



American Contract
Bridge League

NEWSLETTER

September 2017



Events and News

The President's Post may be found each month at the Unit 174 Website, www.acblunit174.org. Do **you** have our wonderfully informative Unit 174 page set as your home page? Thanks to **Carol Winograd** for her continuing service as our Webmaster!

President's Message

It is with great sadness that I write this post. South Texas has been hit by an event unparalleled in history. I pray that everyone is safe.

Our home was hit by Hurricane Harvey's destruction from floods and we have much work ahead of us to begin to find some semblance of normalcy. I am not sure anyone can understand the overwhelming mental and emotional distress associated with such an event. I never could imagine anything like this in my worst nightmare. In the next few months I need to focus on rebuilding our home and our life. The mental and emotional stress is simply overwhelming right now. Nancy and I appreciate all of the prayers and kind words from our bridge family.

I am stepping down as President of UNIT 174, as I will not be able to devote the time needed to address the responsibilities of the position. I am truly sorry that I cannot continue. I am honored that the Unit members and the Board elected me to this position. The Unit 174 board is an exceptionally dedicated group of individuals whom I am proud to call my colleagues and friends. **Ken Hudson** will serve as Acting President, and the Unit Board will meet on September 25 to elect a President and Vice President to fill the terms.

I really enjoyed the Club Connection visits to the various clubs. It was fun to interact with the various Unit members, particularly at clubs in the outer edges of our unit: College Station, Galveston, Lake Jackson, and Montgomery, to name a few.

We have had some exceptional tournaments this year. The April tournament broke all records in attendance. The June and August tournaments increased attendance over the previous year, bucking the national downward trend. Houston is truly a bridge community and FAMILY.

We will have a new format for the GNT qualifiers with qualifying games at the clubs. **John Caudill** and **David Henke** will be sending out the details from the recently published Conditions of Contest approved at the District board meeting on September 2. Stay tuned.

We have an outstanding October tournament planned at the Greenspoint Hilton. Dianna Gittelman has added lots of fun with our Casino Night on Saturday. And of course, do not forget the Lone Star Regional at the end of January. It is vital that we surpass 3,000 tables at this Regional.

Most of you have asked what you can do for me. Continue to play bridge. Come to the tournaments in October and January. *Let's set records!* Show the world of bridge that Hurricane Harvey is no match for Houston and South Texas. Support the Houston Community in this time of need.

MY WIFE NANCY AND I WILL BE BACK AT THE TABLE!

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

Bill Riley, Unit 174 Outgoing President

Bill Riley, ichibanbill@gmail.com

Ken Hudson, Unit 174 Acting President

kghudson@comcast.net

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

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

NEW MEMBERS

Crissy A. Clarke, Charles Coates, Susan Cooksey, Wayne L. Fenton, Ann E. Horton, William L. Kopp, Mannie L. Magid, Jean Mills, Billie Montgomery, and Cherie Seibel 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)

Jo Corry, Steven Gordon, Brenda Langdon, Dean Minzner, and Susan Thom.

NEW CLUB MASTER

(20 MP)

George M. Cowan, Vivian C. Parker, Mark A. Sikkell, and Lennie Woodford.

NEW SECTIONAL MASTER

(50 MP)

Marcia Chambliss, Iris F. Chester, and Jackie Rundstein.

NEW REGIONAL MASTER

(100 MP)

Rita A. Aron and Marion F. Shortle.

NEW NABC MASTER

(200 MP)

Twyla J. Woody.

NEW ADVANCED NABC MASTER

(300 MP)

Richard McGaughy and Kris Sankaran.

NEW LIFE MASTER

(126 in Unit 174)

Joyce M. Eveld, Kathryn M. Kent, James E. Meade, Susan Morrison, and Hillel Weinbaum.

NEW BRONZE LIFE MASTER

(310 in Unit 174)

Robert D. Crawford.

NEW SILVER LIFE MASTER

(186 in Unit 174)

Linda J. McReynolds.

NEW RUBY LIFE MASTER

(175 in Unit 174)

William C. Brending.

NEW GOLD LIFE MASTER

(99 in Unit 174)

Gail D. Carter.

NEW SAPPHIRE LIFE MASTER

(46 in Unit 174)

Daniel M. Jackson.

NEW DIAMOND LIFE MASTER

(39 in Unit 174)

Jeffrey R. Kroll.

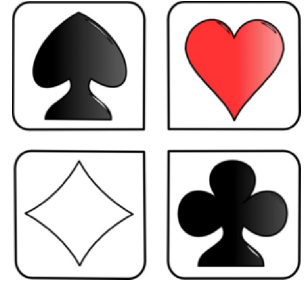
Water, Water, Everywhere!



Downtown Houston looked like this on August 27. On the west side, where many of our Unit 174 members live and work, things were even more pitiful. All was made worse by the Corps of Engineers having to release water from overflowing reservoirs. (Wonder what will happen with those lawsuits?) We are steadfast in prayerful times for our friends in the throes of big troubles as a result of Hurricane Harvey's unwelcome visit that brought 50 inches of constant rain. But Triumph Trumped Tragedy!

ALERT: Unit Qualifier for North American Pairs (NAP) will be held October 14-15 at Bridge Club of Houston! District Qualifier will be January 20-21 in San Antonio.

FEEDBACK & FODDER



Unit 174 News and Club News

We have LOTS of news this month! In addition to our many members, Clubs suffered losses from Harvey, causing much rescheduling, but we resiliently rise above it all! Be sure to check out *all* the Websites of our Unit 174 clubs (links at www.acblunit174.org) for schedules and educational opportunities remaining in 2017.

Before we get to all that, let's talk about the upcoming **October 27-29 Sectional** on the north side of the Houston metropolitan area, near Intercontinental airport. We have a \$92 rate at the Hilton Hotel North, 12400 Greenspoint Drive, Houston, Texas, 77060 (713-866-1154, Code ACBL). *Directions:* Traveling on I-45 North or South: Take the Greens Road exit and go East on Greens Road to Greenspoint Drive (2nd Stop light). Traveling East or West on Beltway 8 (Sam Houston Parkway), take the Greenspoint Drive exit and head North on Greenspoint Drive approximately 2 blocks to the hotel on the right. Now that you know where it is, here are **10 Reasons to Attend the Fall Extravaganza Sectional October 27-29:**

1. NEW BEAUTIFUL playing area.
2. Free parking in a garage that is attached to the playing area.
3. Room rates are \$92.
4. Coffee is \$1 all weekend.
5. Saturday night we will have a casino party with cash prizes, starting at 6 p.m.
6. Price for dinner and casino party is \$5.
7. Roulette, blackjack, pai gow poker, and three-card poker.
8. Cash bar available while playing casino games.
9. **Gary King** and **Daniel Jackson** will be our guest speakers.
10. REGIONALLY RATED EVENTS ALL DAY SUNDAY.

We can't wait to see you!

-Dianna Gittelman

News from Clubs

Southwest Duplicate Bridge Club thought they would be **closed** until around October 1st. They suffered flooding and suspended both the Tuesday and Wednesdays games. Repairs are underway, but in the meantime they will resume their normal schedule beginning **Tuesday September 19 at Congregation Brith Shalom, 4610 Bellaire Blvd.** until further notice.. The club lost a great deal of its supplies, such as bid boxes and cards. They are in the process of

being repaired and/or replaced. (**Walter Arnold** reports that bid boxes have been sterilized in the dishwasher! Love that ingenuity!)

Westside Bridge Academy suffered flooding with an inch of water inside, so carpet had to be ripped up and replaced, as well as all the other repairs that accompany such damage. They had great help from volunteers who helped put everything back to get ready to re-open, which they did on September 11! Their new schedule changes include Saturday Fast Pairs at 10 a.m. and regular games at 2. The Sunday Swiss now includes Firehouse subs, chips, and cookies at 5 p.m., game at 6, \$10 entry. They have a **499er tournament** Sept. 21-24, ending with a double session Swiss on Sunday. All September games are International Fund games, meaning that they are upgraded, so more points! **Gary King** will hold a 4-lesson class on Saturdays 10a-noon, beginning Sept. 30: "Conventions in Depth." \$100 includes materials. Thinking of adding to your bidding arsenal? This may be just your ticket. Pre-registration required to houstonbridge@gmail.com.

Bridge Club of Houston thankfully did not suffer any damage from the flooding, but many of their members did, and they are accepting donations on their behalf. Some horror stories exist from the north side, and our prayers are with them. The club's biggest news is that it has found a new home! After 15 years at its current location, they regretted having to relocate in February 2018, but it looks like a good thing is in store. The new location is at Kuykendahl and Louetta, just 3 miles southwest of their present facility, with considerably more space (1,600+ sq. ft. more) and more parking spaces and other benefits. Such decisions are always difficult, and weighing pluses and minuses can be painful. We wish them the very best as they move forward. October 9 is the very special celebration for **Beverley Cheatham's** 80th Birthday Party! Meal at 11, game at 11:55; reservations required. For the **NAP qualifying games** on 10/14-15, meal will be available for \$8.

Spring Branch Duplicate Club, which holds its games on Mondays and Thursdays at the community center on Wirt Road, will celebrate its 25th anniversary on Thursday, October 5, at 11:30. The club will provide sandwiches, cake, and soda; chips, dips, and other goodies will be appreciated for the celebration.

Final Thoughts With so much going on everywhere, I don't even have any final thoughts, other than gratitude, thankfulness, and prayers for others. For the October, 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! And a Great Big Thanks to the many, many volunteers who helped with all the Harvey troubles. You were legion. Nothing like bridge players—*anywhere*!!
Carol Ann Wilson, Unit 174 Newsletter Editor