

Credential Committee Report**March 19, 2013**

A Credentials Committee meeting was held by conference call on Friday, February 14, 2014. The committee discussed requests from three members: Jim Looby, Vincent Demuy and Iftikhar Baqai.

Jim Looby:

Jim requested an exception to play in the District 17 2013-2014 GNT finals. He changed his address from District 23 to District 17 on September 30, 2013. Jim provided a copy of a rental agreement and voter registration card with a District 17 address that were dated before September 1, 2013.

Decision:

The Credentials Committee approved his request to play in the 2013-2014 District 17 GNT finals.

Vincent Demuy:

Vincent requested an exception to play in the District 9 2013-2014 GNT finals. He changed his address from District 1 to District 9 on December 19, 2013.

Decision:

As Vincent didn't supply proof that he had resided in District 9 as of September 1, 2013, his request to play in the District 9 GNT finals was denied.

Iftikhar Baqai:

Iftikhar requested to play in the District 23 2013-2014 GNT finals. His residence is located in District 22 and he has had permanent unit affiliation in Unit 562 in District 23 since 1998.

Decision:

The Credentials Committee declined his request as he played in the District 22 NAP and GNT finals several times in the past five years. He was notified that he may request another exception after he has met the requirement of not playing in another district's GNT or NAP final in the previous five years.

Beverly Gardner:

Credential Committee met for a face to face meeting on March 16, 2014 to discuss the request of Beverly Gardner. Ms. Gardner requested permission to play in District 12 GNT for the 2013-2014 event. The issue before the Committee was that Ms. Gardner requested that her Bridge Bulletin be sent to a Florida address rather than her Michigan address. This change of address resulted in making the Florida address her "official" address for ACBL purposes. Ms. Gardner presented documentation that she has a valid Michigan voter registration, that she played exclusively in District 12 NAP in 2009-2012 and GNT from 2010-2012.

Decision:

The Credential Committee approved her request to be reinstated to District 12 provided that she gives to ACBL a declaration that she chooses District 12 as her one time choice for as long as she maintains a residence in District 12.

Request for Discussion Item

The Beverly Gardner matter has identified an issue regarding how ACBL uses the address of a member. The address is used for NAP and GNT eligibility, but also for unit affiliation, unit reimbursement membership stipend, unit voting. Depending on what date is used, it can effect these above identified matters.

We recommend that management work to revamp address change procedures so as to make it clearer to our members that address changes include more than Bulletin mailings.

We also recommend that there be a simple way for members to differentiate between permanent and seasonal address changes.

The Credential Committee suggests that these items be reviewed for "fairness" for the members, the units, and districts.