

## BOARD MEMBER EXPECTATIONS

*(For potential candidates seeking nomination to the Board)*

The USBF Board is its most important organizational unit. Elected and empowered by the Members, and guided by the Bylaws, it establishes policies, sets fees, admits and disciplines Members and focuses on the long-term interests of the organization.

Board members attend the regularly scheduled Board meetings (more or less as needed, about monthly). Based on the past year, meetings are held by conference call and last one or two hours. Some meetings have been held on the first Monday morning of the three NABC's. All Board members are expected to chair at least one committee. Most committees meet monthly, while others meet on an as needed basis. Committee meetings are typically held at times mutually agreeable to most of its members and staff.

In addition, Board members may have some special duties assigned to them by the Board.

Board members will receive, and are expected to read, sometimes on short notice, a wealth of reports and written materials throughout the year. A basic understanding of computer word processing and familiarity with E-mail is a plus.

Board members are Bridge ambassadors. They graciously interact with members who offer comments, questions, complaints, suggestions (and occasionally praise).

As you see, being a Board member is a working position and not a ceremonial one. Board Members should understand that the position is a complete and sacrificing three-year obligation.

Candidates for the Board should refer to the appropriate sections of the Bylaws to learn about the duties, powers and responsibilities of their position. Board members are expected to read and have a working knowledge of the Bylaws.

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My own profile of who would make a good Board member includes some (not all) of the following characteristics: committee savvy and experience, email and word processing proficiency, workaholic, able to chair committees, respect of membership, electable, fresh/different viewpoints, good contacts, brings something special to the Board = expert in a specific area, thinks about it "after hours," available for conference calls and perhaps meetings at NABC's, decent people skills, organizational skills, business skills, do-gooder rather than power seeker, willing to devote 4-6 hours a week to the USBF. – Mike Becker