



American Contract
Bridge League

NEWSLETTER

December 2017



Events and News

The 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 the news.

President's Message

GNT qualifiers for Flights B and C are at **Westside Bridge Academy**, the first Sunday nights of January and February, and at **Bridge Club of Houston** on January 27. (A teams need not qualify at the club/unit level and will compete at the district level during the Election Sectional in the spring.) To qualify for the Grand National Team sin B, you must have no A players on your team; to qualify in C, you must have no A or B players on your team. We hope to see Unit 174 well represented again!

Ken Hudson, the other Board members, and I are now on the final countdown to the **LONE STAR REGIONAL January 29-February 4**. With your help, our very achievable goal is to exceed 3,000 tables, so we hope you will get new people to come! The updated flyer is posted at the Unit's Website, and *there are some changes*. Bracketed Swiss is every morning and afternoon Tuesday-Saturday; KOs start daily at 7:30 p.m. on Monday (top bracket may be handicapped); Pairs (including Gold Rush Pairs) every day BEGINNING Monday at 2:30. The **A/X/Y Lease-Laird BIG TEXAN PAIRS CHAMPIONSHIP** is a new, two-session with qualifying on Wednesday and the two-session final on Thursday. **NOTE: Sunday's Games start at 9:30 a.m.** to get you home in time for the Super Bowl.

Other events at the Regional are **Daily Lectures** at 2 p.m. and the **Club Director's Course** Jan. 27-29 (noon to 9 p.m. with Test on Monday at 9 a.m.; contact **Bill Riley**, ichibanbill@yahoo.com or 832-289-3833, if interested). Also, the new Unit Directory will be distributed at the Regional.

We have some Unit 174 members who will be participating in the North American Pairs qualifier at the Sectional Tournament in San Antonio January 18-20, and the Omni Hotel's bridge rate has been extended to 12/29, so if you haven't done so . . .

Thanks to all for helping make our Unit 174 the best in all of the ACBL!

Nancy Strohmer, Unit 174 President
nastrohmer@yahoo.com

Here's the December 1 report from ACBL for November 2017:

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

NEW MEMBERS

Dorita Aron, Mike Davis, Jeraldine C. Depew, Joanne Hogarth, Patricia D. Huyck, Brenda B. Kelly, Aisha C. May, Larry S. Reader, Linda K. Stillwell, Daniel P. Urban, and Daniela M. White 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)

Brett Dalrymple, Debra Dalrymple, Milton Dunnam, Melrose T Garrett, Archie D Gregory, Naomi S. Higgins, and Margaret S. Williams.

NEW CLUB MASTER

(20 MP)

Ram K. Agrawal, Oscar Chung, Diane Manning, George Marchand, Leah Rae Marchand, Joan M. Pratka, Eren Selcen, and David Senior.

NEW SECTIONAL MASTER

(50 MP)

James Bettis, Steven Gordon, Julia B. Hodges, Mark Levy, Danuta Parzych, and Gigi White.

NEW REGIONAL MASTER

(100 MP)

C. J. Tsai.

NEW NABC MASTER

(200 MP)

Phyllis D. Chaney, Martha G. Dougherty, Robert V. Hannasch, A.J. James, and Harry R. Price.

NEW LIFE MASTER

(128 in Unit 174)

B. J. Renshaw, Marilyn W. Slaughter, and Yvonne C Sterkin.

NEW BRONZE LIFE MASTER

(304 in Unit 174)

Martyn L. Cooper and William V. Schneider.

NEW SILVER LIFE MASTER

(184 in Unit 174)

Steven E Bell, Joyce B. Givens, Patsy R. Howell, and James R. Simmons.

NEW RUBY LIFE MASTER

(179 in Unit 174)

Barbara A. Atkins, John B. Heath, Chris J. Kollenberg, Kyle J. Lueders, and Constance Y. Singleton.

NEW GOLD LIFE MASTER

(97 in Unit 174)

Kathy Hughes and Mavis L. Warren.

NEW SAPPHIRE LIFE MASTER

(46 in Unit 174)

Sandra W. Clark.

Do you wonder what these big Masterpoint Milestone Rank Awards signify?

First, there are colors requirements, and here are the ACBL's color designations: **NET POINTS** are awarded for online play and are colorless. **BLACK POINTS** are for club games and some Unit games. **SILVER POINTS** are awarded for events at sectional tournaments and at club StaC games. **RED POINTS** are for Regional tournaments and regional events at NABCs, except for overall and section tops, which are Gold. Grand National Teams events and North American Pairs events afford players the opportunity to earn red points at their local clubs. **GOLD POINTS** are awarded for overall placings and section tops in regional and NABC events where the top masterpoint limit is at least 750, and may may be given for special games, such as the Instant Matchpoint Game, Grand National Team and North American Pair events.

PLATINUM POINTS are awarded for NABC+ events and include the national-rated senior and women's events with no upper masterpoint limit but not the junior, flight B, or other restricted events.

Second, there are total MP levels. Generally, **Bronze** Life Master is a Life Master ("LM") with 750; **Silver** Life Master is LM with 1000 (at least 200 silver, red, gold or platinum); **Ruby** Life Master is LM with 1500 (at least 300 silver, red, gold or platinum); **Gold** Life Master is LM with 2500 (at least 500 silver, red, gold or platinum); **Sapphire** Life Master is LM with 3500 (at least 700 silver, red, gold or platinum, of which at least 350 must be gold or platinum); **Diamond** Life Master is LM with 5000 (at least 1000 silver, red, gold or platinum, of which at least 500 must be gold or platinum); **Emerald** Life Master is LM with 7500 (at least 1500 silver, red, gold or platinum, of which at least 750 must be gold or platinum); **Platinum** Life Master is LM with 10,000 (at least 2000 silver, red, gold or platinum, of which at least 1000 must be gold or platinum, with a minimum of 100 platinum); and **Grand Life Master, the highest rank in the ACBL**, is LM with 10,000 (at least 2000 silver, red, gold or platinum, of which at least 1000 must be gold or platinum, with a minimum of 100 platinum), and a whole bunch of other requirements!

Congratulations to all!

**Happy
New Year!**

New Year's Resolutions, Anyone?

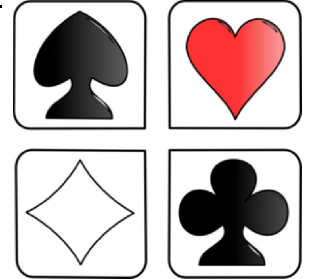
- I will be nice to and respect my partner.
- I will not criticize my partner at the table.
- I will shuffle my share of the boards.
- I will not stand up my partner or team.
- I will arrive in plenty of time for the game.
- I will clean up after myself.
- I will learn *something* each time I play.
- I will pay attention to my partner's first discard.
- I will pay attention to every card my partner plays.
- My discards will mean something.
- I will improve my defense.
- I will improve my declarer play.
- I will be nice to and help new players.
- I will remember that the director's last name is "Please."



HAPPY NEW YEAR, EVERYBODY!!!

FEEDBACK & FODDER

Unit 174 News and Club News



Are you planning to attend our Lone Star Regional? On January 29 through February 4 we hope to see you at the Houston Marriott Westpark! Please get the new, updated flyer at the Unit 174 Website, www.acblunit174.org. Thanks to **Carol Winograd**, our Webmaster for keeping everything current!

Thanks again to those who have agreed to be run for a position on the Unit 174 Board : **Jack La Vigne, Carol Lombardino, Kathleen Malcolmson, Ronnie Martin, Paul Nimmons, and Sheryl Thomas.** The election will be held at our "Election Sectional" in April.

NOTE THE NEW ACBL DUES AMOUNT: Effective March 1, 2018 dues for New Members will be \$49/year or \$117 for 3 years.

Big Kudos to **Eddie Wold** and teammates Mike Levine, Mike Passell, Marc Jacobus, Dennis Clerkin, and Jerry Clerkin, who won the Baze Senior Knockout team event at the Fall North American Bridge Championships in San Diego. At the half, they were down 28 IMPs, but they rallied in the third quarter to pull within *one* IMP, and then they took the final set 36-24 for a 143-132 victory! Congratulations to Eddie and his teammates! This is how it's done, Players, by never giving up! Remember that at those fabulously fun team games at the Regional.

News from Clubs

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

Bridge Club of Houston will hold a New Year's Day Party on Monday, **January 1**, with a pot luck meal at 11 a.m. and game at 11:55. On Sunday, January 7, they will host **MiniBridge**, so if you know someone who wants to become a bridge player, this is a good place to start! On January 20, at 11:45 a.m. they will hold their Membership Meeting and Election of Board Members, followed by a Pairs Game and the new Board will meet at 4 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 27, is **GNT Qualifying** for B and C.

Westside Bridge Academy surveyed its patrons in October for insights into why certain games experienced lower than historical table counts, and asking what they could do to improve participation. They had 224 responses, and two things came up often (and they are probably universal): (1) Lack of partners, particularly by the I/N players; and (2) Rude behavior by players, in particular the open players. Here is how they will address those issues. They will hire a partnership

chairperson, with initial focus will be on the I/N games. They will continue their Ambassador program. They will renew their emphasis on Zero Tolerance and implement a way of keeping track of Zero Tolerance violations. For example, currently if a player does something on Monday that violates ZT, the director gives that person a warning. A second violation is penalized by a ¼ board or 4-IMP penalty. But if the second violation comes during a later *session*, that session's director likely has no knowledge of what happened on Monday. So they will implement a process where the directors will enter the dates, times, and descriptions of ZT violations in a spreadsheet (as done for free plays). When an entry is made, the director will also send an email to the Yahoo group so all are informed. Further details may be found at the club's Website: www.westsidebridgeacademy.com. It is a good thing that helps the game for all of us when a club gets information from its players and then acts on it. These problems exist at all clubs. *Good job, Westside!*

Clear Lake Bridge Club recently replaced all of its cards. **Nancy Guthrie** made sure that instead of discarding the decks, they were donated to HOME (Help Our Military Endure). The club she received this nice note from **Trudy Duhon**, President of HOME: "Thank you and all of your volunteers who help make the boards at our Clear Lake Bridge Club. I know it takes extra time when they change out the boards to rubber band the discarded cards and yet they take the time to do so on behalf of HOME, and the fact that these cards are shipped overseas to our military and they so enjoy. It's so gracious, in my opinion, that we, as members of the Clear Lake Bridge Club, have a part in participating and thanking those who serve and preserve our freedom." Please check out HOME's Website, helpourmilitaryendure.org to see all their good works.

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

For the January, 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!

Carol Ann Wilson, Unit 174 Newsletter Editor