals of the Education Department, established by the Board in 1986, are:**

- a. To perpetuate the game of bridge;
- b. To train more bridge teachers and provide materials to help them teach.

**Overview**

After almost twenty-five years of pursuing the goals created by the ACBL Board of Directors, the Ed Department has in place a full program of educational programs and products designed to secure the future of the organization.

Of primary importance is the Teacher Accreditation Program (TAP) for training new bridge teachers. The recently updated seminar continues to effectively recruit and train new bridge teachers who in turn recruit new players and teach them the game. It reflects the Standard American Yellow Card system and is coordinated with the Learn to Play Bridge software.

The ACBL's teaching materials are top of the line products. They have stood the test of time, and the recently updated texts and teacher manuals are more popular than ever. The five textbooks and teacher manuals offer materials on the Standard American system and have a focus on duplicate bridge. Many additional support products are available for teachers including the eight "Play" courses with booklets and E-Z Deal cards, the Teacher Resource Manual, the Successful School Programs Booklet, the E-Z Guide booklets and E-Z Deal Cards for each of the five ACBL courses. In addition, the teacher section of the ACBL web site provides additional materials and information for our bridge teachers such as mini-lessons, appropriate for celebrity speaker talks, numerous teaching tips on many topics collected over the years from teachers, instruction on MiniBridge, and more.

There are two primary continuing education programs offered now at the NABCs. They are Bridge Teachers and Bridge Cruises and Teaching Youth Bridge.

The future is on the Internet. In order to make the Teacher Accreditation Program more accessible, there are plans to create a new format, a webinar, for online instruction. This is expected to be in place by the end of the year. The popular Bridge Teachers and Bridge Cruises program is offered at the NABCs whenever we have a presenter available. There are plans to make a webinar of this program, too. Offering it online will make it possible for more teachers to benefit from the information that will help make them more successful with cruise ship programs.

## **Teacher Accreditation Program**

Since the TAP started in 1986, more than 6,000 people, interested in teaching bridge, have attended the course. We don't know how many of them actually taught bridge, but they were in place and able to teach if they were motivated or if an opportunity was presented.

Today's figures are very positive. There are a lot of bridge enthusiasts out there who are able to teach and many who are teaching. There are 1,488 (1,465 last report) teachers who have elected to be listed at the ACBL's Find a Teacher web site. Many teachers, who have an established clientele or as much work as they want, don't choose to be listed at our online site. Retired teachers have been marked as inactive.

### **2010 Accredited Teacher Stats\***

TAP Accredited	4,604
TAP Accredited since the TAP was updated	743
Accredited through Better Bridge	766
Accredited through Easybridge!	953
Registered Teachers	253
School Bridge Teachers	526
ABTA Teachers	587
ABTA Master Teachers	85
New Members recruited by teachers (to date)	484
New Members recruited by club managers (to date)	1,622

\*Note that some teachers are accredited in more than one way.

## **Teacher Accreditation Programs**

TAPs are scheduled at all NABCs and as requested at the regional level. The TAP is currently being scheduled annually at the Gatlinburg Regional.

Since the TAP is an interactive course, it is required that someone attend the ten-hour seminar in order to become accredited. This has been difficult if not impossible in the past for people interested in the program but living in remote areas. Plans are underway to supplement the TAPs currently scheduled with a webinar. This is expected to be in place by the end of the year.

### **TAP Stats**

The NABC TAPs for 2010 are scheduled for: Reno, New Orleans, and Orlando. So far this year six Regional (area) TAPs have been scheduled: Gatlinburg TN, Penticton BC, Austin TX, Syracuse NY, Philadelphia PA and Lake Geneva WI.

	<u>2005</u>	<u>2006</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>2008</u>	<u>2009</u>	<u>2010</u>
<b>TAPs</b>	10	12	11	10	10	2
<b>Graduates</b>	185	183	224*	181*	250*	60*

\*Only newly accredited – many teachers have taken the new TAP to update their skills.

### **TAP Trainers**

Peg Cundiff was the presenter at the Reno NABC TAP. Betty Starzec is our Senior TAP Trainer, and she will present the New Orleans NABC TAP this summer. Carol Mathews does the annual Gatlinburg TAP, and Pat Harrington will offer the Orlando NABC TAP. Dee Berry and Marilyn Kalbfleisch are the other ACBL TAP Teacher-Trainers.

### **Teacher Communication**

Three or four teacher newsletters have been mailed annually since 1988, with the exception of a two year trial when we offered the publication only online. This publication is the ACBL's main method of communication with its bridge teachers. In addition, prior to each NABC, an e-mail is sent to our teachers alerting them to programs of special interest, and all bridge teachers receive the Marketing Matters newsletter.

Of the approximately 6000 members coded as teachers in the ACBL database, we have valid e-mail addresses for 5,071 teachers (last report – 4949).

### **Intermediate-Newcomer Program**

The Ed Department works with the IN Program at the NABC level. The NABC IN Program is run as a model for what the ACBL would like to see our units and district offer at their tournaments and for club managers to learn how to work with new players.

Club directors can learn more about the IN Program by signing up to work a couple of sessions with the IN directors at the NABCs.

The Ed Department works with one of the IN directors to set the schedule for the Celebrity Speaker program – recruiting and signing up the speakers – and to guide the IN Chairs for all of our NABCs.

Every IN Chair receives a letter outlining their duties and clarifying what the ACBL does to help them organize a successful program.

The Education Department produces the speaker profiles for each NABC Celebrity Speaker Program and the handouts for each speaker. In addition, the department creates, prints and mails brochures for each NABC IN Program and flyers which are sent to the NABC IN Chairs for distribution.

Each summer an IN Status Report for the previous three NABCs can be found in the Journal.

### **Junior Bridge**

It has generally been accepted that a core of young players is essential in perpetuating the game of bridge.

The Education Department continues to build upon programs designed to offer bridge education for youth:

- Helping with the second Youth NABC to be held with the summer NABCs,
- Working with teachers to start school programs and make existing programs more successful,
- Providing information for teachers through the ACBL web site
- Hosting workshops at the NABCs for teachers interested in working with youth,
- Continuing to update the contact list of people interested in working with youth,
- Updating annually the successful school programs booklet,
- Providing material for the Youth4Bridge web site.

### **School Bridge**

**Overview:** The ACBL School Bridge Lesson Series Program was established in 1989 in an effort to introduce children to bridge in schools and other locations. Since that time more than 45,000 students have participated in the program.

The program is completely subsidized by the ACBL so it is essentially free for all students and there is no cost to the teachers. Textbooks, cards, t-shirts, and trophies are available to all classes. In addition, individuals who teach the School Bridge Lesson Series Program may qualify to receive stipends from the ACBL for their efforts.

The bridge lessons can be held during school time as part of a math or enrichment program, as an alternate to study hall or as an after-school program.

**Course Material:** Proven course material is offered as a free download at the ACBL web site. The Kitty Cooper one-hour lesson plans are suggested for 4<sup>th</sup> grade and higher. They have been updated and are coordinated with the updated “Bidding in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century” texts. In addition, lesson plans written by Donna Compton for younger students are also available at our web site for free download.

**The ACBL's Funded School Program Stats:**

	S05	F05	S06	F06	S07	F07	S08	F08	S09	F09	S10
<b>College</b>	19	9	13	7	4	3	3	6	4	5	2
<b>High</b>	34	39	41	27	28	26	32	35	42	25	27
<b>Middle</b>	104	56	94	49	63	77	84	96	85	74	81
<b>Elementary</b>	90	66	60	56	47	48	42	53	28	46	49
<b>Other</b>	17	21	5	2	1	0	0	0	7	0	0
<b>Total Classes</b>	455		354		297		363		316		159
<b>Total Graduates</b>	6425		4830		3694		2803		2764		1766
<b>Total held for credit</b>	25		9		8		9		13		10
<b>Total awarded scholarships</b>	25		29		9		13		9		1

**Figure 1: School Programs – Spring/Summer 2010 Stats:**

Total classes – 159

By grade level:

Elementary.....49

High School.....27

Middle School....81

College.....2

by district

1: 21	6: 5	11: 10	16: 6^^	21: 1
2: 31****	7: 6*	12: 8	17: 5	22: 8^^
3: 5	8: 5^^^	13: 4	18: 1	23: 0
4: 2	9: 9	14: 9****	19: 1	24: 5
5: 3*	10: 0	15: 10	20: 1	25: 2
				99: 1

^: denotes each \$500 scholarship class  
credit

\*: denotes each class for course credit

Note: See next page for stats by district of youth and junior members.

## YOUTH AND JUNIOR MEMBER STATS BY DISTRICT

(The chart reflects paid members only. '09 in parens.)

<b>District</b>	<b>Youth</b>	<b>Junior</b>
1	28 (26)	37 (35)
2	15 (16)	31 (31)
3	66 (76)	83 (94)
4	23 (22)	48 (41)
5	4 ( 4)	9 ( 9)
6	35 (39)	57 (60)
7	132(132)	153 (151)
8	38 (37)	47 (46)
9	39 (36)	52 (50)
10	19 (18)	28 (27)
11	33 (25)	47 (49)
12	22 (22)	32 (32)
13	18 (17 )	40 (39)
14	21` (32)	30 (41)
15	66 (22)	71 (28)
16	24 (35)	41 (74)
17	23 (31)	35 (42)
18	5 ( 4)	10 (10)
19	24 (26)	34 (35)
20	15 (19)	23 (28)
21	46 (22)	65 (45)
22	28 (28)	38 (38)
23	22 (23)	38 (38)
24	24 (23)	39 (41)
25	22 (23)	48 (49)
99	8 ( 7)	18 (14)
<b>Total</b>	<b>800 (765)</b>	<b>1154 (1147) – Includes Youth Members</b>