



American Contract
Bridge League

NEWSLETTER

March 2018



Events and News

Our President's Post may be found each month at the Unit 174 Website, www.acblunit174.org. Set your home page at our Unit 174 Website and keep up with all the news.

President's Message

MARK YOUR CALENDARS: Our annual joint game, the **ABA/ACBL Pairs Championship**, will be Saturday, **April 7**, at Tracy Gee's at 10 a.m. What a great way to meet our fellow bridge players from the American Bridge Association! Trophies will be awarded, and players can choose whether to receive points from either the ABA or the ACBL. Plan to attend and help us set new records!

Once again, we have lots of news going on in our very vibrant Unit 174. We are proud to announce that **Betty Starzec** has been appointed by the Board to fill out the remaining term of **Bill Riley**. She brings her vast experience, talent, and commitment to the position, and we are fortunate that she accepted.

Another new announcement is that the skilled and talented **Allison Ochsner** has agreed to serve as our Assistant Webmaster! Thank you, Allison, for your assistance to our very special **Carol Winograd!** (Can you find any better unit Websites than ours? We can't.)

The last big announcement is that **Carol Wilson** is passing the baton of this newsletter to **Jeff Kroll** and **Sam Khayatt**. We extend a warm welcome to Jeff and Sam as Editor and Co-Editor, respectively! Carol's newsletters have informed and entertained us for a long time, and we value and appreciate her incredible service to the Unit. Not only is she a brilliant writer but also an exceptional person! Carol is one of the Stars of our Unit and has raised the bar when it comes to volunteerism in that she always goes the extra mile to get the ultimate results! Fortunately, Carol will continue as Unit 174's *Scorecard* Editor. THANK YOU, Carol!

It's not too early to note our commitments for the month of May. We are completing our preparations for our **Election Sectional May 4-6**, at the Marriott Westchase, where GNT District 16 Finals will be held May 4-5. The hotel has extended the bridge rate to May 3, so reserve your room and have fun at the tournament! At our Annual Meeting on Sunday, the new Board members will be announced, as will the Ace of Clubs, Mini-McKenney, and Unit Goodwill Award recipients. Your last chances for in-

person voting will be one hour before each session of the tournament on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday morning. Your best bet is to "early vote" online, at 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 is available **April 9 - May 1**.

Right on the heels of our Election Sectional, the USBF (United States Bridge Federation) will hold its 2018 Open Team Trials for the next World Bridge Federation **Bermuda Bowl** at the Houston Marriott Westchase **May 11-20**. The Bermuda Bowl occurs every other year, and in 2017 it was in Lyon, France. We will be hosting some heavy hitters on the world championship bridge scene, so let's make them glad they came to our great city! We need VOLUNTEERS to help run the hospitality suite and the Vugraph® operations. What an opportunity to learn about the workings of BBO and to meet the elite! To volunteer, contact **Shawn Quinn** (syquinn@yahoo.com), **Betty Starzec**, (lstarzec@comcast.net), or me (nastrohmer@yahoo.com). Let's show them what Texas hospitality is all about!

Have you picked up your 2018-19 Unit Directory? Most clubs have copies, so be sure to get yours while supplies last.

Nancy Strohmer, Unit 174 President
nastrohmer@yahoo.com

New Members and Rank Advancements

Here's the March 1 report from ACBL for February 2018: Each month the ACBL sends us the new members and rank advancements for our Unit. Here is the list from the March 1 report.

NEW MEMBERS

Gail E. Burbridge, Mary Burrows, Michael J. Chambers, Randall Clements, Glenda Corley, John P. Doyle, Jacob B. Engel, Gloria L. Haley, Wolfgang G. Horn, Tom Hudgins, Kathryn J. Humphrey, Chyrl Lowe, C. Jay H. Page, Jody I. Romine, and Marie Underdown 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)

Rao M. Chalasani, Dan E. Egner, Dwight J. Evans Jr., Talmon Gaston, Sudhir R. Gejji, Randy J. Legerski, Mannie L. Magid, Don Mendel, Kathleen R. Sharman, David E. Vaughn, Cheryl Walters, and Pamela White.

NEW CLUB MASTER

(20 MP)

Mary Ann Boerner, Tia N. Budde, Wayne Caldwell, Kay M. Dildy, B Haznedar, Christine P. Mitchell, Ronald A. Robins, Charlotte Shamis, Mary Shamma, and Joseph Tse.

NEW SECTIONAL MASTER

(50 MP)

Kenneth J. Bray, Constance S. Grant, Margaret E. Lanier, Pene P. Moore, Moira Morris, Jim R. Nicas, and Sara E. White.

NEW REGIONAL MASTER

(100 MP)

Debbie J. Ballard, Jeanie E. Connell, Phyllis A. Dillard, Weston O. Frazier, David Littman, Carol M. McCord, Corbin N. Shouse, Shehnaz Vadgama, Jane Vansanten, Roxie A. Walker, Arvis G. Williams, and Charles L. Woody.

NEW NABC MASTER

(200 MP)

Jack Adams, Tera Boyd, Marsha Doyle, Darlyn Dusek, Howard M. Fishman, Rita J. Hanlin, Christian E. Liipfert, Donna B. Price, Judith G. Rebmann, Joan M. Shack, Paul Shack, Nancy E. Shomette, and Thomas H. Zimmerman.

NEW ADVANCED NABC MASTER

(300 MP)

Julia E. Thompson and Victor P. Tong.

NEW LIFE MASTER

(130 in Unit 174)

Judith E. Boyce, Judith C. Busby, Connie Conover, Evvie A. Gilbert, Jim G. Goodale, Carl E. Mathews, Abid S. Mumtaz, Odis W. Nolte, Cherry K. Schwarz, Yvonne Serbin, and Sheryl Thomas.

NEW BRONZE LIFE MASTER

(314 in Unit 174)

Stephen J. Banks, Jack Dean, Jeanette M. Dean, Jim G. Goodale, Elizabeth L. Jackson, David W. Kuykendall, Tonya S. McNabb, Odis W. Nolte, Rekha S. Parekh, Carolyn B. Wedel, and Hillel Weinbaum.

NEW SILVER LIFE MASTER

(189 in Unit 174)

Timucin Erkoc, Phyllis J. Kuchta, Marilyn G. Leiman, Eleanor B. Lipscomb, Erika Magid, Robert F. Reichek, and Armand Shapiro.

NEW RUBY LIFE MASTER

(173 in Unit 174)

Peggy M. Naughton and Shih-Ming Yang.

NEW GOLD LIFE MASTER

(92 in Unit 174)

Karen N. Bachman, William A. Kibikas, and Joseph S. Volanski.

NEW SAPPHIRE LIFE MASTER

(51 in Unit 174)

Nelson W. Brown, Jr., Julie Halperin, Catherine Miller, and Sandra D. Parker.

Congratulations to all!

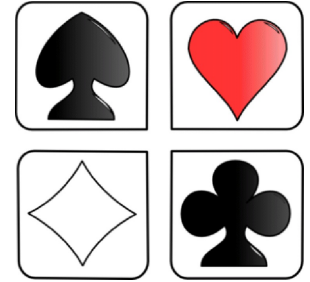
Welcome to Our New Newsletter Editors!



Sam Khayatt and Jeff Kroll

Beginning with the April 2018 issue, **Jeff Kroll** will become the Unit 174 Newsletter Editor, assisted by Co-Editor **Sam Khayatt**. **Jeff** is a Diamond Life Master and is the teacher at the newly sanctioned **Lone Star Bridge Club** in Conroe. He also writes a newsletter with highlights of each month's *ACBL Bulletin* and fields a steady stream of bridge questions from ACBL members. **Sam** is a Bronze Life Master and directs at the **Bridge Club of Houston** in Spring. She also co-edits Jeff's *ACBL Bulletin* newsletter. What you might not know about either of them: **Jeff Kroll** was an Associate Professor at Brazosport College (Statistics and Technical Writing), and **Sam Khayatt** spent three years in Poland and currently works as an independent consultant. We look forward to their newsletters and appreciate their continuing service to all of us players in yet another new way!

FEEDBACK & FODDER



Unit 174 News and Club News

Please remember that Unit 174 will hold its Board Election at the Sectional tournament to be held **May 4-6**, and online and absentee voting are available. We are very fortunate to have such high-caliber members to agree to run for the three available positions: **Jack LaVigne, Carol Lombardino, Kathleen Malcolmson, Ronnie Martin, Paul Nimmons, and Sheryl Thomas.** Election results will be announced at the annual meeting on Sunday between tournament sessions.

News from Clubs

All Unit 174 clubs are linked at the Unit's Website, www.acblunit174.org, so please check their schedules, results, and other news.

We have a new sanctioned game in Unit 174! **The Katy Duplicate Bridge Club** has a game every Wednesday at noon at the Katy Seniors Center, 5370 E. 5th St., Katy TX 77493. Open to age 55+, reservations are required; contact **Bob Lee**, 713.557.4077 or relee@leekon.net. *Welcome!*

Apple Duplicate Bridge Clubs at Tracy Gee Community Center will host the ABA/ACBL Pairs Championship Game on Saturday, April 7, at 10 a.m.. **Brigitte Sandifer** reports that the entry fee is only \$5 for this Unit-sponsored event.

Bridge Club of Houston www.bridgeclubofhouston.com, holds a daytime Mentor/Mentee game on the first Thursday of each month and a night game on the third Monday of each month. Upcoming games are Monday night, 3/19; Thursday, 4/5; Monday, 4/16; and Thursday, 5/3. These are great opportunities for novice players to "play up" and get free pointers. On Saturday, 4/14, they will host a party for **Evita Rduch's** attaining Life Master and **Julie Halperin's** reaching Sapphire Life Master. Always great food at this exciting club! They also have a really fun game on the calendar once a month, usually the 4th Thursday: "8 Is Enough," a Swiss Team game. The rules of this competition assign A players 3 points, B players 2 points, and C players 1 point, and as long as a team has no more than 8 points, it qualifies. So 2 A players and 2 C players would be 8, 4 B players would be 8, 2 Bs and 2Cs would be 6, etc. If you haven't tried "8 Is Enough," make it a point to do so.

Clear Lake Bridge Club has lowered the game fees to \$5 for members and \$6 for non-members. (Membership costs only \$20 a year, so join up now!) Those fees include free coffee and snacks, and the club holds games seven days a week. On Monday through Thursday they have two games a day. On Sunday afternoons they hold a team game, and they also hold an "8 Is Enough" Swiss Team game. A big plus is that they have pie and ice cream at all team games! Check out their Website: www.acblunit174.org/clearlak/clean-blue-working/clearlake.html.

And if you play on 3/17, WEAR GREEN! Thanks, **Evvie Gilbert**, for this report (and congrats, new LM!).

Westside Bridge Academy's Website is www.westsidebridgeacademy.com. They have been having some bang-up parties for Life Masters and Life Master Milestones. Wow! The house has been full for most of them, and it's a really good way to get to meet "more of us." We've talked about their fantastic teaching schedule, and those crowds are growing, too. The Sunday afternoon 1 p.m. game has really grown under the hard work of **Anna Marlatt**, and is running about 20 tables. For the Sunday night team game, **Bert Onstott** has been putting together 8-10 or more teams for this competitive but fun-filled event. Keep up the good work, Westside!

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.** Diamond Life Master **Jeff Kroll** gives free lessons at 9:30 before the Thursday games. On 3/29 the Unit 174 Board will visit as part of the "Club Connection" program, and a light lunch will be served. For reservations, email **Mary McDonald**, maryemcdonald22@yahoo.com. Their Website is www.lonestarbridge.club.

We hope to get news from other clubs about their events and happenings for the April *Newsletter*.

Parting Thoughts. I first want to update you on the status of **Odis Nolte**, who passed out at the Regional and was taken to the hospital by ambulance. I heard several rumors, so I just went to **Odis** to get it from the "horse's mouth," and I pass it along, because it is quite a story. Everyone, including nurses, doctors, EMTs, and others, thought he had a heart attack. His blood count dropped, blood pressure dropped, heart rate dropped, and he fainted while playing at the Lone Star Regional. They had him in the hospital for about 9 hours, figured out the problem, treated him with steroids and other drugs, and got him back good as new and he rested at home for several days, with a heart in fine shape! Isn't that a great report? But what caused it is the story here. It was caused by a bad, bad *flu virus*! "There is one strain of flu that is so bad, it attacks your heart and can even kill you, and that is the one I had," **Odis** told me. And the kicker? He had all the latest vaccines—flu, pneumonia, all of them, the latest and greatest. Odis, we are so glad you are well now, and some of us believe that a little miracle might have taken place that day at the tournament, too.

Bye, Bye STOP Card. Can you believe how quickly we have adjusted to the loss of the STOP card? I for one used it all the time, without fail, and I don't even think about it anymore. I think we made the transition better than babies give up their pacifiers, don't you?

Lastly, I have really enjoyed being your newsletter editor these months and years, however long it's been. It has given me a great opportunity to get to know more of our members and find out what's going on at all of our clubs in what I strongly believe is the best unit in the ACBL. Seriously. An old saying I've heard in the South all my life is, "Cream rises to the top." It's true; it does, and Unit 174 is the cream of the crop when it comes to ACBL units. I know that **Jeff and Sam** will be even better

editors and continue to bring you the news of what's going on. They are very talented, and both are also very good players. Be sure to give them plenty of input to help make their jobs a bit easier.

But I won't be gone very far—I'll still be doing the *Scorecard* report for D16, so keep sending me those Big Games and other news for our fellow players across the District.

For the April, and all other newsletters, please send your news, ideas, articles, comments, and suggestions, to **Jeff Kroll**, Editor, texas.blue.hen@gmail.com.

See you at the tables! Happy St. Patrick's Day, all you Irish and "Kiss Me, I'm Irish" folks!

Carol Ann Wilson, Outgoing Unit 174 Newsletter Editor