



American Contract  
Bridge League

# NEWSLETTER

February 2018



## Events and News

Our President's Post may 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.

### *President's Message*

We thank all—and especially our VOLUNTEERS—who made the **LONE STAR REGIONAL** the best ever! **Ken Hudson** and I, as Tournament Chairs, are happy to report that we achieved all goals and hosted a total of 3045.5 tables! **Jay Whipple**, ACBL President, got to “meet and greet” many of our Unit 174 members and guests and he even held a successful Town Hall Meeting that was well attended. He sent us the Tournament Survey results and said, “Congrats on a stellar tournament; at 95% Satisfaction, this is an A+ Tournament.” He also commented that it was “a spectacular event” and that “the hospitality and recognition awards were an important part!”

We believe we are blessed to have the best volunteers in all of the ACBL Huge kudos go to **Sam Khayatt** and her special Hospitality volunteers, and Sam burned the late-night oil printing the labels we are becoming famous for. **Lauri Laufman** and her excellent team ran our successful Partnership Desk, and our players were well pleased. **Nancy Guthrie** and her I/N committee were spectacular, with special awards and we especially thank **Joyce Ryan** for the successful 2-session game for our 0-5 MP players. **Nancy** is putting our used playing cards to special use by overseeing getting them shipped to HOME (Help Our Military Endure)! Finally, huge thanks go to **Al Fortier**, our special photographer, and **Ivette Chapman**, our talented *Daily Bulletin* editor, for keeping us informed.

We had another outstanding program of Speakers and are grateful to **Gary King, Janice Seamon-Molson, Mike Passell, Carolyne Fox, Shawn Quinn, and Sylvia Shi & Daniel Korbel!** Good crowds attended all of these informative sessions. The **A/X/Y Lease-Laird BIG TEXAN PAIRS CHAMPIONSHIP**, with prize money donated by **Larry Laird** was won by **John Zilic and Tom Peters** (1st place of \$1,000) and **Daniel Jackson and Mike Doyle** (2nd place of \$500). Congratulations on an event that was hard fought over two days.

Finally, hats off to **Gary King**, named as the D16 Star Teacher of the Year and **Dan Morse** who was recognized for his outstanding service to bridge with 23 years on the national board, including 2008 President and 2009 CEO of ACBL. If you weren't able to attend the regional, the results are posted at <http://web2.acbl.org/tournaments/results/2018/02/1802009.htm>.

The **ABA/ACBL Pairs Championship** game will be Saturday, **April 7**, at Tracy Gee's at 10 a.m. Trophies will be awarded—don't miss this fun annual event!

And now we prepare for our **Election Sectional May 4-6**, where GNT District 16 Finals will be held. At our Annual Meeting on Sunday, the Mini-McKenney, Ace of Clubs, and Unit Goodwill honors will be awarded. Three new board members will be elected at Sunday's meeting--so, please get out there and vote!!! In-person voting will take place one hour before each session of the tournament on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday morning. But you can "early vote" online, by going to [www.acblunit174.org](http://www.acblunit174.org). Just place your mouse over "MyUnit174" on the right side of the menu bar, click on "BOD Election," and follow the instructions. Online voting will be available **April 9 - May 1**. For absentee voting, go to the unit website and click on the button "Candidates for the Board of Unit 174." Winners will be announced prior to the second session on Sunday, May 6.

We are sad that past-president **Bill Riley** has found it necessary to leave the Board. He served Unit 174 well for five years, but we understand that recovering from Hurricane Harvey comes first. We wish them well and are reminded that many Houstonians, and even some of our Unit members, are still dealing with the awful aftermath of that tragic storm. And we are all thankful that we have Bridge.

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

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***Here's the February 1 report from ACBL for January 2018:***

Each month the ACBL sends us the new members and rank advancements for our Unit. Here is the list from the February 1 report.

**NEW MEMBERS**

**Joe P. Chambliss, Sharon D. Edwards, Carolyn Elliott, Charlott D. Gentzkow, Ann L. Johnson, Katherine G. Low, Colin M. Macrae, Martha D. McWilliams, Luda Orelup, Terry Reichel, Sarah P. Springer, Qihan Wang, and Scott Yoder** have joined Unit 174. Please welcome these new members of our Unit as you meet them at the tables.

***Congratulations to these new Masterpoint Milestone Makers:***

**NEW JUNIOR MASTER**

(5 MP)

**Teresa Becker, Elizabeth Burton-Flint, Andy Kowalewski, Aparna Rao, Ruby Sondock, and Mary Vaughn.**

**NEW CLUB MASTER**

(20 MP)

**Teresa A. Bolen, Gregory Browne, Vijay V. Khandekar, Paul Sinsheimer, and Michael S. Wei.**

**NEW SECTIONAL MASTER**

(50 MP)

**Debra R. Bray, Charles R. Brom, Byron W. Elliott, Rachel E. Harlin, Terrance G. Harris, Linda C. Helbach, Scott Koehler, Sherry A. Seyer, and Susan Thom.**

**NEW REGIONAL MASTER**

(100 MP)

**Phyllis Louderback and Lawrence F. Nicolai.**

**NEW NABC MASTER**

(200 MP)

**Karen M. Jones and Richard H. Labouliere.**

**NEW ADVANCED NABC MASTER**

(300 MP)

**Karen P. Parker.**

**NEW LIFE MASTER**

(131 in Unit 174)

**Sharon K. Campbell, Sophie S. Chen, Charles Dalton, Jack Dean, Jeanette M. Dean, Carol B. Ehrman, Mary Cris Emmons, Susan K. Fenton, F. Adrian Johnston, Evita J. Rduch, Kris Sankaran, Marilyn Gale Vilyus, Robert P. Vilyus, and Helen R. Watts.**

**NEW BRONZE LIFE MASTER**

(312 in Unit 174)

**Rhonda Y. Bryant, Sophie S. Chen, Larry Cossey, Mary Cris Emmons, Lynn D. Gamblin, Sam Khayatt, Cheryl L. Mathias, Brenda C. Metze, Cherry C. Smith, and Helen R. Watts.**

**NEW SILVER LIFE MASTER**

(183 in Unit 174)

**Donna M. Hrachovy and Margie V. Patterson.**

**NEW GOLD LIFE MASTER**

(93 in Unit 174)

Romeo Bodrogi-Podoaba.

**NEW EMERALD LIFE MASTER**

(11 in Unit 174)

Ira S. Chorush.

## *Congratulations to all!*

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### **Meet "Timo"**



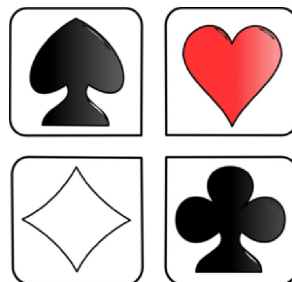
Timucin "Timo" Erkoc

A relative stranger appeared out of the proverbial Nowhere and became our #1 Masterpoint winner at the 2018 Lone Star Regional! **Timucin "Timo" Erkoc** and partner **Richard Pavlicek** of Fort Lauderdale, racked up 186.89 MPs to top the list of Masterpoint winners. Naturally, some of us wondered, "Who is this guy?" He is one of our members! Yes, Unit 174 can claim this Pro, who rejoined the ACBL at the Regional and he lives in our Unit. And he is one of the nicest persons you'll ever meet. He hails from Turkey, and he owned a bridge club in Adana, which still stands today, and from which he was responsible for about a thousand students' introduction to Bridge. When he came to the USA, Timo first lived in Los Angeles, but then came to Houston about 2010, and we are excited to report that he became a U. S. Citizen three years ago right here in Houston! He has extensive experience with world play, especially in France, and he played in the 1998 world championships in Ville de Lille. Due to his points earned in the World Bridge Federation, his 1,182 MPs have been adjusted by the ACBL to 4,182. He is available to play professionally and can be reached at 713.835.2376 or [turkofla@hotmail.com](mailto:turkofla@hotmail.com). He plays 2/1, Standard American Yellow Card, or whatever his clients like, but no weird systems and "no Polish Club." He will soon be actively involved in one of his favorite things: The Houston Livestock Show & Rodeo! Yee-ha, Timo! You have become a Turkish Texan! Welcome to Unit 174!

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*Quote from Gary King at the Regional: "Stop the 'convention madness'! If you can't say, in 15 seconds, WHY you play a convention, STOP playing it!"*

## FEEDBACK & FODDER



### Unit 174 News and Club News

Unit 174 will hold its Board Election at the Sectional tournament to be held **May 4-6**, so mark your calendars. We appreciate all those who have agreed to run for the three available positions: **Sheryl Thomas, Paul Nimmons, Ronnie Martin, Kathleen Malcolmson, Carol Lombardino, and Jack LaVigne**. At that sectional, District 16 will also host qualifying rounds for the Grand National Teams, who will play in the Summer National in Atlanta. Good luck to all who have qualified!

### News from Clubs

All Unit 174 clubs are linked at the Unit's Website, [www.acblunit174.org](http://www.acblunit174.org), so be sure to check their schedules, results, and other news. You may also access the Unit Directory under "My Unit 174" after logging in. The online directory is always up to date with current info.

Our newest club, **Lone Star Bridge Club**, holds its games at St. Paul Methodist Church, 1130 W. Semands Street in Conroe on Mondays at 12 noon and Thursdays at 10:30 a.m. Their "Grand Opening Celebration" will be **Monday, February 19**. Help them make it a grand occasion Diamond Life Master **Jeff Kroll** is a regular at the Club, and he will be giving free lessons at 9:30 before the Thursday games. **Harold Cameron** has the club Website almost ready. For further information, contact Interim President **Mary McDonald**, [maryemcdonald22@yahoo.com](mailto:maryemcdonald22@yahoo.com), 936.890.8593; or Director **Jody Henry**, [jody1614@gmail.com](mailto:jody1614@gmail.com), 936.355.1243. Their Webmaster, **Harold Cameron**, has their Website is up and running: [www.lonestarbridge.club](http://www.lonestarbridge.club).

**Westside Bridge Academy's** Website is [www.westsidebridgeacademy.com](http://www.westsidebridgeacademy.com) has all their schedules, scores, tips, and links, so check it out. Many Life Master Parties are scheduled, and reservations are required, so check the schedule. Mentor-Mentee Games are held on the second Wednesday morning and the fourth Tuesday night of each month, and "8 Is Enough" games are held on a Friday night of each month. Our monthly awards for January were **Kitty Wong** for most MPs in Open Games at 32.8 and **James Sells** in the I/N with 10.87. **Dolores** Aquino was the Most Frequent Player in Open games with 21 and **James Sells** won in the I/N games with 18. Each award winner received a free play. On 3/12 **Terry Currie** will be starting a series of 8 classes on Beginning Bridge, Mondays 2-4 p.m., \$150. Gary King has "Learn to Play Bridge with Gary King" classes scheduled for Wednesday evenings, 7-9 p.m., beginning 4/4, \$150 for the 8-lesson course, and will offer it again beginning 9/5. Many other classes on the teaching schedule, so come on out!

**Bridge Club of Houston** has its last **GNT Qualifying** session for B and C scheduled for **February 24**, and if you plan to play, call the Club or sign up at the Club. New Times: their Monday games now begin at 11:55 a.m., and games on Tuesday through Friday begin at 10:30 a.m. Lots going on at this very active club. Details at [www.bridgeclubofhouston.com](http://www.bridgeclubofhouston.com). The club now has the lease on their new facilities, and the build-out should be starting soon, so this is exciting news. **Barbara Phillips** is continuing her Beginning Bridge Course, which concludes March 24. **Julie Halperin** is teaching a very useful "Transition from Standard American" five-session course that concludes March 7, for those wanting to make the switch to 2/1. Lots of important teaching going on at BcoH, and we know that this is what makes clubs strong.

We hope to get news from other clubs about their events and happenings for the March issue of our *Unit 174 Newsletter*.

**Parting Thoughts** about the Lone Star Regional. I played every day, and sometimes I think the word "grueling" was coined just for bridge tournaments. Highs and lows, peaks and valleys, and stresses from both winning and losing. But we have this wonderful pastime of bridge, and there's really no such thing as losing. It's all good. I was especially proud, as I know many of our Unit 174 members were, of all our leaders and volunteers who helped make a successful tournament. It was the best! I was especially proud of **Sheryl Thomas**, who not only made Life Master at our regional (instead of the many other tournaments she has attended!), but she probably saved a life! She was at the very next table when **Odin Nolte** had a heart attack, and she called on her lifelong medical training and started emergency procedures. His partner, **Leigh Primerano**, had immediately called 911, and they arrived promptly and got him to the hospital. He was not long in the hospital and is recovering at home. Great Work!

The tributes and memorials in the *Daily Bulletins* were very special, and the job done by editor **Ivette Chapman** and photographer **Al Fortier** was above and beyond anything we see at most regionals. We applaud **Bill Riley** for his hard work in Event Naming. It was very special, indeed. The super-duper Restaurant Guide, which was so helpful to and appreciated by our out-of-town (and out-of-country!) guests was thanks to **Dianna Gittelman**. Wow. And how about those vendors? We love spending money, and we love quality goods, so we were all very happy, and we hope we made it worth their while. Speaking of "quality goods": the quality of those upper brackets in the Bracketed Swiss was phenomenal! **John Zilic** related to me that on at least one of the days in Bracketed Swiss, it took a team total of 55,000 MPs or more to be in Bracket 1! And Bracket 2 was 50,000 +. On both Wednesday and Thursday, there were 17 Brackets, and those top brackets were filled with pro teams. That's astonishing! Where else can you play in the same room with that kind of talent?

I will conclude with a kudo to one who will never pat herself on the back, but I will. **Nancy Strohmer** received the "Texas Star Award" for Unit 174, which is presented annually by District 16. It was well deserved, for work done at the Unit level to promote bridge and further Unit activities. Nancy was drafted into service when Hurricane Harvey forced Bill Riley to step down as president, and she hit the ground running without missing a beat, and I'm not sure her feet have touched the ground yet! Hats off, Nancy, for a job well done that continues to be well done!

For the March, and all other newsletters, please send your news, ideas, articles, comments, and suggestions, to [carolwilson@earthlink.net](mailto:carolwilson@earthlink.net), or leave a message or text me at 281-642-4050 or find me at work, 281-600-6000x2.

Till next time . . . See you at the tables!

*Carol Ann Wilson, Unit 174 Newsletter Editor*