



American Contract  
Bridge League

## Unit 174 Newsletter March 2019



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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Please visit the Unit 174 Website ([www.acblunit174.org](http://www.acblunit174.org)) to view updated information about the activities in our Unit and at our Clubs.

### **President's Message**

It is hard to believe that my tenure as President of Unit 174 and term as Board Member is winding down. Folks have asked if I am counting the days down to the Election Sectional – and truly I am not. I have had a marvelous time on the Board and met so many wonderful people, played in places I would not have, learned so much and had a whole lot of fun. I have been blessed with great Boards to work with and be a part of!! The spirit and energy of the Board is alive and well and I am happy that I was able to contribute. I would encourage **all** of us to consider volunteering our time and talents to this great game.

There are so many opportunities out there at the unit and club level out there to volunteer – just a couple of areas that come readily to mind are - **Catherine Miller** on the Hospitality Committee could use help in contacting new and lapsed members and **Kathleen Malcolmson** as the I/N Coordinator could use help with new member recruitment, and I am sure your club where you primarily play could use help somewhere. Please consider helping wherever your talents lie.



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You know the adage that it takes a village to raise a child – well I have to say it takes a village to make our Unit what I think is the best Unit in the country!! There are so many volunteers who willingly give their time and talent – too many to name by name and if I started I know I would leave folks out and I definitely do not want to leave anyone out. I want to say thank you from the bottom of my heart to everyone who volunteers.

I look forward to seeing everyone at the Election Sectional. Please remember to vote for three of our [Board Member candidates](#).

*Ken Hudson, President, Unit 174*

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## Board Business

### **PROPOSED BYLAW CHANGES**

At the Annual Meeting, members will have the opportunity to vote on a proposal to change the Unit Bylaws to allow a member in good standing to vote for 1, 2 or 3 candidates and not be required to cast a vote for each vacancy in order for the ballot to be counted. [Click here for the complete proposal](#).

### **SCORECARD - HOW DO YOU GET YOURS?**

As part of a larger District 16 initiative, the Unit Board gathered opinions on paper vs. digital delivery of the Scorecard (the bi-monthly newspaper). The Board decided at the last meeting to continue providing copies of the Scorecard via mail for the time being. This is a member benefit that comes to our unit at an annual fee of under \$4 per recipient including mailing and that at this time is not a burden to continue doing so.

### **VOTE FOR BOARD MEMBERS**

Save effort and time and VOTE online from now until April 2! 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 the CLICK to VOTE icon 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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## **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: **Geoffrey O Baring, Kathy Clark, Rafael J Colaco, James P Gill, David S Good, Sue Goott, Sloan Gordon, Herbert B Grossman, Alan P Hakes, Mark J Johnson, Gerald Kissner, Henry S Maddux, Linda J Monroe Wall, Edward J Murphy, Polly Pearce, Judy Richeson, Himankush Saha, Donna Scott, Bill Sharman, Kristy K Tankersley, Carlton Wilde, Judy A Willig, Judy C Wilson-Wise, Kathy B Winn, Linda A Wright, Tricia Young**

### **RANK ADVANCEMENTS**

Listed below are the new Unit 174 Masterpoint Milestones reported by ACBL for February 2019. An explanation of ranks may be found [on the ACBL website](#).

#### Junior Master (5 Masterpoints)

**Judith N Andrews, Alice M Busch, Bill Jenkins, Sharon Jenkins, Carol Kelly, Lois A Kupor, Susan Reiter, Sunny M Smith, Anne A Symonds, Hazel Thorpe, Utako Tomoeda, Wayne C Tyson**

#### Club Master (20 Masterpoints)

**Janet A Cormier, Wayne L Fenton, Sharon H Hibbert, Earl H Jones, John Magyari, Darrell E Way, Mary P Whilden**

#### Sectional Master (50 Masterpoints)

**Anil K Bharani, Ann Konikowski, William C McCain Jr, Ava Noble, Mary T Vagnoni**

#### Regional Master (100 Masterpoints)

**Brian A Schaffer, Kimberly M Sunderland**

#### NABC Master (200 Masterpoints)

**Gregory Andrews, Beverly J Broussard, Rubin Chang, Paul Chhabra, Louise M Howell, Peter Jeswani, Jackie M King, Wolfie Kotzen, Bonnie A Loudin, Madhu Moza, Ronald J Randleman, James C Sells, Ann Trammell, Mary Ellen Vail, Frank T Zebedeo, Debbie E Zimmer**



Advanced NABC Master (300 Masterpoints)

Jerry N Hoffman, Sandi T Mills, Andrew C Remson

Life Master (122 in Unit 174)

Jeff V Armstrong, Louis Bockman, Harold E Cameron, Margot S Cater, Keith Dotson, Nancy Guthrie, Carol H Jewett, Diane Kaminsky, Christian E Liipfert, David Littmann, Edna Earle Mattei, Syed R Naqvi, Harry R Price, David B Richard

Bronze Life Master (307 in Unit 174)

Louis Bockman, Linda Brodie, Harold E Cameron, Mary R Felton, Diane Kaminsky, Evan S Marti, Susan Morrison, Syed R Naqvi

Silver Life Master (187 in Unit 174)

Mary Lou Fowler, Carol H Jewett, Beverley S Linskey, Wes M Peirce, Eric Watson, Pamela E White, Lisa Zummo

Ruby Life Master (173 in Unit 174)

Steven E Bell, Marsha G Boyer, Linda J McReynolds

Diamond Life Master (41 in Unit 174)

Vic Sowers

*Congratulations to all for these accomplishments!*

## 174 Unit News

### ELECTION SECTIONAL, APRIL 5-7

Make your plans for the [2019 Election Sectional](#), held April 5-7 at the Westchase Marriott. Tournament chairs **Nancy Guthrie** and **Sheryl Thomas** have arranged an event-packed tournament. District 16 GNT qualifiers run throughout the tournament. On Sunday between sessions, we will have our Annual Meeting, where we will vote on proposed changes to the bylaws. We will also recognize our 2018 Mini McKenney and Ace of Clubs winners. Our volunteer speakers are **Barbara Philipps** on "Squeezes" and **Gil Micheletti** on "Special Doubling, Volume II." And there will once again be \$1 snack bar coupons for Friday and Saturday, so that we all may indulge in our caffeine or sugar fix of choice. [Click here to view the tournament flyer.](#)



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## SPECIAL GAMES - EXTRA POINTS

April has been designated by the ACBL as Charity Month. Most, if not all, clubs in the Unit are offering charity games all month. Come out and scoop up some extra points for your success at the table.

## GET AWAY TO GALVESTON, NOVEMBER 1-3

Make your plans now for the fabulous Fall sectional tournament at the beautiful Moody Gardens Hotel, Spa and Convention Center. In addition to Bridge sessions, there will be entertainment on Friday night and a Casino night on Saturday. Sunday's games will be regionally-rated, so more points will be awarded. For reservations call 1-888-388-8484 or [click here to jump to goo.gl/REJo6G](https://goo.gl/REJo6G). The group ID code is ACBL112019.

## NORTH AMERICAN PAIRS (NAP)

As you read this newsletter, Unit 174 members are representing District 16 in two of the four North American Pairs events during the spring NABC in Memphis:

Flight A: **Daniel Jackson and Mike Doyle**

Flight B: **James Zahn and Linhui Lin; Al Cupps and Ted Bain**

## "IT'S YOUR CALL" SUCCESS

In the "It's Your Call" column of the *Bridge Bulletin*, the ACBL presents five partially completed auctions. Each member of an expert panel submits his/her next call for each auction. The best call for each auction is awarded 100 points; the maximum for all problems is 500. Readers, too, have the opportunity to submit their next call for each problem and have it scored along with the experts' calls. Congratulations to **Cameron Lawton**, who, with a 440 score, was part of a 15-way tie for ninth place in the *March Bulletin*. His score was in the top 25 of 1019 entries. Well done!

If you would like to participate, log into [MyACBL](#) and scroll down to the It's Your Call link.

## ACBL COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

Several Unit members have been appointed to represent District 16 on ACBL committees. **Kathleen Malcomson** has been appointed to the 2019 ACBL Charity Committee. **Carmen Keys** and **Steve Vaughn** have been appointed to the 2019 Aileen Osofsky ACBL Goodwill Committee. Thank you all for your efforts.



## ♣ 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

**Julie Halperin** gives a free lesson every Tuesday at 9:30 am before the 0-20 supervised play session. The lesson is open to all. Sam Khayatt leads a single-topic discussion (Bridge Bits) every Friday at 9:30 am before the open game. All are welcome at that as well.

Upcoming special games:

- ◆ March 28 Swiss team "8 is Enough"
- ◆ April 4 Daytime Mentor game
- ◆ April 5-7 CLOSED for Election Sectional
- ◆ April 18 Nighttime Mentor game
- ◆ April 22 Member Appreciation game. Members pay \$5.
- ◆ April 25-29 299r Tournament
- ◆ May 2 Daytime Mentor game

### CYPRESS NORTHWEST DBC

The Cypress NW DBC offers a free bridge lesson on Tuesdays! The class will begin at 11:00 and end at 11:30 so there will be plenty of time to get a spot in our Tuesday game. There will be rotating teachers, but the focus will be to introduce a topic and then look at example hands. We will also leave some time at the end of the class to review hands from last week's games that were particularly hard or interesting.

Upcoming topics include:

- ◆ March 26 Splinter bids
- ◆ April 2 Smolen
- ◆ April 9 Takeout Doubles
- ◆ April 16 Losing Trick Count
- ◆ April 23 Ducking
- ◆ April 30 Jacoby Transfers

Please email us at [cypress.northwest.bridge@gmail.com](mailto:cypress.northwest.bridge@gmail.com) or visit [our website](#) for information on our location, game times, finding a partner, and the speaker schedule.



## LONE STAR BRIDGE CLUB

The bridge club at St. Paul United Methodist Church in Conroe is now officially the Lone Star Bridge Club (it was formerly known as LSBC). The new website is [www.lonestarbridge.org](http://www.lonestarbridge.org).

April is Charity Month. Five games will support the ACBL Charity Foundation and four will support the St. Paul United Methodist Church.

Diamond Life Master Jeff Kroll gives a free lesson every Thursday at 9:30 am.

Upcoming topics include:

- ◆ Questions players submit about hands they have bid and played
- ◆ Player-requested topics
- ◆ ACBL Bridge Bulletin highlights

Players can submit questions by email to Jeff at [texas.blue.hen@gmail.com](mailto:texas.blue.hen@gmail.com) or on paper at the club. There will be a basket at the game where questions and topic requests will be collected.

In April, Jeff is also offering two classes at Lone Star College - Montgomery Campus:

- ◆ April 2, 1-3 pm      What do standard bids mean? What is a forcing bid?
- ◆ April 9, 1-3 pm      Common bridge mistakes and what to do instead

## WESTSIDE BRIDGE ACADEMY

Westside Bridge Academy (WBA) announced its February awards for success and participation at the club. The Most Masterpoint winners are **Dan Morse** (Open) with 28.89 Masterpoints and **James Sells** (I/N) with 11.78 Masterpoints. The Most Frequent players were **Debbie Bellan** and **Joan Pleason** (Open) with 17 sessions and **James Sells** (I/N) with 19 sessions. Congrats to all!

Upcoming special games:

- ◆ April 5-7      CLOSED for Election Sectional
- ◆ April 10      Daytime Mentor game
- ◆ April 23      Nighttime Mentor game
- ◆ April 26      Swiss team "8 is Enough"
- ◆ April 27      ABA/ACBL game at 1pm. Entry fee is \$5.



### Robert Todd Seminar

**Robert Todd**, Bridge Bulletin contributor, professional Bridge player and LSR 2019 speaker, will present a seminar on "Slam Bidding" Saturday, May 11. The \$50 registration fee includes both breakfast and lunch. Reservations are required. Email [jimmybreihan@comcast.net](mailto:jimmybreihan@comcast.net) to make your reservation; send payments to: Westside Bridge Academy, 9000 Southwest Freeway, Ste 290, Houston, TX 77074. Please refer to the [WBA website](#) for more information.



## 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 three years of these monthly summaries are available [on the WBA website](#).

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

Our pick this month is "Mike Lawrence's Bridge Lesson" on page 51. Lawrence discusses opener's possible rebids after the opponents enter the auction. The opener's hand at the top of the third column is interesting.

You hold: 3 | **A J 9 7 4 3** | **K Q 9 5** | **K 7**

You're the dealer and open the obvious 1H. Left hand opponent (LHO) passes. Partner raises you to 2H, and right hand opponent bids 2S.

As we frequently teach, if you are relying too much on HCP, you are playing bridge with training wheels. This hand has only 13 HCP. When you first pick it up, it's worth 15 points, as you add two points for your fifth and sixth cards in a good suit.

Partner's 2H raise shows at least three hearts, so you have nine hearts combined, leaving the opponents with only four. Partner is likely to have Qxx or Kxx in hearts. On a good day you will pick up the whole heart suit, but it's possible that you could lose a heart trick, too. Course, if you're really unlucky, lefty (LHO) could have KQx of hearts behind you. But that is really unlucky. You should bid and play based on what is likely, not what is lucky or unlucky.

Righty's (RHO's) bid is also good for you because it should show a suit that RHO wants led, a suit with honors in it. Therefore, it is less likely that partner has wasted spade honors, and so your hand and partner's likely fit. And the opponents are getting only one spade trick as you will ruff the second spade.





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What you expect to lose with minimal help from partner:

- 1 spade
- 0 or 1 heart
- 1 diamond
- 1 club

If partner has an ace, game is an overwhelming favorite to make. If partner is aceless, then you'll need to pick up the heart suit (or have the opponents misdefend). You should have at least a 50% chance to pick up the heart suit. So, your overall chance of making 4H is likely, but not ironclad.

You should just bid 4H with your 13 HCP. Lawrence treats this hand as having at least the playing strength of an 18-point hand once partner supports hearts.

### **SUPPORTING PARTNER'S MINOR – OR NOT?**

We received a question about whether or not cue bid limit raises apply over a minor suit. For example, 1C-1H-2H. That sequence does show a limit raise in clubs. However, there are key differences between supporting partner's major vs. supporting partner's minor.

To support partner's major you need at least three-card support and at least ten dummy points. You are happy to play in your eight-card major-suit fit. To support partner's minor you need at least five-card support and at least ten dummy points. Partner suggests only four cards when he opens a minor. And on a bad day, he will have only three.

In addition, it is often wrong to be playing minor suit contracts; they don't score well. 5D making five (or even six) scores worse than 3N making four. Before raising partner's minor, explore for either a major-suit fit or NT.

When partner opens a minor suit, the opponents overcall, and you have support for partner's minor...

Over a major-suit overcall,

1. With four cards in the other major, make a negative double
2. With five cards in the other major, bid the other major
3. With the opponent's suit well-stopped, bid notrump at the appropriate level
4. With no better bid, support partner's minor at the appropriate level



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Over a minor-suit overcall (1C-1D to you),

1. With four or more cards in both majors, make a negative double
2. With four or more cards in one major, bid that major
3. With the opponent's suit well-stopped, bid notrump at the appropriate level
4. With no better bid, support partner's minor at the appropriate level

Making a limit raise of partner's minor denies a biddable major suit.

There are lots of places that you may end up playing. When you have an invitational hand and good support for partner's minor, there are lots of alternatives. You need to conserve space and investigate slowly (with forcing bids). Investigate for:

1. A 4-4 major suit fit (game or slam)
2. A notrump contract (game or slam)
3. A minor suit contract - but a minor suit game is only something you want when there is nothing better. However, a minor suit slam beats 3N with overtricks.

Course, you could end up in a part score if both you and partner are on or near the bottom of the range for your respective bids.

Investigating for a minor suit slam and going past 3N or 4M (M= major) is one of the most difficult decisions in bidding.

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