



# Unit 174 Newsletter

## April 2018



Our President's Post can be found each month at the Unit 174 Website, [www.acblunit174.org](http://www.acblunit174.org). Set your home page at our Unit 174 Website and keep up with all the news.

This month's newsletter includes the sections listed below. Click a link to jump to the corresponding section. If your browser does not support these links, scroll down to find a specific section.

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## President's Message

As you will see from the rest of this newsletter, we have a lot going on in our Unit!

Our 5th annual ABA/ACBL Pairs Championship game on April 7 was a success thanks to the efforts of **John Caudill**, **Sheryl Thomas** and **Gloria Cooper**! **Brigitte Sandifer** directed the game and ensured the smoothest game ever! Thanks to all for organizing and to all for coming—every year we look forward to getting to know our fellow bridge players better from the ABA (American Bridge Association)!!

Looking ahead ... On May 4 at the 10am game at the Election Sectional, look for a busload of students from Westbrook Intermediate School playing in our 0-5 game where **Joyce Ryan** will be directing! These students have been enrolled in bridge lessons as an enrichment class this school year which is taught by volunteer **Dr. Rob Burridge** who is also a research scientist in robotics. Make sure you welcome these young adults to our tournament!!

Looking back ... I have served on the board for the past six years and will be going off on May 6, when the new board members are elected. I have enjoyed EVERY minute of it!!! All good things must come to an end, but you can be sure that I will remain involved as one of your most energetic volunteers!!! We are so fortunate to have so many talented, passionate players and board members in our Unit and it has truly been a privilege to serve with these volunteers working for the betterment of bridge in Unit 174!!! **Thank you for the opportunity to serve!!!**

*Nancy Strohmer, President, Unit 174*  
[nastrohmer@yahoo.com](mailto:nastrohmer@yahoo.com)



## New Members and Rank Advancements

ACBL notifies us each month about the members new to our Unit and about those who advanced a rank as of the 6th day of the previous month. Below are listed those players who either joined our unit or advanced a rank.

### NEW MEMBERS

Please welcome the following players to our unit: **Rajni Amin, Nancy S Bedsole, John O Bedsole, James D Brown, Christine E Caine, Robert Caplan, Patricia A Davenport, Ricky Haikin, Linda J Himes, Nita B James, Sam L Kautz, James E Keller, Janie S Kobes, Richard G Kobes, Samuel Levin, Gretchen Y Lindquist, Beverly H Price, Barbara Sherrill, Candace L Smith, Louise St Martin, Katherine Wade, Vivian J Wang, Robert Westbrook, George W York.**

### RANK ADVANCEMENTS

Listed below are the new Unit 174 Masterpoint Milestones reported by ACBL for March, 2018. An explanation of ranks may be found at [www.acbl.org](http://www.acbl.org).

#### Junior Master (5 Masterpoints)

**Walter Hecht, Christy W Kolva, Robert D Lane, Terrence J McMahon, Ann Johnson, Lawrence S Ross, Marc Sullivan, H Ray Yoder**

#### Club Master (20 Masterpoints)

**Thomas Cook, Douglas Kincannon, Wilma G Sheffield, Carol H Teufel, Wanda Wisniewska**

#### Sectional Master (50 Masterpoints)

**Sarah S Stephens, Gary D Terrell, Dot J Van Almen, Lori C Willey**

#### Regional Master (100 Masterpoints)

**Barbara Fagan, Lila Lee Fennell, Cameron Lawton, Linda K McCasland, Susan Thom, Robyn G Williams**

#### Life Master (129 in Unit 174)

**Rosalind Kokolis**

#### **Bronze Life Master** (311 in Unit 174)

**Evvie A Gilbert, Greg H Johnson**

#### Silver Life Master (189 in Unit 174)

**Holly P Gaunt, Maxine Nobbman, Ming Su**



*Ruby Life Master* (173 in Unit 174)  
Nancy A Carlin, Carolyn Lanier

*Gold Life Master* (93 in Unit 174)  
Lynnda C Paukune

*Congratulations to all for these accomplishments!*

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## Unit News

### ELECTION SECTIONAL, MAY 4-6

The Election Sectional is just around the corner on May 4-6 at the Marriott Westchase--Be there or be square!!! Chairs **Lauri Laufman** and **Nancy Guthrie** are working hard to make this the BEST one ever!!! ALL are invited for light bites and drinks after the Friday, May 4, afternoon game (5:30)—**10th floor hospitality suite!** The GNT District 16 Finals will be held May 4-6 at the Marriott as well. At our Annual Meeting on Sunday, the new Board members will be announced, as will the winners of the Ace of Clubs and Mini-McKenney awards and Unit Goodwill Award recipients. View the tournament flyer [here](#).

As always, we have wonderful speakers lined up to educate and enlighten us. On Friday, May 4, at 2pm, **Dave Glandorf** will speak on "Opening Leads." On Saturday, May 5, at 2pm, **Julie Halperin** will present the "The Art of Balancing."

Building on the success at the Lone Star Regional, **Joyce Ryan** will again host a 0-5 game at the Election Sectional at 10am on May 4. No reservations required. No partner required (although do arrive a little early if you need one). Come out and play! View the 0-5 game details [here](#).

### FALL SECTIONAL DATE CHANGE

The 2018 Fall Sectional will be held November 16 – 18 at the Westchase Marriott. It was previously scheduled for October.

### SUMMER SECTIONAL

Mark your calendars! The Summer Sectional is June 8-10, just a month after the Election Sectional! We can never get enough bridge, right?! Chair **Daniel Jackson** has all sorts of exciting things planned including re-naming the tournament the "Big Switcheroo"! Speakers will be **Gil Micheletti** (Doubles) and **Daniel Jackson** (Beating the Bots). Don't miss it!

### TWO NEW CLUBS

We have two newly sanctioned clubs in the unit: Cypress Northwest and Katy. Details on each can be found in the [Club News](#) section.



## **VOLUNTEER AT THE BERMUDA BOWL TRIALS**

The [United States Bridge Federation \(USBF\)](#) is holding their 2018 Open Team Trials at the Houston Marriott Westchase beginning May 11 and ending May 20.

Volunteers are needed to help run the hospitality suite and the Vugraph operations. This is a unique opportunity to hobnob with our bridge elite and to have a fun experience working with BBO. If you would like to volunteer, please contact **Shawn Quinn** at [syquinn@yahoo.com](mailto:syquinn@yahoo.com), **Betty Starzec** at [lstarzec@comcast.net](mailto:lstarzec@comcast.net), or **Nancy Strohmer** at [nastrohmer@yahoo.com](mailto:nastrohmer@yahoo.com). Let's show them some great Texas hospitality!

## **VOTE!!!**

Save effort and time and **VOTE** online from now until May 1! It's easy...go to [www.acblunit174.org](http://www.acblunit174.org), place your mouse over "MyUnit174" on the right side of the menu bar, click on "BOD Election" and follow the instructions. Your last chances for in-person voting will be one hour before each session of the Election Sectional on Friday and Saturday and then on Sunday morning. [View candidate statements and voting rules here.](#)

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## **Club News**

Below please find information reported to us by the clubs in our Unit. Please send your club's news to Jeff Kroll at [texas.blue.hen@gmail.com](mailto:texas.blue.hen@gmail.com). Information on all our clubs is available on the [Unit 174 website](#). Check there for the most up-to-date schedules, results and other news.

### **BRIDGE CLUB OF HOUSTON**

The Bridge Club of Houston (BCoH) has moved temporarily to "Camp BCoH" at 4876 Louetta Road, Spring, TX (on the NE corner of Louetta and Kuykendahl). They started out in rustic fashion, without power, using a generator to run the computer and the game clock. Those flashlights handed out at the Regional sure came in handy! [Click here to get directions.](#)

The 299r tournament, originally scheduled for June 21-24, has been cancelled, but the Memorial Day "Hot Diggity Dog" picnic will take place as scheduled.

**Melody Euler**, an ACBL Tournament Director, will be conducting a directors' workshop on May 3rd at 2:30pm. All are welcome.

### **CYPRESS NORTHWEST DBC**

**Jim Warren** is pleased to announce that the Cypress Northwest Duplicate Bridge Club is now sanctioned. It is located at the Weekley Community Center, 8440 Greenhouse Road, Cypress, Texas 77433.

The game begins at 12pm every Thursday and is open to all players. Please check in by 11:45. Play is over about 3:45. The table fee is \$3.00 per player. Scores are posted on the Unit 174 website. At this



time you must have a partner as there is not a long list of single players needing or wanting a partner. This will change in time.

The Cypress Northwest DBC was started to serve the community. The duplicate bridge club began in 2016 as a non-sanctioned club with about five tables. The club is fully equipped with the latest bridge equipment, including the BridgeMate II system and an advanced timing system. The club welcomes both experienced and novice players in a friendly, fun environment.

You can contact the club at [Cypress.northwest.bridge@gmail.com](mailto:Cypress.northwest.bridge@gmail.com) or you can contact **Jim Warren** via email at [jwarren760@gmail.com](mailto:jwarren760@gmail.com) or by phone at 832-851-4745

## **FORT BEND DBC**

**Eric Watson** invites everyone to come see them at the Fort Bend DBC:

We have 6-8 people taking our ACBL class on "Bidding in the 21st Century." This will be followed in about six weeks by "Play of the Hand." Classes are Saturday morning at 9:45 in Richmond; a great convenience for folks that are still working!

Fort Bend County is one of the fastest growing areas in Southeast Texas; there are houses going up everywhere!

The Sugar Land game on Tuesday averages about 12 tables.

You can be a part of history if, in 5-10 years, you can tell your bridge friends that you were one of the first people to play at our new Rosenberg game, on Mondays at 10:15!

We are a very friendly club. If you are a newcomer or beginner you will always be welcome and feel comfortable at our club.

## **LONE STAR BRIDGE CLUB**

The Lone Star Bridge Club has elected its Board of Directors as follows:

President: **Mary McDonald**

Vice-President: **Anita Rothfuss**

Secretary: **Vicky L. Martinez**

Treasurer: **Helen Wren**

Club Manager: **Pat Horsley**

Members-at-Large: **Jeane Crumpler, Bill Gemas, Gene Levy and Jeff Kroll**

Games fees were established at \$5.00 per person. Yearly membership dues are also \$5.00 per person.

DLM **Jeff Kroll** gives free lessons on Thursday mornings at 9:30. Typical topics covered are: the steps in planning declarer play, defensive strategies, IMPs strategies vs. Matchpoint strategies, opening a NT vs. 1 of a major, how seat position and vulnerability affect when and how much to preempt.



## KATY DUPLICATE BRIDGE

Katy Duplicate Bridge is located at the Fussell Senior Center, 5370 E 5th St., Katy, TX 77493. There is a sanctioned open game there at 12pm on Wednesdays.

## WESTSIDE BRIDGE ACADEMY

Westside Bridge Academy (WBA) announced its March awards for success and participation at the club. The Most Masterpoint winners are **Ariel Leibovitz** (Open) with 25.31 Masterpoints and **Mannie Magid** (I/N) with 12.06 Masterpoints. The Most Frequent players were **Ariel Leibovitz** (Open) with 23 sessions and **James Sells** (I/N) with 21 sessions. Congrats to all!

WBA is holding a [499er Tournament May 17-20](#). Pairs sessions are at 10:30am and 3:30 pm on Thursday and Friday. Saturday pairs sessions are at 9am and 1pm. On Sunday there is a double session of Swiss Teams beginning at 10am. Come out and join the fun!

**Gary King** is offering two classes at WBA. The first is a brand new class, **Doubles, doubles, doubles**. It will be offered from 10am-12pm on four Saturdays: May 26, June 2, 16, and 23. The class fee is \$100. Pre-registration is required; you may do by emailing **Gary** at [houstonbridge@gmail.com](mailto:houstonbridge@gmail.com). The second class -- **Learn to Play Bridge with Gary King** -- is an eight-session course that runs on Wednesday evenings, 7pm--9pm, from September 5 to October 24. The class fee is \$150. Pre-registration is required; you may do by emailing **Gary** at [houstonbridge@gmail.com](mailto:houstonbridge@gmail.com).

**Terry Currie** is offering a **Play of the Hand** class on eight Mondays, from 2pm-4pm, beginning on May 21 and concluding on July 9. The class fee is \$150. Pre-registration is required; you may do by contacting **Terry** via email at [tcurrie1@comcast.net](mailto:tcurrie1@comcast.net) or via phone at 832-594-8577.

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## From the Editors

We are excited to have the opportunity to send out the Unit 174 Newsletter. We have worked together for several years, identifying information that from the ACBL *Bridge Bulletin* that may be useful, especially to I/N players. The last two years of these monthly summaries are available [here, on the WBA website](#).

Building on **Carol Wilson's** excellent work on this newsletter, we are going to add two new regular features. We will identify what we think is the best article in the ACBL *Bridge Bulletin* each month. We will also provide a "bridge tip" to help enhance your game. And we may include other news about bridge, our Unit, or Unit 174 members.

### *Bridge Bulletin* **ARTICLE OF THE MONTH**

There are two articles of the month this month; one from the March *Bulletin* and one from the April *Bulletin*. **August Boehm's** article, "C is for cover or not to cover," (March, 2018, p. 54) is a must-read and must-save. In one page he hits all the key points on this topic.





In the April *Bulletin*, **Pat Harrington's** article (p. 46) points out that rebidding a suit partner has not supported tends to show a six-card suit. This idea is reinforced in the first problem in the "The Bidding Box" (p. 37) and in the first problem in "It's Your Call" (p. 40).

## BRIDGE TIP

Counting high card points is a good way to get started when you're evaluating a hand, just like training wheels are a good way to get started when you're learning to ride a bike. But after a period of time, you need to progress beyond that if you're going to increase your skill. So, consider these points (pun intended) when evaluating a hand:

1. Aces are worth more than four; kings are worth a bit more than three; queens are worth less than two; and, jacks are worth less than one. Going back to the 1950s, Charles Goren added a point when he had all four aces. It's generally conservative to count an ace as 4.25 points.
2. Aces are especially valuable in suit contracts.
3. Subtract a point for a hand with no aces.
4. Honors together are worth more than honors by themselves. KQxx is worth more than Kxx and Qxx in different suits. KQJx is worth a lot more than Kxx, Qxx, and Jxx in three different suits. A queen with an ace is worth a lot more than an unsupported queen.
5. Honors in long suits are worth more than honors in short suits. Most realize a seven-card suit headed by the AKQ is something to get excited about. A seven-card suit headed by the ten with Ax, Kx and Qx in the other three suits is not something to get excited about.
6. When you have a five-card or longer suit, you can sometimes count a point for each card past the fourth card in the suit. It depends on how likely you think you are to take tricks with those long cards. Good declarers try to set up long suits. A fifth card in a suit is usually better than an unsupported jack.
7. When you are bidding a suit (as opposed to no trump) and you have no shortness (4-3-3-3), subtract a point for poor distribution,
8. Tens are worthwhile when they are in a suit where you have other honor(s). We don't count unsupported tens. Good intermediates are sometimes helpful.

## TOURNAMENT SUCCESS

At the March Spindletop Sectional in Beaumont, **Judy and Ron Brown** topped the Masterpoint Winners List with 16.17 Masterpoints. They were first overall in two sessions – one with a 70.77% game – and scratched in three other sessions. Well done!

*Jeff Kroll & Sam Khayatt*  
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