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**Flo Belford, Incoming President of the ACBL
Educational Foundation. See page 15.**

FLO BELFORD IS ELECTED PRESIDENT OF THE ACBL EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION



Eve, Mike, Flo, Jeff & Louise Belford

Photo: J. Steinberg

Flo Belford, former Admin Assistant to the Unit 166 Board of Directors and winner of the 2006 Audrey Grant Award, has been elected President of the ACBL Educational Foundation in the meeting of their Board of Trustees at the San Diego Fall NABC. The Foundation is a charitable trust fund established as a non-profit organization in

1987 – it provides grants to promote the teaching of bridge. Flo is the driving force behind much of the teaching of bridge to young people in southern Ontario and she is also first alternate District Director to the ACBL's Board of Directors.

The goal of the ACBL Educational Foundation is to make bridge a game played by people of all ages and walks of life. Funding for the ACBL Educational Foundation comes in the form of gifts from individuals, families and corporations - anyone who makes a contribution becomes a member - and from special ACBL Educational Foundation games. The business of the Foundation is administered by a nine-member board of trustees who serve without compensation and without reimbursement for food, travel, or lodging. The Foundation's Board of Trustees meets three times a year at the Spring, Summer and Fall North American Bridge Championships. Three of the nine trustees are elected each fall, with one member coming from the ACBL Board of Directors and two from the membership at large.

The ACBL Educational Foundation receives grant applications from individuals requesting financial support to start or continue bridge programmes, often youth initiatives. The applications are analyzed by the Board of Directors and are either approved or not, or set aside for additional information. Successful applicants are required to provide reports to the Foundation either on an ongoing basis or when their programme has finished.

This year, in San Diego, Belford was nominated for the position of President, and as no one ran against her, she was elected by acclamation. She had been asked to run the previous year, but had declined. This year, she says, she feels ready to take a leadership role, and she now has time to put into the position, having retired as Administrative Assistant to the Unit 166 Board of Directors this fall. Belford is in her fourth year on the Educational Foundation – she has just started her second three-year term.

Belford first heard about the ACBL Educational Foundation when she learned that a couple in Ottawa had received a grant. She submitted her own very detailed plan to support an application for a grant in 2005 and it was approved by the Trustees. Each year she submits an update on the progress of the plan, including future goals. Once she learned about the Educational Foundation, Belford thought it was interesting work, and submitted her name to be considered to a Board member; she was elected (by the ACBL Board of Directors) and started her first term in 2006.

Decisions regarding grant applications and other issues are discussed and decided at the three meetings a year of the Board of Trustees. In the interim, the President is the contact person who is available to respond to enquiries, communicate with ACBL personnel, and approve ongoing expenses. The President also chairs the meetings of the Trustees. The President's position is for a one-year term, but you can be re-elected.

Belford has found the Educational Foundation work very interesting. She says she hears about bridge programmes throughout North America, and that there are a lot of very good ideas out there. She has met interesting people from across the continent and has learned a lot about bridge in other communities as a result. She is very excited about being President; her goal as President is to promote the Educational Foundation so that more members are aware of the work they do. By achieving a higher profile, Belford hopes more members will consider developing programmes and applying for grants. Members can contact Belford at 905-876-0267; fbelford@sympatico.ca for more information, support, and suggestions.

