



NEWSLETTER

January 2017



Events and News

President's Message

The 2017 Lone Star Regional Update

Our Lone Star Regional fast approaches toward the first events on Monday, January 23, at 2:30 p.m. We are in for a special treat: ABL Board President **Bob Heller** of Knoxville TN (District 7) will be here and will play in the tournament. Watch for him and be sure to show him our special brand of Texas hospitality! Bob joined ACBL in 1980 and attained Grand Life Master status after winning Senior Swiss Teams at the 2012 Summer NABC.

As the LSR nears, much work is being done by your Unit 174 Board, including locating additional hotel rooms. The Marriott Westchase is *sold out*, but we have obtained space at both the Hilton and the Residence Inn for the same rates as the Marriott! Be sure to get the latest schedule (http://www.acblunit174.org/Flyers/2017_LSR.pdf) , as event times have changed from the original flyer. Note that our highly popular Bracketed Swiss events are at 2:30 and 7:30 on M-W-F and at 10 and 2:30 on T-Th-Sat. Gold Rush Pairs are Tuesday through Saturday at 10 and 2:30. And don't forget the very special MiniBridge Party Saturday night at 7:30—and it's FREE! Bring your friends and family who would like to learn to play bridge, and we will do our best to get them hooked!

After all the excitement of the regional, we look forward to setting a new record for the **4th Annual ABA-ACBL Pairs Championship Game** on Saturday, February 4, at 10:30 a.m. This year it will be held at the Tracy Gee Community Center, 3599 Westcenter Dr.. Trophies will be awarded, and the entry fee is only \$3! Bring a dish to share in the pot luck luncheon. We love this event, so make sure you have your partner and mark your calendar for the 4th on the 4th! We extend a special "thank you" to all our volunteers who will help us make both of these events the best ever! And to all of you, the players, who are the real reason for all of it.

As always, if you have any questions/comments, please contact any board member; we are here to serve you.

See you at the tables!

Bob Armstrong, Unit 174 President

Bob Armstrong, bob_armstrong@windstream.net

Here's the December report from ACBL:

NEW MEMBERS

Holly H. Benson, Shelley Brazelt, Mrs. Catherine Elmer, Martin E. Hansen, Jeffry Lehner, Dr. Sherry Scarborough, and Gregory Tragitt have joined Unit 174. Please welcome these new members of our Unit as you meet them at the tables.

Congratulations to these Masterpoint Milestone Makers:

NEW JUNIOR MASTERS

Mrs. Carolyn B. Clapp, Mr. Alan Shaefer, Mrs. Cindy Schaefer, Ms. Beth Stuart, Ms. Barbara G. Weddle, and Wanda Wisniewska.

NEW CLUB MASTERS

Ethel V. Black, Rose Cullivan Hock, Phyllis A. Dillard, Jane P. Lawson, Mrs. Carol M. McCord, Roxi L. Raaf, Dr. Jennifer A. Reicheck, and Mr. Russell Thomas.

NEW SECTIONAL MASTERS

Russell B. Chandler, Margarete C. Kirk, Mr. Syed R. Naqvi, and Mrs. Cindy A. Skeels.

NEW REGIONAL MASTERS

Cecelia C. Chang, Sherry H. Gee, Cindy Hempel, Don J. Hempel, and Sherrie Massin.

NEW NABC MASTER

Mr. Victor P. Tong.

NEW LIFE MASTER

Ms. Charo Barnette.

NEW BRONZE LIFE MASTER

Ms. Charo Barnette.

NEW SILVER LIFE MASTERS

Ms. Pam C. Barksdale, Mrs. Nancy C. Gray, and Mrs. Rose A. Van Meter.

NEW RUBY LIFE MASTER

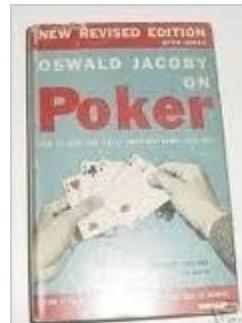
Mr. David Wicks.

NEW SAPPHIRE LIFE MASTER

(45 in Unit 174)

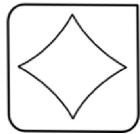
Mr. Daniel R. Schomer.

*Did you know that Oswald Jacoby was a poker champion (and became a backgammon champion later)? Long before “Texas Hold ‘Em” was all the rage, he published *Oswald Jacoby on Poker* in 1940. The only “community” poker game back then was “Cincinnati.” If you enjoy poker (as most bridge players do), you might enjoy reading what he has to say about the game.*





FEEDBACK & FODDER



Unit 174 News and Club News

4th Annual ABA/ACBL Pairs Championship Game

Saturday, February 4th at 10:30 a.m.

Tracy Gee Community Center, 3599 Westcenter Dr., Houston

\$3 Entry - Trophies Awarded

Bring your favorite dish to share

Help us make it a great day and set a new record!

Unit 174 Designated Charity

The Unit 174 Board has chosen **SEARCH** as the Unit's **designated charity**. All funds raised at "charity" games will be forwarded to **SEARCH**.

SEARCH Homeless Services works to engage, stabilize, educate, employ, and house individuals and families who are homeless in Houston. Its essential services are highly effective in transforming lives, because they meet individuals where they are and provide what they need to get off the streets and back on their feet. **SEARCH** also created and operates **The House of Tiny Treasures**, which provides early childhood education to more homeless children and enables homeless parents to seek employment during school hours. Just this month, the Super Bowl Host Committee sponsored a book fair at the House of Tiny Treasures that provided their young students with precious books and to help nurture a love of reading and learning.

This is an exceptional organization that provides so much to Houston's homeless. For more information, visit their Website at www.searchhomeless.org. Join their mailing list and support their Facebook and Twitter pages. And here's a heads up: Their Annual Luncheon will be held on April 4 at the Hilton Americas, hosted by our own **Dan Leightman** and his lovely wife Evelyn!

Super News from Clear Lake DBC

Dave Glandorf recently announced that his books for the core beginner classes he teaches are being published by Master Point Press (www.masterpointpress.com/). The process is now in the final stages, with all materials having been submitted to the publisher. The books are being published under the series title *Yes, No or Maybe* with a

subtitle of *A New Way to Learn Bridge*. They will be available as "print-on-demand" books, so they will not appear on bookshelves in stores but can be ordered from the publisher and will be printed to fill your order. This is exciting for our Unit as well as for Dave, who was awarded the American Bridge Teachers Association Master Point Press Teacher of the Year Award in 2013. Congratulations, **Dave Glandorf!**

February Classes

At **Bridge Club of Houston** in Spring, **Julie Halperin** is teaching a "2/1 Game Force Practice" for 4 weeks on Wednesday mornings, 9-11 a.m., 2/1, 2/15, 2/22, and 3/1; \$50. She is also teaching "Beginning Bridge Lessons" for 12 weeks on Saturday mornings, 9-11, for \$150 plus materials.

At **Westside Bridge Academy**, 59 at Gessner, **Gary King** will start a "Learn to Play Bridge" course on 2/15 (continuing Wed. Nights, 7-9 p.m.) for \$150 including materials. To pre-register, email Gary at houstonbridge@gmail.com. For intermediate players, Gary will begin "Slam Bidding" for six weeks on Saturdays, 10a to noon, 2/11 thru 4/1; \$150 includes materials. Pre-register with houstonbridge@gmail.com. **Betty Starzec**, a 30-year teaching veteran, is continuing her sessions featuring treatments she used with **Eddie Wold** and **Bob Morris**. Remaining dates are 2/7, 2/14, and 2/21 for \$40 each. Must pre-register, lstarzec@comcast.net or 713-562-2568. For the Club's full schedule, visit http://www.westsidebridgeacademy.com/Class_Schedule.php.

Be sure to check all the Websites of our Unit 174 clubs (links at www.acblunit174.org) for 2017 bridge classes and other learning opportunities.

Final Thoughts . . .

I am on a mission to promote **Bracketed Swiss** Events. I think they are the most fair of all the team events. And they are the most fun. Directors have told me they like them much better than Compact Knockouts, which I continue to see at regional-and national-tournaments (and eschew them more and more—does anybody actually like that event?). In Unit 174, we *know* how popular the Bracketed Swiss events are, as the lines are always long to buy the entries. Thus, at our upcoming Lone Star Regional, we will have them every day!

A couple of years ago, the head of the San Antonio unit observed the long lines for our Bracketed Swiss and went back and told her board, "You should see the lines for Houston's Bracketed Swiss! We've got to add them." (Ask me why they didn't.)

How about this? I attended the very popular Palm Springs Regional last month, and they scheduled Bracketed Swiss for *one* of the days during that tournament, as a trial. The response was massive! The line to buy entries was unexpectedly very long, and they more than filled the assigned room and had to find more space. It was 30 minutes late getting started because they were just not ready for the reaction! It turns out that the opposition comes from the pros. (Think about it and you'll figure out why.)

Another problem I've only recently learned about is that the ACBL does not award enough MPs for Bracketed Swiss, and that is an ACBL edict that goes back a few years and bears discussion and change. Who has some influence with them? Because I ask you: which group is larger and therefore more beneficial to the entire world of tournament bridge: the pros who want to have more KOs to get more MPs for their clients, or the many of us B, C, and even low-A players who would rather have a fair shot at something than a very slim shot at a bigger something? I think the long entry lines answer that question.

So that's it for this soapbox. Let me know what you think, what you've heard, and what you think should be done.

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

That's all for now! Let us hear from you.

Carol Wilson, Unit 174 Newsletter Editor