



American Contract
Bridge League

NEWSLETTER

August 2017



Events and News

President's Message

Dianna Gittelman reports that big plans are underway for our Fall Sectional Extravaganza on October 27-29. With a new venue and a BEAUTIFUL playing area, the Hilton Hotel North (713-866-1154, Code ACBL), near Intercontinental Airport, has given us a \$92 room rate. On Saturday night plan to have some fun at a Casino Party! Sunday's Swiss Team Games will be REGIONALLY RATED! We are expecting great things from our October Sectional, so mark your calendars now so you don't miss it!

And now for the AWESOME report on our "Awesome August" Sectional! We had another highly successful tournament, with **851.5 tables**, a 5% increase in table count over last year's August sectional attendance. We find this very exciting, because the table counts are down around the country, but Houston continues to maintain or increase the table count. We give a Big Thanks to Co-Chairs **Laurie Laufman** and **Nancy Guthrie** and all the Unit 174 chairs, members, and our fantastic volunteers! In addition to the great numbers, we are especially proud that we had players from as far as Mexico and New Jersey!

Players liked the schedule with games at 10 and 2:30, and the bracketed Swiss continues to be a very popular event. Our 2-day championship pairs event was an experiment in preparation for the upcoming regional, and we had some difficulties. So we will change the format for the regional and hopefully address those issues for the BIG TEXAN Championship Pairs game at the Lone Star Regional. And here's a plus: we will award a cash prize for the regional event. Finally, how about the food! We heard great comments about the \$8.95 buffet lunch in the hotel, as well as the convenience of the sandwiches offered in the ballroom.

To summarize, a good time was had by all, things went well, and we can chalk up another success for that August sectional.

I hope that you will check out my August President's Post at the Unit 174 Website, www.acblunit174.org, for more of our Unit news.

Now we head to the October 27-29 Sectional. See you at the tables!

Bill Riley, Unit 174 President

Bill Riley, ichibanbill@gmail.com

Here's the August 1 report from ACBL for July 2017:

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

NEW MEMBERS

Michael W. Abbott, Sarah M Arends, Elizabeth Beeton, Roger O. Burrows, Dennis B. Crowley, Rathindra N. Dutt, William B. Emmons, Marilyn Golub, Zaki D. Husain, Pam Johnson, Patricia M. Johnson, Dennis B. Malpass, Kathy Miller, Ray Miller, S. S. Newaz, Elizabeth Nuchia, Paul Sinsheimer, Pasalai N. Srikant, Linda Tucker, and Patricia M. Westcott 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)

Carolyn Anglum, Eugene R. Baca, Paolien N. Baca, Kent L. Baxter, Teresa A. Bolen, Charles Carson, Susan Carson, Oscar Chung, Luke Descours, Tushar S. Dhruv, Jack C. Easter, Sherul K. Feldman, Patrick D. Johnson, Manju Manek, Kathy J. McClellan, Douglas D. Miller, Barbara C. Nehr, Ronald A. Robins, Angela R. Sanders, Eren Selcen, Richard Spottswood, Edward Stollenwerck, and Ned Stuart.

NEW CLUB MASTER

(20 MP)

Carolyn B. Clapp, Loretta S. Core, Barbara Hodges, Simon G. Kukes, and Felecia Y. Peavy.

NEW SECTIONAL MASTER

(50 MP)

John J. Bruns, Ann E. Dahn, Pam A. Geishauser, Cameron Lawton, Sadashiv G. Pethe, Sally R. Thomas, Dorothy M. Torreyson, and Hau-Ran Wang.

NEW REGIONAL MASTER

(100 MP)

Robert R. Burridge, Paula W. Gay, Millie H. Perner, Susan D. Smith, and Bruce R. Weiner.

NEW NABC MASTER

(200 MP)

Cindy D Hillman, Kenneth G. Hudson, Sandi T. Mills, Joseph B. Nichols, and Jeannie Stone.

NEW ADVANCED NABC MASTER

(300 MP)

Sharon K. Campbell, John P. Montgomery, and Evita J. Rduch.

NEW LIFE MASTER

(122 in Unit 174)

Gail G. Woods.

NEW BRONZE LIFE MASTER

(313 in Unit 174)

Janet L. Smith.

NEW SILVER LIFE MASTER

(185 in Unit 174)

Evelyn B. Hopson, Robin A. Johnson, Susan S. McLaurin, and Tom J. Nobis.

NEW RUBY LIFE MASTER

(176 in Unit 174)

Sherry L. Greisen and Bill Kiehnhoff.

NEW GOLD LIFE MASTER

(100 in Unit 174)

Vera Sinsheimer.

What do YOU have planned for Labor Day?



Labor Day started as a part of the labor union movement, to recognize the contributions of men and women in the U.S. workforce, but in modern times is seen as a chance to celebrate the last weekend of summer. In short, it has become a day to do *anything* but “labor.” Historians tell us that the rule of “no white after Labor Day” comes from when the upper class would return from their summer vacations and stow away their lightweight, white summer clothes as they returned back to school and work. In the South, it generally means no white shoes or purses after Labor Day.

FEEDBACK & FODDER

Unit 174 News and Club News

News from Clubs



Southwest Duplicate Bridge Club will return to Merfish Teen Center, 9000 S. Rice Avenue, for all Tuesday and Wednesday games, beginning 8/15.

Galveston Duplicate Bridge Club holds its games every Friday at Moody Memorial Methodist Church, and was recently visited by five of our Unit Board members and their partners. **Nancy Strohmer, John Caudill, Nancy Guthrie, David Henke, and Bill Riley**, with their partners, made a second visit to the club as part of the “Club Connections” program, and enjoyed some of that good Gulf seafood after the game!

Westside Bridge Academy has new game times, beginning in September! The **Saturday afternoon** game will be at **2 p.m.**, and a new 299er game on Saturday at 2. In addition, on Saturday mornings they will have a new **Fast Pairs Game at 10 a.m. on Saturday**. That game allows only 5 minutes per board. The Sunday games will remain at 1 p.m. and Swiss Teams at 6 p.m., but the club will furnish Firehouse subs sandwiches, chips, and cookies at 5 p.m. The Sunday Swiss entry will be \$10. They will hold a 499r Tournament Saturday 21-24.

Houston Racquet Club is still undergoing extensive remodeling and construction. The game formerly held on the 2nd Tuesday of the month has been rescheduled to the **2nd Thursday** of each month for the next several months.

Bridge Club of Houston will host another of their very successful and beloved “Hot Diggety Dog” Days on Labor Day, Monday, September 4 (reservations required, as they expect it to be full). If you’ve never attended one of these games, make your reservations! They put on quite a spread, by all their great cooks up there, and players are encouraged to bring sides. Eats at 11 and game at 11:55. Then September 7-10 is their 299r Tournament; Daytime mentor/Mentee Game on 9/14 and Nighttime Mentor/Mentee Game on 9/18, and 9/28 is their Swiss Team “8 Is Enough” game. And they have a Very Special Event on Monday, 10/9: 80th Birthday Party Celebration for **Beverley Cheatham!** Meal at 11 and game at 11:55 a.m.; reservations required.

We have a wonderful bridge story from the **Apple II Duplicate Bridge Club** at the Tracy Gee Center on Friday, 8/4. It was a NAP qualifying game, and they had 37.5 tables! This game always is chock-full of A players—great A players! But on *this* particular day, **Charo Barnette** and **Cecilia Tse**, with *combined* MPs of 682, played in B because Charo is a Life Master. Not only did they both qualify for the NAPs, but they beat the entire field with a 66.18% game and took 1st overall! Quite an accomplishment, beating a field of that quality. Remember: If you stay focused, anything can happen!

Be sure to check out *all* the Websites of our Unit 174 clubs (links at www.acblunit174.org) for educational opportunities remaining in 2017.

Our unit is well represented in the education arena, not the least of whom is our own **Betty Starzec**, who has been teaching bridge since 1985, and taught an outstanding workshop session at our “Awesome August” Sectional. She is also a Trustee of the Educational Foundation of the ACBL and on August 1 she became the President of the American Bridge Teachers' Association. Betty has taught the course for accrediting ACBL teachers and has written numerous teaching materials used by the ACBL. She was responsible for a grant from the ACBL Educational Foundation making each successful participant of an ACBL-approved teacher accreditation course a member of the ABTA for a year.

And speaking of bridge teachers: Our Lone Star Regional will be here before you know it, and Betty tells us that it is time to nominate your favorite teacher for District 16's "Star Teacher Award." Contact the Committee Chair, **Laura Delfeld** (lauradelfeld7@gmail.com), to nominate a worthy bridge teacher. We will recognize the teachers on Friday of the Lone Star Regional with a "Hot Dog Day" (and there will be cake, too)!

Final Thoughts

This issue I have mentoring on my mind. I enjoy giving back to the game by volunteering for mentor games, and some players spend their extra (or even budgeted) cash paying professionals to help them improve their game. There may be many schools of thought on this, but it seems to me that, especially in mentor-mentee games, the mentor should play the

convention card most comfortable to the mentee. Sometimes a mentee will change a card just to try to please the mentor. If it's not much of a change, that may be okay. I know that pros do not like to play a mentee's card. And I'm sure it's always with the mentee's best interests at heart. But it seems pretty cruel to me for an experienced player to insist that the lesser player play a card of the pro's choosing. Yes, pros know what conventions work and why. But I know of some who have literally made fun of a card played by a mentee. At the very least, it seems that the mentor should *gradually* work the mentee's card toward conventions (or a lack of them) the pro prefers. I have found myself that a different dynamic is present when playing with someone of a much bigger caliber. It's crazy but true. And already there are so many things going on in a mentee's mind, it might not take much to create lasting scars. So what do *you* think about all this?

I'm proud to report that at the recent ACBL Board of Directors meeting in Atlanta, **Nancy Strohmer** was elected as one of five Charity Foundation trustees. Do you have a charity that might be in search of a grant? The following information regarding application for a Charity Foundation grant may be helpful, and it may also be found on the ACBL website at <http://www.acbl.org/about-acbl/charity-foundation/>. Then scroll down to "Applying for a Charity Foundation Grant."

The **ACBL Charity Foundation** occasionally donates to charities who formally apply for grants. To do this, send a formal request to ACBL Charity Foundation, 6575 Windchase Blvd., Horn Lake, MS 38637-1523, ATTN: Kelley Trejo. Requests should contain *specific* information on the following items, which are of primary importance to the Trustees:

Specific amount requested / **Specific project** that the funds will be used for and budget for same / To **what use** would the grant be put? For example, educational or promotional use? Research? Service? / Complete **audited financial statements** for the two most current years / Copy of **501C(3)** letter. If your **organization would like to be considered for a grant, please submit your request before** October 31. If you have questions, please contact Nancy at 713.882.0626 or nastrohmer@yahoo.com. Good luck! And congratulations, Nancy!

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

That's all for now! Remember: Bridge is a bidder's game, so Keep on Biddin'!
Carol Ann Wilson, Unit 174 Newsletter Editor