



Quarterly Newsletter



UNIT 124

January 2017 XLII Number 1

2860 Cooper Road, Cincinnati, Ohio 45241 (513) 563 2218

From the President's Desk

by John Meinking

Unit 124 Members,

I find myself very optimistic about CBA operations for 2017. We are fortunate to have an outstanding group of individuals that put in countless hours to keep the Unit and the CBC running smoothly. Please take the time to thank them for their service to the Unit.

The CBA begins 2017 in excellent financial health and is prepared to invest in growing our bridge community in 2017.

Unit committees are already working on plans for additional renovations at the CBC this year.

The Education committee has several classes scheduled for this spring at the CBC and around the greater Cincinnati area. Details can be found on our web site and flyers posted at the CBC.

See you at the tables,

John Meinking
CBA Board President

Check out www.cincybridge.com today!

Thinking Out Loud...

by Steve Moese

Oh how fortunate we are!

Kudos to the Unit Board and for their leadership and to the cohort of willing volunteers who bring their time and talent to offer some of the best bridge experiences available anywhere.

Don't believe me? Take a look at the Club Notes where you'll find active engagement by major games in our

Features

Features	Pg	Author
From the President's Desk	1	John Meinking
Thinking Out Loud...	1	Steve Moese, Ed
CLUB ♣ CORNER	4	Many
CBA Education News	6	Larry Newman
Partnerships!	6	Joanne Earls
More than Bridge	7	Dean Congbalay
Flying Pig Regional Update	8	AJ Stephani
ACBL BoD District Rep Report	8	AJ Stephani
ACBL BoG Report	9	Steve Moese
Playing Bridge in Cuba!	10	Elaine Jarchow
Call the Director	12	Potter Orr
A Game of Comedians	13	Rob Weidenfeld
Episode 17: You Ain't Heard Nothin' Yet	15	Steve Felson
Save the Dates	16	
2016 Unit Holiday Party Report	17	
Indianapolis Regional	19	Jan 30 – Feb 5
Cincinnati Flying Pig Regional	20	June 5-11
CBA Wednesday Intermediate Pairs	21	Mike Lipp

Unit 124 Club Games

Day	Time	Event
Mon	AM	CBC* 11:00 Inv NKy 11:00 2 nd /4 th only
	Aft	MIDM 1:00
	PM	CBC 7:00 (Limited) - OXF 7:00
Tue	AM	NKY 10:00 AND 11:00
	PM	CBC 11:00 MIDS 11:00 SP 2:45PM CBC 7:00* NLM (Open Coming 3/23)
Wed	AM	CBC* 11:00 - SCC* 10:00 - AND 11:00
	Aft	MIDL 12:00
	PM	NKY 6:30
Thu	AM	INT* 9:00 - CBC 11:00 - NKy 11:30 AM
	Aft	WHC* 12:00 - EAB 12:30 SP 2:45
	PM	CBC 7:00 "8 is ENOUGH" Swiss Teams 1&3
Fri	AM	NKY 10:00 - CBC 11:00
Sat	AM	CBC 10AM-Noon Supervised Play (SP)
	Aft	CBC 1:00

Unit. Look for the new offerings and fun ways to learn while you compete. We have new offerings from our Education Committee led by a truly impressive faculty of Bridge Teachers whose combined experience, talent

for teaching and entertaining, and ability to help YOU grow your skills is the equal of any Unit anywhere. Under John’s leadership we have a diverse group of dedicated trustees who are actively engaged in making your bridge experience the best it can be. The Board has embarked on a renovation effort at the CBC that along with our lease renewal for 10 years, will make the current facility an attractive place to play well into the future. The first wave of updates are in place. Renovations to the Kitchen area will occur this year. We are bringing a visual aesthetic to our space and eliminating the unsightly look from too much bulletin board and old dusty awards on the walls. We want our space to attract and welcome all. We will continue to invest in improvements at the center supported by our center’s financial strength.

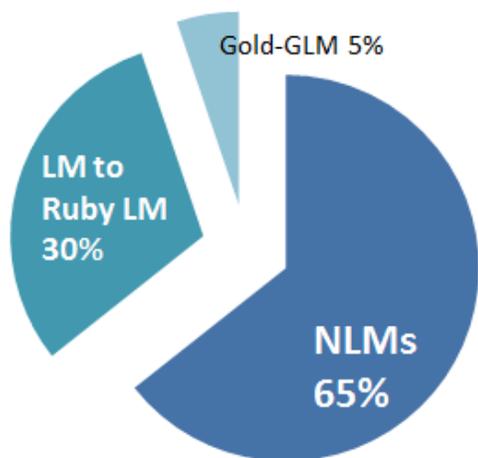
So much for the building, how about our members? Here’s a look at our membership as of January 2017:

We have 923 active members down 11 from the same time 2015 (934).

Now before reading on, what rank do you think is the largest group playing in our Unit? Life Masters? Gold Life Masters? Higher?

Not even close.

**Unit 124
1 Jan 17**

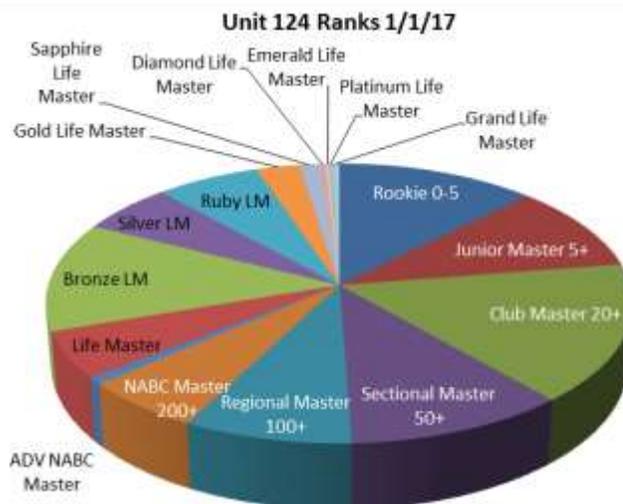


65% of our membership are **Non-Life Masters** (NLM 0-499+). This is more than twice the number of **Life Master to Ruby Live Masters** (500-2499) and 13 times the number of **Gold LMs to Grand Life Master** (2500 - ∞).

What we all want is for our games through out the Unit to reflect the wishes and needs of our active membership!

If you are a NLM in Unit 124, you have a BIG voice, but only if you use it! – the sanction holders are looking for you to join their games. If you vote by playing often, you will see the games grow in size and see more offerings suitable for your peer group.

Let’s break down membership by individual ranks:



Rank	Members	%	Sub Total	Sub %
Rookie 0-5	115	12%		
Junior Master 5+	93	10%		
Club Master 20+	148	16%		
Sectional Master 50+	100	11%		
Regional Master 100+	76	8%		
NABC Master 200+	55	6%		
ADV NABC Master	7	1%	594	64.4%
Life Master	50	5%		
Bronze Life Master	117	13%		
Silver Life Master	54	6%		
Ruby Life Master	60	7%	281	30.4%
Gold Life Master	25	3%		
Sapphire Life Master	11	1%		
Diamond Life Master	4	0.43%		
Emerald Life Master	2	0.22%		
Platinum Life Master	2	0.22%		
Grand Life Master	4	0.43%	48	5.2%
Total	923	100	923	100

- **The median Unit 124 member is a Regional Master!**
- **38% of our members have less than 20 Master Points!**
- **30% of our members are Life-Ruby Life Masters –** these players are becoming more active in tournaments around the District and Country.

For more information about ACBL Master Point Ranks please go to the ACBL Master Points Rank Page at:

<http://www.acbl.org/masterpoints-results/masterpoint-ranks/>

Common sense says that there are several things we need to do in the Unit. Let's review the bidding:

New players need coaching and play experience to gain confidence and see the magic and joy in our game. The Unit offers many beginner's lessons and will now have 3 Supervised sessions at the Cincinnati Bridge Center (CBC): Saturday Morning 10 AM to Noon, Tuesday and Thursday Afternoon 2:45 – 5:15 PM.

There are NLM friendly games throughout our calendar. Check them out. Be sure to see the Club Notes Section for What's New here.

If you are an NLM and find only an open game on the schedule, why play? **STRATIFICATION!** The ACBL in its widdom years ago developed a scoring plan that allows players to compete with their peers and against different peer groups in one game.

At the beginning of the Game, the director will assign strata by the MP holdings of the field. There are 3 strata possible in a given game. Some common strata for open games are Over 3000, 1000-2999, under 1000. Likewise an NLM game can be stratified as under 50, 50-199, 200+.

For some games where we have an open section and an NLM section (playing the same hands) we can run them as AX – BCD or "**Strati-Flighted**" This means there are two flights the Open and NLM. The Open flight will be split into two strata A and X (the split is usually defined by the MP holdings of the attending players), while the BCD flight is usually 500/200/100 or something similar. The director has discretion to adjust strata pre-game to better suit the composition of the field.

Why?

Well, we all recognize that skill levels vary by master points. However on any given day, C players can beat B players and A players. Stratification allows players of all levels to compete together and to win master points by how well you do versus the field and versus your peers.

Huh?

Sure – you know that the top finishers in a pair game get the master points by formula (if you want to know more, go to the ACBL website and find the Master Point Award Charts at:

http://www.acbl.org/clubs_page/club-administration/resources-and-forms/masterpoint-awards-chart/)

Well **STRATIFICATION** allows everybody to compete for first overall. No luck? Not to worry. If you are a flight B or C player you can compete for a top finish in the B strata. Still no luck? If you are a C player, you can compete for a top finish among the C players. If a C player wins the entire event, they claim first place in all three strats (however the awards are NOT additive – you win the greatest of the 3 awards, in this case, 1st Overall).

Never happen you say? Not so fast. Just this past December Janet and Al Venosa won the Holiday Party game. (See the write up in this edition). Ask them how they did it! The point is you can do it too. You can earn master points in a stratified game (all games at the CBC (and the Unit) are stratified) and if you fall short you have played against players with greater skill many of whom would be very happy to answer your questions.

So LMs and NLMs have even more opportunity to win master points by playing in Open Stratified games.

Don't limit yourself to Supervised Play or NLM games because you feel safe – "**nothing ventured nothing gained**" certainly applies here. Your risk is very low and your MP reward potential is that much higher (Open stratified games award more MPs than limited games of similar size).

Yes, we want **you** to play more.

We also want to help you help grow your bridge skill according to your goals and desires. Check out **Larry Newman's** note from the Education Committee. Teachers in the Unit offer a rich, affordable learning plan that caters to players at all levels. Look over the Winter offerings and contact the teacher for more information.

Since we all want bigger and better games, there is one imperative we all share – we all own the responsibility to create a fun environment for bridge at the club.

Uncivil, rude, or abusive behavior of any kind cannot be tolerated. While the Unit and all directors support the ACBL “Zero Tolerance” rules, a good bridge center culture comes from mutual respect and support. The better players owe it to the advancing players to maintain a light hearted atmosphere and to avoid boorish behavior.

Never be afraid to call the director! That’s right. The director is there to handle any abnormality that might have occurred. Simply calling the director takes the onus off the interaction at the table and puts restoring equity in the hands of the one person who is charged to do that.

To our better players – if you are discouraged by smaller or non-existent games, ask yourself “What more could I do?”

Here are a few thoughts:

- 1) **Be pleasant.** Model the golden rule even when an opponent or partner makes it trying to do so.
- 2) **Offer help.** After the session is over. Share what you know in a way the advancing player can understand.
- 3) **Listen first, then talk.** You already know a lot, why not help others learn too? Listening is worth twice as much as talking – that’s why we all have 2 ears and only 1 mouth.
- 4) **Call the Director** – for any irregularity before sparks appear that ignite arguments and boorish behavior.

“...you have to want to be engaged. There has to be deep-seated desire in your heart and mind to participate, to be involved, and to make a difference. If the desire isn’t there, no person or book can plant it within you.” –**Tim Clark**

Looking back at our numbers, we can conclude:

- 1) We want all NLMs to play, and play more often.
- 2) We want LM-Ruby to continue learning and begin volunteering. We need your leadership
- 3) We want our experienced players to set the example for the culture we all want in our clubs.

“The only way to do great work is to love what you do.” –**Steve Jobs**

This ALERT brings several exciting offerings. Several Club leaders have news and new offerings to share with you. Check them out in the Club Corner. **Larry Newman** kicks off this year’s Education Committee agenda with a rousing offering of classes this winter

(and a foreshadowing of this spring). **AJ Stephani** gives us a report from the Board of Directors as the new District 11 representative to the ACBL Board. He also give us an exciting update on the upcoming Cincinnati Flying Pig Regional – Hog Heaven! A number of contributors offer us club notes – be sure to see the exciting new offerings from our clubs. We have an update from the Unit Holiday Party and several awards to celebrate. **Dean Congbalay** directs our attention to what really matters, in a compelling piece about a pre-game dinner with one’s bridge mentor. **Elaine Jarchow** (welcome to the Unit Board, Elaine!) gives us a view of Bridge in Cuba! (How does she do it?) with great style and pictures too! **Rob Weidenfeld** continues to offer his own magic from the bridge table – I’ve been a big fan of Rob’s writing over the years, he channels the best of Marshall Miles, Eddie Kantar and Victor Mollo. **Potter Orr** continues his excellent series on directing club games. If you fear calling the director, read on – you should always call the director whenever there is any irregularity of any kind (bidding, play, information, procedure, rules). Let the Director handle the issue. They will save you much emotional energy, and you’ll have a lot more fun! We welcome back **Steve Felson** with Episode 17 You Ain’t Heard Nothin’ Yet. Steve was off writing several hundred legal briefs around the holidays and could not lift a pen for weeks. We are happy ot have him back. If you see Robert S Brown, please offer him your ideas – he is taking what we hope is a one issue break due to writer’s block (we really think it’s the skiing vacation, but let’s keep that between us).

One final thought to act on: When a bridge player makes oyu happy , show them your smile or laugh. Positive reinforcement goes a long way to creating the right mood at the club!

See you at the tables,

Steve

Editor, The ALERT moesefamily@aol.com



http://www.cincybridge.com/CBA_Lessons_3.html

CLUB CORNER Send Club News to the Alert
Editor: alert@cincybridge.com
NORTHERN KENTUCKY BRIDGE CLUB NEWS

On Tuesday, November 1, 2016, the Northern Kentucky Bridge club (NKBC) celebrated its 15th Anniversary. The Club Champions were **Peg Amman** and **Dave Dressman** with a 77.46 game. The very next day, Peg’s grandson,

John Taylor, and **Cordell Coy** hit the 73.81 mark.

On Thursday, November 17, NKBC held its Team Club Championship game. **Margaret Young, Rick O'Connor, Jodie Kiefer, and Gerry Mirus** were crowned Team Champions.

On Friday, December 16, NKBC celebrated a Holiday Party Championship Game. The Holiday Party Club Champions were **Rick O'Connor** and **Gerry Mirus**.

Then on Wednesday, December 21, NKBC held a Christmas Party with a Club Championship Game. **Cindy Tretter** and **Diane Johnson** were the Club Champions.

The Northern Kentucky Bridge Club held its first board meeting for 2017 on Tuesday, January 10, 2017. New Board members are **Bart Jacobs, Ron Jarchow, Greg Brinker, and Iris Libby**. Having completed their term in 2016, out-going Board members are **Henry Jackson, Gerry Mirus** and **Howard Simon**. **Greg** is the new President and **Ron Jarchow** is Vice President. **Dave Tollison** continues to serve the 2017 year as Treasurer and **John Wolfe** remains as Secretary. **Sheila Dippel** continues on the Board as Club Manager.

On Tuesday, January 10, **Howard Simon** playing with **Bob Frey** scored a 70.19 game.

CBC News

Debbie Cummings is introducing a 0-5 MP Game on Thursday AM at the CBC in addition to the regularly scheduled Open Stratified Game. – check with Debbie to confirm when this game will start - dcummings@twc.com . Please encourage all newer players to join this game.

Mike Lipp runs the Monday Evening and Tuesday Morning Games as part of the nationwide **Common Game**. Get expert analyses and compare your results with all who played across the country. This is a fabulous learning tool for the advancing player. Mike also runs the Wednesday Morning Homestyle game with a sizeable field of people who enjoy playing bridge in a casual relaxed environment.

Mike announces a new Wednesday morning Intermediate Game beginning February 1. See the flyer in the back of this issue.

John Meinking has taken over the Thursday Evening game and has instituted an "8 is Enough format: This format is growing in popularity across the ACBL. This game encourages good players to play with advancing players on teams roughly balanced to create a more level field. Players are given a Point value based on the number of master points as follows: 1 Point: <500 Masterpoints; 2 Points: 500-2000 MPs; 3 Points: > 2000 MPs. No Team can have more than 8 Points. Great Fun. Sign up with John: jokingme71@gmail.com

Yes, it is important that you sign up so that you can have an eligible team ready to play. This game runs every 1st and 3rd Thursday evening. On January 17, 2017 twelve teams (12) competed and the winners went home with 2.57 Master Points each! Importantly all 12 teams won master points. That's right – in Swiss you'll often find everybody wins!

Debbie Wiest continues to grow the Tuesday evening NLM game. This is very encouraging for our Unit.

We are working to revive the absent Tuesday Evening Open game. **ATTENTION PLEASE!** Here's what we intend to do. Beginning **March 23** and on one Tuesday Evening each month we will run an open game where each member of the board of directors will bring another partner. That gives us 4 ½ tables. An informal poll says there is sufficient interest to bring another 2 ½ to 4 ½ tables. We hope to have a 7-9 table open game once a month, in addition to the NLM game currently thriving. The only change will be strict adherence to the **GOLDEN RULE: Open Game players will be expected to treat all other players as they themselves want to be treated – PLAY NICE!** Unfortunately the open game that ended late last year suffered from a bad reputation traceable to the rude behavior of a few bad apples. We are willing to be strident in enforcing **smiles** and **sunshine** to prove that talent and good behavior can indeed go hand-in-hand.

AJ Stephani and **Debbie Wiest** are now running the Friday Morning and Saturday Afternoon games and promise an exciting time with top quality bridge for everyone. Be sure to check out the NLM Game on Friday morning.

"The only time you fail is when you fall down and stay down." — **Stephen Richards**

"A journey of a thousand li* begins with a single step" — **Lao Tzu** (*a li is about 360 miles)

CBA Education News – Winter/Spring

By **Larry Newman**

What goes on in the Education Committee? In the future, we may address training of directors and teachers, but currently our focus is on you, the bridge players. We want to help you get better. And we need more of you!



We currently have classes for those new to the game. We are working on classes for beginners and intermediates hoping to improve.

In the future, I am hoping to see regularly offered classes for players in four separate categories:

- Those totally new to the game.
- People who have played in the distant past and need a quick refresher course to get back in the game.
- Beginners already playing duplicate.
- Intermediate players, hoping to improve their games.

In addition to typical classes, the Cincinnati Bridge Association (CBA) already has two really wonderful programs in place for beginning players.

- For those just learning to play bridge: What should I have bid? How should I have played that hand? Don't you wish you could have an instructor with you to answer all those nagging questions that come up every time you sit down to play bridge? Supervised Play is an opportunity to play with others of your level somewhat informally but accompanied by a more experienced player to give you advice while you play.

- For those already playing duplicate: Wouldn't it be great to play with a more experienced player, to get a chance to see how you might improve your game? The Mentor-Mentee Program pairs newer players with more experienced players for 4-8 duplicate sessions each summer.

Both are great opportunities to get "free instruction" or pick up a few tips.

Our challenge is to get new players to our Bridge Center and to keep our current players stimulated. And

we need you to spread the word. Please tell your friends and your children about our game. And about our educational opportunities.

So

I have questions for you!

- When would you like to see classes offered?
- What topics would you like to hear about?
- Would you like to teach a class?
- Any suggestions on how I can be of help to you?

Your feedback is appreciated. Catch me at the Bridge Center, or email me at ljn.newman@gmail.com.

Thanks.

See you at the tables!

Larry Newman

See http://www.cincybridge.com/CBA_Lessons_3.html

Upcoming classes:

Aj Stephani ajstephani@gmail.com

Tues 4:30 – 6:30 PM Intermediate

Tues 7:00 – 9:00 PM Beginner

Wed 4:00 – 5:00 Beyond Beginner

Thu 9:30 – 10:45 Advanced Short Courses

Potter Orr potter@orrcomputer.com

Wed 4:00 – 6:00 PM Beginning Duplicate

Sat 9:00 AM – 12 Noon Beginner Classes

Joe Fisher jo.fshr@gmail.com

4/8 11:00AM – 12:45PM IMP Tactics 1 week only

Starts 4/27 Th 9:30-10:45AM Advanced Topics

Amy Fisher amy.fshr@gmail.com

Thu 7-9 PM Intro for People who played 30 yrs ago.

Fri 9:30 – 10:45 AM Defense

Phyllis Bishop pbb23@fuse.net

Fri 10:15-11:45AM Mini Lessons for Beginners

Sat 9:00 AM – 12 Noon Beginner

Bob Fisk bobsbbcards@gmail.com

Tue 2:45-4:45 PM Supervised Play & mini lesson

Thu 2:45-4:45 PM Supervised Play & mini lesson

Fri 10:15-11:45AM Mini Lessons for Beginners

Fri 2:45-4:45PM Hand Analysis

Mike Purcell

Sat 10:00 AM-Noon Supervised Play

Note: Not all instructors are available on all dates. Call an instructor if your are interested in attending to verify dates, times, and cost.

Partnerships!

By Joanne Earls

Need help finding partners? You are not alone. Of course, if you are looking for a partner you can still call the director of the game you want to play in or call me to see whether anyone else is looking. I will help find you a partner interested in a standing game.



Thanks for your support!

Joanne Earls

772-4395

jolman@fuse.net

Your Name Here

Cincinnati Bridge Association

**Need a CBA Name Tag? Contact Joanne Earls.
\$4 each. (1st one FREE! to New Members).**

More Than Bridge

By Dean Congbalay

dcongbalay@comey.com

I was peering at the deer head -- antlers and all! -- on the knotty-pine wall when Karen approached the table.

"Can I get you something to drink?" the waitress asked.

"Just a glass of water, please," I answered. "I'm waiting on a buddy. He'll be here in a couple minutes."

Traffic was ugly that Monday night, so Bill, my bridge mentee, arrived a bit after our 6:02 scheduled dinner appointment at the Bridge House in Reading. We've made it a habit of getting a little something to eat before our games, and the name of this humble establishment made it especially appropriate.

When he eventually did arrive, we walked over to the dry-eraser board that shares the wall with the hunting trophy and scanned the three daily specials -- nothing over \$7.99.

"I think I'm going to get the chicken tenders special," I told Karen. "With fries!"

Bill ordered off the three-page menu, which featured nearly everything from breakfast all day to steaks to deli sandwiches, plus, of course, the ubiquitous Cincinnati three-way.

"I'll have the Big Girl," Bill said, referring to the restaurant's version of the classic Big Boy. I didn't ask, but my guess is that the sandwich's name may be derived from the Bridge House's location, at the end of the suburb's row of bridal stores on Benson Street.

"They'll be right up!" Karen said promptly.

This was our second foray to the Bridge House. We found it accidentally last summer when the diner we were hoping to hit for breakfast wasn't open until lunch. Through the magic of my iPhone, we decided to give this place a try.

We really enjoyed it and thought it deserved a second serving.

During our abbreviated encore visit -- our game was at 7 p.m.! -- we solved all the world's problems. At the same booth by the door where we sat the last time, we talked shop (Bill's a fellow Realtor), trips (I was heading to Chicago that weekend) and, of course, bridge ("Hey, let's win tonight!" I said.).

And when I noticed that it was almost time to leave, Karen delivered our check. It was Bill turn's to pay (Uh, no, they don't take American Express!), so I packed my left-overs and prepared to dodge the raindrops on the way to my car -- parked under a bridge that is part of Interstate 75.

"Thanks for coming!" Karen said, smiling.

"It was great!" I said. "We'll be back!"

I cannot even imagine where I would be today were it not for that handful of friends who have given me a heart full of joy. Let's face it, friends make life a lot more fun. -- **Charles R. Swindoll**



Dean Congbalay & Bill Cook, a pre-game meal between friends. There's more to bridge than just cards!

FLYING PIG REGIONAL UPDATE

By AJ Stephani



We're only 4 months away from the Flying Pig Regional! OK, it's a little early, but do yourself a favor and put it on your calendar now (June 5-11). In the meantime, here are some tidbits of interest:

We're Moving! The Sharonville Convention Center has been home for many years, but rising costs make it tough to stay. Through some personal connections of CBA member Nalin Mehta, we got a great deal with the Ramada Inn directly across the street. It used to be called the Crowne Plaza, among other things, and we held our Spooktacular Sectional there for several years, so many of you will remember it. It's a terrific space for us, and room rates are SUPER-cheap, so tell your out-of-town bridge partners to make reservations today!

New Event! We're running a two-day Flying Pig Pairs Championship for the first time this year. Regionals like ours need to find innovative ways to maintain our size,

or even grow a little, so we're going to give this idea a try. We'll have a two-session qualifying day on Saturday, with a two-session final on Sunday. We hope to attract strong pairs from not only around our District, but cities in surrounding Districts, like Pittsburgh, Cleveland, Detroit, Nashville, St. Louis, and Chicago. There's no event like this between New York and California, so here's your chance to play against the best in the Midwest!

We hope to **join the Regionals that are beginning to run Online Events**. This is a very exciting development for tournament players, and it's just getting started. Stay tuned for more details.

In the meantime, clear June 5-11 on your calendar, and help us spread the word to everyone you know in your bridge circle. See the flyer at the end of this issue.

ACBL BOARD OF DIRECTORS DISTRICT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

By AJ Stephani



In the last ALERT, I promised to provide regular updates on my experience on the ACBL Board of Directors. Although my term just began on January 1, it's been an interesting couple of weeks. Here's my take on things so far.

I was invited as a guest to the Orlando NABC meetings in November to observe meetings of the full Board of Director and its various committees. And then in December, I went to ACBL Headquarters in Horn Lake for several days of orientation with the ACBL staff and management and to tour the absolutely gorgeous ACBL Museum and Hall of Fame. If you're ever in the Memphis area, do yourself a favor and stop by. It's something every serious bridge player should see.

I'm beginning to see my role on the ACBL Board of Directors as falling into one of three areas: Collaborating, Agitating, and Innovating. My reports to you will be divided into these areas.

COLLABORATION

As the newest member of a 25-member club, it's critical to fit in. No one can be effective if you've made everyone around you defensive and suspicious. So, it's

important to collaborate on many issues. I'll be working with several important Committees on the Board: the Appeals and Charges (A&C) Committee and the Board Strategy Committee. The A&C Committee will continue its work in cleaning up our game following the cheating scandals over the last year. I expect the Board Strategy Committee will investigate alternative models of ACBL governance and review its long-term objectives.

As you may be aware, the big news of the last few weeks has been the resignation of our CEO, Robert Hartman, effective July 31, 2017. I never had a chance to work closely with Robert, but the Board of Directors appeared to regard him quite highly. A search committee has already been formed, and I look forward to working with the Board in selecting our new CEO.

AGITATION

I also want to agitate for the problems you've asked me to address that are don't get the attention they deserve. The most pressing problem I've heard from you, BY FAR, has been the lack of available rooms at the Spring NABC in Kansas City and the Summer NABC in Toronto. I'm a little mystified at why rooms were sold out so quickly and how we negotiate our room block. I haven't been totally satisfied with the answers I've received so far, and I will continue to look into this problem.

I'm also quite surprised at how much resistance I've encountered inside the Board of Directors to the idea of expanding the ACBL's Youth Bridge outreach. Much of the Board seems content to focus on recent retirees and serving the needs of our current membership. As you know, I am convinced the ACBL needs to reverse course and begin reducing the average age of our membership (currently 71 and climbing). It seems so clear to me that the long-term health of bridge in North America is tied to our youth, and I'm going to keep banging that drum. I'm cautiously optimistic that the newly-freed ACBL Education Foundation will become put its energy into youth-centered efforts.

INNOVATION

And finally, I would like to innovate and suggest new ideas and methods within the Board of Directors. As the rookie on the Board, I need to be careful not to overstep at first. But I'm hopeful that our Board

Strategy Committee becomes a vessel for needed reform concerning the way the ACBL is structured.

So, thanks for the opportunity to be your representative on the ACBL Board of Directors, and I welcome your feedback and input.

ACBL District 11 Board of Governors Report

By Steve Moese

The ACBL Board of Governors serves as the official listening body for actions taken by the ACBL and the Board of Directors. The Board of Governors represents all members and has the following duties:

9.1 Purposes.

The purposes of the Board of Governors are:

- 9.1.1 To serve as a liaison between the membership and the Board of Directors.*
- 9.1.2 To act as a forum for the expression of membership opinion.*
- 9.1.3 To act as a forum to identify issues and concerns in regard to bridge and ACBL management matters.*
- 9.1.4 To improve communication and coordination among the various Districts, Units, and the Board of Directors.*
- 9.1.5 To ratify decisions of the Board of Directors as specified elsewhere in these bylaws.*

9.2 Duties.

In furtherance of these purposes, the duties of the Board of Governors are:

- 9.2.1 To review the resolutions voted on by the Board of Directors.*
- 9.2.2 To forward selected resolutions decided by the Board of Directors back to that body for reconsideration.*
- 9.2.3 To propose new or revised resolutions for consideration by the Board of Directors and receive reports from the Board of Directors on the status of such resolutions.*
- 9.2.4 To initiate or ratify amendments to the Bylaws as specified in Article X.*
- 9.2.5 To ratify proposed changes in the districting of the ACBL.*
- 9.2.6 To recognize new ACBL Life Masters.*
- 9.2.7 To perform other duties as may be specified elsewhere in these Bylaws or as may be assigned by the Board of Directors.*

Since August 2015 we've published BoG Reports to District 11 membership at http://www.district11bridge.com/ACBL_board_reports.html

Working on communication our new Chair, Richard Popper and Linda Trent has created several changes that will allow better work among the 125 Board of Governor's Representatives.

A closed forum for the Board of Governors members, and Board of Governors members only, is available on Bridge Winners. The purpose of the forum is to allow Board of Governors members to discuss Board of Governors business between meetings. This will help the Board of Governors share ideas effectively outside the 2 hour meetings three times per year.

Starting with the summer meeting (Toronto, ON), the Board of Directors meeting will finish the day before the Board of Governors meeting. The ACBL is working to provide electronic copies of the meeting information to replace paper copies. This is a big step in the right direction.

Finally, at the Orlando meeting I successfully got a motion passed by the BoG for the Chair to create a committee to explore ways to better represent Teachers and Sanction Holders for Board of Governor's work. Richard Popper appointed me Chair, and named a stellar group of people to create a new way of keeping these important stakeholders voices heard. My fellow committee members are: Jeff Bayone (NY), Judy Elbogen, Kamel Fergami (Montreal), Steve Gaynor (Mineapolis), Barbara Heller, Sam Marks (Atlanta), Joyce Penn (Columbus).

Immediately following our beginning work I was tapped by Kevin Hale (BoD District 23) to join his task force along with AJ Stephani and several members to be named later – to define ways to help sanction holders better inform BoD decisions.

The key to our success will be to get a workable system that volunteers can manage effectively, and to focus suggestions and inputs on what is doable now. We will see how this new approach will impact decision making.

I am hopeful. More soon.

PLAYING BRIDGE IN CUBA!

By Elaine Jarchow



I was privileged to attend the XIV International Bridge Festival in Havana and Varadero, Cuba, from December 2-11, 2016. I traveled with my partner, Sue Bruggen. We signed affidavits stating that our purpose for travel to Cuba was to engage in non-athletic competition. Americans must sign these affidavits and choose one of twelve acceptable reasons for travel. One of these is NOT tourism.

We booked an ABC Charters flight to Havana from Miami. As it turned out, American Airlines began to fly to Havana a week before our flight, so our "charter" was the regularly scheduled American Airlines flight. The flight cost \$197, and we used miles to get to and from Miami. The cost of the Festival was \$1290/person



for four nights at the Melia Cohiba, Havana, five nights at the all-inclusive beach resort Sol Palmeras in Varadero, airport welcome and transfers, two dinners, all breakfasts, a Havana nightclub show, and Havana city tour.

The daily bridge games – four pairs and five teams – cost \$215. We paid in cash upon arrival. It's still difficult to use credit cards.



The Festival was held under the auspices of the World Bridge Federation's (WBF) Central American and Caribbean Bridge Federation. There were over 50 players from Canada, Norway, Cuba, Spain, Costa Rica, Trinidad, the Netherlands, Lithuania, Brazil, Argentina, and the US (CO, NY, KY, NC, and CA). Not all players played in both the pairs and teams sessions. A Canadian couple, our first opponents, told us to leave our convention cards in our room and "have fun." We certainly had fun, but noted a very wide range of player ability. We were told that Diego Brenner played on the Italian team and that Jacek Pszcola and Justin Lall were world ranked. In addition, Dave Caprera (playing with wife Anne Brenner) coaches the US Junior Team, on which Isaac Stefani played. For the team games, we were assigned players from Argentina and Spain. All of the players were gracious and willing to offer helpful advice.



The young Cuban players (pictured above) were a delight. A self-taught older gentleman had given them bridge lessons and they played in their homes. They are holding the ACBL decks that I gave them. I wish we could sponsor four of them to attend the Flying Pig regional. Bridge is allowed in Cuba because Fidel Castro's sister Emma played bridge. She convinced Fidel that playing bridge is like playing chess – not like

gambling, which he hated. Emma played in an earlier Cuba Festival and some of the players we met remembered her.

Of course, there are challenges playing in a country where one does not speak the language. I insisted that there was a malfunction in my BridgeMate. When I entered four hearts, I saw 4C on the display screen. The kindly director told me there was no malfunction since heart in Spanish – corazon - does begin with a C!!!! (j and exclamation points begin and end the sentence!)

Some things I learned include the following:

- The WBF's Continuous VP (logarithmic) Scale which we used was also used at the recent Orlando Nationals and will soon be featured in our regionals. Flying Pig? *[Ed: Not yet, but D11 does use this scale for the D11 GNT District Finals]*
- The WBF is divided into eight geographic zones. The website (www.worldbridge.org) is certainly worth a look if you are traveling and want to attend a bridge festival. For example, there is one in the Canary Islands from March 26-April 1 and a 7 day Caribbean cruise from Havana and five night all-inclusive Cuba beach resort from May 20-31.



Elaine Following Hemmingway

- Some ACBL understandings may not be shared by the WBF and its affiliates. For example, the Multi two diamonds, limited by the ACBL to mid-chart events, is played throughout the world. Players in the Netherlands believe that all unnatural bids (like Michaels) must be alerted.
- In a team game, half the tables are “closed” and no kibitzing is allowed.
- In a Festival, the movement is apt to be a Howell so all can play each other.
- In the Netherlands and Belgium, a bridge pub/café crawl on a Saturday offers fee paying players an opportunity to move about six cafes, have a drink or lunch, play 6-8 boards and assemble in a theater at end of day to learn the results. Anyone up for trying this in OTR or Covington’s Mainstrasse?

Visiting Cuba was a terrific experience. The hotels and food were good. Our first two days overlapped with the final two days of the mourning period for Fidel Castro.



We saw a shrine in the hotel lobby; there was no music in the squares and there were many photos in the newspapers. We met Dr. Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma, the first female chair of the African Union; she attended Castro’s funeral. The people were very welcoming; they have waited a long time for their neighbors to visit. I’d love to return and see more cities. My hope for 2017 is that the new administration continues President Obama’s efforts to open Cuba to all of us.

“Travel is fatal to prejudice, bigotry, and narrow-mindedness.” – **Mark Twain**

“The world is a book and those who do not travel read only one page.” – **St. Augustine**

“There are no foreign lands. It is the traveler only who is foreign.” – **Robert Louis Stevenson**



Participation Prizes!

CALL THE DIRECTOR

by Potter Orr

In previous columns discussing various rules and regulations I have often suggested calling the director. I want to repeat, with emphasis, that concept. It is not only the right thing to do when an irregularity occurs, we directors enjoy the work. Picking the right movement and getting the game started is somewhat chaotic but after that comes several hours of boredom. Grabbing the regulations book and responding to a director call almost qualifies as a treat.



Now that I have convinced you to call more often you should know the procedure.

Who can call the director? During the bidding (or before) any player may call the director. Once play starts, anyone except dummy may call the director about an irregularity. Dummy must wait until the end of play before calling the director. There is an exception to this rule. If another player has pointed out an irregularity, dummy may call the director if no one else calls.

What happens when the director arrives? The person who called is the one who describes the problem. After this explanation it is up to the director to control the process. He/she will ask questions as needed. The dummy is not permitted to participate except when asked a question by the director. After the game there are mechanisms for appeal but the director's ruling made at the table is final.

Most players call the director for bids or leads made out of turn, but there some other irregularities that players will sometimes "fix" on their own when the director should have been called.

Exposed Cards - A card is deemed played by a defender when it is placed in a position where defender's partner could have seen it. It is not necessary to determine whether the partner actually did see it. A declarer's card is deemed played if it is held face up on or near the table. Even if declarer is still holding the card, it is played. A card from dummy is played when declarer calls for its play. Declarer may change an inadvertent call of a card from dummy if it is made in the same breath without pause for thought. The problem of an exposed card occurs a player exposes 2 cards at once or discovers a revoke before it is established and has to change the card played. The rules on exposed cards are complex and the director should be called. Declarer has some rights when a defender has an exposed card. If the exposed card is a "minor" penalty card the defender has some rights as well.

Disputed Claim - When a claim is made any player may dispute the claim. Even if one defender agrees with the claim, the other defender may dispute the claim. If a claim is disputed, play must cease and the director should be called. Under ACBL rules, there is no such thing as "just play it out". If play does proceed after a disputed claim and the director is called, all such play is void.

Insufficient Bid - The director should be called when an insufficient bid has been made because there is more to it in some situations than simply making the bid sufficient. If the insufficient bid was a conventional bid the remedies are very different and self-correction can lead to unpleasant consequences.

Revoke - When a player believes a revoke (failure to follow suit) has occurred, the director should be called at once. Determining if the revoke has occurred is

sometimes a contentious issue and should not be handled by the players involved. It is important to remember that in no case, ever, may one player touch the cards of another player. The director may ask any or all players to show played cards or may turn those cards himself. The director can determine whether the revoke has been established and determine the penalty.

A GAME OF COMEDIANS

By Rob Weidenfeld

elianadad@gmail.com



As most of you know, bridge has been around for centuries, albeit in different forms. The version that we use today has evolved since Harold Vanderbilt popularized that form in the 1920's. Many famous people enjoy bridge and as regulars in the bridge world we revel in knowing about them...from former Pres. Dwight Eisenhower, to Omar Sharif, former Supreme Court Justice John Paul Stevens, Warren Buffet, to Bill Gates. Less known is that many well-known comedians have been known to pick up the gauntlet and try the game, often while they were in-between production pieces at their studios.

So it was, that we find two of the most comedic pairs of movie history who found themselves sitting on opposite sides of the bridge table. We have retrieved one of the more well-known hands from an early archive between (Bud) Abbott and (Lou) Costello and the more experienced pair of (Stan) Laurel and (Oliver) Hardy. As the game was preparing to begin, we heard snippets of their conversation. Costello was complaining to Abbott that he never let Costello play the hand, often not even accepting his transfers! Further, Hardy was complaining to Laurel that he was going to have to put down better dummies than he had been doing. So there was a lot banter as the pairs began to play plus a little bit of system as the first hand was dealt.

My theory is 98 percent of all human endeavor is killing time. -- [Jerry Seinfeld](#)

Preface it to say that neither of the pairs could fairly be called competent. But who needs competence when you are having fun playing bridge? By agreement, Laurel and Hardy were vulnerable on the first board and Abbott and Costello were not.

LAUREL
 ♠ AK
 ♥ 76
 ♦ 85
 ♣ AK65432

COSTELLO
 ♠ 432
 ♥ J1098
 ♦ J109
 ♣ QJ10

ABBOT
 ♠ J98765
 ♥ K2
 ♦ K76
 ♣ 98

HARDY
 ♠ Q10
 ♥ AQ543
 ♦ AQ432
 ♣ 7

Here is the hand:

While 6♣ looks good on a 3-2 ♣ break and at least one red suit finesse working, and while 3NT has a decent path to 9-12 tricks, that is not what happened here! Here was the auction:

Then Costello was the one with the problem. He was on lead and he had never heard an auction like this one. His partner had opened ♠s and then the opponents had bid ♠s twice and had settled comfortably in 4♠. Was it possible that partner had psyched? It was not unlike Abbott to try something clever at this vulnerability...like psyching with only one or two in the suit. So he decided to make a safe lead. He lead the ♥J.

When Hardy saw the heart lead he was immediately delighted. That soon changed when he saw the dummy. "Are you kidding me?...we are in a 4 level contract on a 2-2 fit," he thought. Then he uttered the words that has remained forever in Hollywood folklore..."Here's another fine mess you've gotten me into."

Surveying the dummy, he was immediately glad that he had not received a ♠ lead. And he had no intention of leading trumps himself. Doing so would leave him with no trump and his opponents with 5 or 6. Out of the question. He decided he had better get as many side-suit tricks as possible before beginning his crossruff.

He won the ♥Q and cashed the A, noting the fall of the K. Then he cashed two rounds of ♣s, pitching a ♥ from hand. Not wanting to ruff a ♣ yet, he took a ♦ finesse successfully and then cashed the ♦A. He already had 6 tricks in. Here were the remaining cards:

LAUREL
 ♠ AK
 ♥ -
 ♦ -
 ♣ 6543

COSTELLO
 ♠ 432
 ♥ J10
 ♦ J
 ♣ Q

ABBOT
 ♠ J98765
 ♥
 ♦ K
 ♣

HARDY
 ♠ Q10
 ♥ 54
 ♦ 432
 ♣

He ruffed a ♦ with the ♠K. Then ruffed a ♣ with the ♠10, ruffed another ♦ with the ♠A and then ruffed another club with the ♠Q. On the last 3 tricks Abbott had to under ruff each time. Then he claimed the last 3 tricks with high trumps. A very pyrrhic victory indeed.

"Well I managed to pull our ashes out of the fire," said Hardy condescendingly, "with very little help from my partner." "Well", retorted Abbott, "you would have still been in the fire had my partner led a trump. But I must say I really don't understand this game. I have 6 trumps and my partner has 3 and they make a game in our suit! Laurel just sat there with the kind of silly smile on his face that

Abbott	Hardy	Costello	Laurel
2♠ ¹	3♠ ²	Dbl	4♣ ³
P	4♠ ⁴	P	P! ⁵
DBL ⁶	All Pass		

Some explanations are in order...

- (1) Abbott didn't know what to do with this hand as weak 2 bids had not yet been invented. He knew it wasn't suitable for an opening one bid and pre-empting at the 3-level seemed a bit much. So he compromised and opened 2♠!
- (2) Hardy hated to decide between two equal suits, even if one was a major. He didn't know what 3♠ would mean but he did know that doubling for takeout on this hand would be a mistake. So he settled on a bid which he hoped to say to partner "Do something intelligent. I have a good hand but have no idea what to do," a theme we see often duplicated at our club.
- (3) Laurel's bid is nothing fancy and is only footnoted because it is the only normal bid of the auction!
- (4) Clearly Hardy had no intention of playing 4♣. Still not wanting to choose a red suit to bid, he deferred the decision once again to partner. "Partner," he was thinking, "would you do something intelligent this time?"
- (5) So Laurel thought for a few seconds before bidding. "I don't understand any of this bidding," he thought. LHO opens with ♠s and then partner bids them twice. I've got pretty good ♠ support. So he passed!
- (6) How could he not double? He had 6 ♠s and his partner had shown support. No way the opponents can make 4♠? So ignoring the principle of refusing to double a contract you know you can beat when there is a possibility that they may run to a contract that you can't beat, he said DOUBLE.

would normally drive Hardy crazy, but in this case he was willing to make an exception!

EPISODE 17: YOU AIN'T HEARD NOTHIN' YET

By Steve Felson

"If we don't change direction soon, we'll end up where we're going." – Prof. Irwin Corey, *The World's Foremost Authority*, 1914--



The title of this piece is from a line in "The Jazz Singer" (1927), the Al Jolson vehicle and the first film to use synchronized sound. There are those who misquote it as "You ain't *seen* nothin' yet," but I consider messing up a quotation to be almost as bad as missing a major-suit fit, a particular specialty of my partner and mentor, Robert S Brown ("430 beats 420 any day of the week"). Therefore, as the reader will see below, I always strive for complete accuracy when recounting past events.

Jolson was no Eddie Cantor but he did have the guts to stand up in front of an audience of millions and sing "Toot, Toot, Tootsie (Goo' Bye)" (the original title from 1921, music by Dan Russo and Ted FioRito, lyrics by Gus Kahn and Ernie Erdman). You can see his hambone, off-key version at:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KD_YRnuuKyY

Or, you might prefer Tiny Tim's version from "Live at Greenwich Village (1962)":

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uIB2gT6gWxl>

Ahh, Tiny Tim (1932-1996) – what an entertainer and what a guy! Bob and I used to call him "TT" when we all waited tables together at Gerde's Folk City on West 4th Street, New York City, in 1961. Gerde's is long gone now but still remembered by a select few as Bob Dylan's first venue. (Bobby, if you're reading this, I forgive you for failing to tip me that time. You were right – the coffee was cold.)

TT was born Herbert B. Khaury on the island of Manhattan. Oddly, his background was the same as that of my esteemed partner. In other words, TT's mother (like Bob's) was the daughter of a rabbi from Brest-Litovsk (now in Belarus) while his father (like Bob's) was a Maronite Christian priest from Beirut. Of course, Bob Brown's birth name was Zimmerman, not Khaury, and he was born on the island of Cyprus, not Manhattan. As I said above, accuracy is everything,

unlike in today's world of fake news and Manchurian candidates.

Not to digress or anything, but we all remember John Frankenheimer's classic 1962 film where the Chinese Communists brainwashed the candidate's son (Laurence Harvey). Then there was the evil wife (Angela Lansbury), nepotism, foreign agents Well, I'm not going into this any further – we all know it was only a novel (1959, by Richard Condon), and therefore it can't happen here.

What could I be leading up to if not accuracy in bidding as practiced by my better half, the guy who invented the rule, "Slow is weak, fast is Brown." Yes, Bob Brown, the man of many mottos, such as: "Moderation is the inseparable companion of wisdom, but with it genius has not even a nodding acquaintance" (Charles Caleb, English sportsmen and writer, 1780 -1832). Bob Brown, the man who picks up a Gideon Bible in a hotel room side-table drawer, closes his eyes, turns to a random page, reads Matthew 5:15 and sees a divine command not to hide your high card points under a bushel but rather to let them "giveth light unto all that are in the house." (King James Version, 1611) Thus the heavenly justification for this bidding sequence.

Bob is sitting West and I open 1♣ across the table. South passes and Bob gives light to all that are in the house by bidding 6♣.

Bd 22	♠ J1098762		
Dlr:E	♥ A84		
EW Vul	♦ 98		
	♣ 9		
♠ -		♠ KQ5	
♥ Q93		♥ J765	
♦ AQ6		♦ K73	
♣ AQJ8742		♣ K65	
	♠ A43		
	♥ K102		
	♦ J10542		
	♣ 103		

Out of almost 15,000 East-West pairs who played board # 22 in the Endor-Ewok regional, only two others reached this genius contract. The rest must have looked at their holding in hearts, applied wisdom and

moderation, and stopped short.

Naturally, the slam is cold on the lead of the ♠Ace. Once again, great bidding, partner! No bushel baskets for Felson-Brown.

SAVE THE DATES



[http://tourname
nts.acbl.org/sch
edule.php?tour
id=32076](http://tourname
nts.acbl.org/sch
edule.php?tour
id=32076)



[http://www.gatlinbur
regional.org/](http://www.gatlinbur
regional.org/)

[http://tournaments.a
cbl.org/schedule.php?
tourid=15034](http://tournaments.a
cbl.org/schedule.php?
tourid=15034)



[http://www.dis
trict11bridge.co
m/GNT.html](http://www.dis
trict11bridge.co
m/GNT.html)



[http://www.acbl.org
/tournaments_page/
nabcs/upcoming-
nabcs/kansas-city-
mo-spring-nabc-
2017-march-9-19/](http://www.acbl.org
/tournaments_page/
nabcs/upcoming-
nabcs/kansas-city-
mo-spring-nabc-
2017-march-9-19/)



[http://tournaments.
acbl.org/schedule.ph
p?tourid=24408](http://tournaments.
acbl.org/schedule.ph
p?tourid=24408)

Be sure to check
participating clubs.



[http://www.cincybridge.com/CincinnatiFlyingPigHome
Page.html](http://www.cincybridge.com/CincinnatiFlyingPigHome
Page.html)

[http://tournaments.acbl.org/schedule.php?tourid=325
16](http://tournaments.acbl.org/schedule.php?tourid=325
16)

ACBL-wide Senior Pairs

Date: March 27 2017 (Monday afternoon)

Participating Clubs:

<https://web3.acbl.org/participating-clubs/?game=876>

Restricted to players born prior to January 1, 1959.
(One age-ineligible pair is allowed. The pair is not
eligible for master point awards.)

Masterpoint Awards:

72% sectional-rated black

Overall Awards: 1st, 20; depth of awards, 10 places

District Winners: 1st, 10; depth of awards, 5 places

Winners recognized on website and in the Bridge
Bulletin

**Hand records and analyses provided*

UNIT 124 HOLIDAY PARTY

The Board celebrated the year's success and the reveries of the season at the Holiday Party held Sunday December 11, 2016 at the Cincinnati Bridge Center.

In reviving a cherished tradition, the Board chose to honor Unit Award recipients during the festivities.

Congratulations to Unit 124 Award Winners:



Phyllis Bishop, John Meinking, Mike Purcell

Jerry Steuernagle Award:

Jointly to **Phyllis Bishop and Mike Purcell** for their work to encourage new players to play duplicate bridge, as well as successful innovations in bridge education.

***Jerry Steuernagle** (1940-1971) was one of Cincinnati's most liked and respected bridge players, known particularly for his sense of humor and for always being a gentleman at the bridge table. Since 1972 the Cincinnati Bridge Association has presented the Gerald Steuernagle Award annually to the most outstanding CBA player of the year.*

The Award is based on four factors:

- 1. The nominee's contribution to the promotion of duplicate bridge.*
- 2. The nominee's action in setting high ethical standards.*
- 3. The nominee's compassion, sportsmanship, and sense of humor.*
- 4. The nominee's willingness to help less experienced players.*



John Meinking, Paty Eber, Don Etson

Paty Eber Award –

To **Don Etson** for his untiring and invaluable service to the Cincinnati Bridge Center.

***Paty Eber**, who chaired the very successful (and profitable!) Spring 2000 NABC held here in Cincinnati March 2000. She was also chair of the last NABC that Cincinnati hosted the Spring '94 Queen City Nationals.*

The CBA Board wanted to express their gratitude for Paty's extraordinary service, which went far beyond the scope of any award that the CBA had. Thus The Paty Eber Award was created with Paty being the first recipient. The Paty Eber Award will not be awarded annually, as is traditionally done with other CBA awards, but only when the Board feels that someone has rendered particularly outstanding service to the club. The plaque, which bears a picture of Paty and a description of her contributions, will hang in the CBA Bridge Center. Paty, and each future recipient, will also receive a smaller plaque to take home with them to keep.



John Meinking and Bob Fisk

Nancy Sach's Mentor Award – Bob Fisk for leading the Unit Mentor Program and for extraordinary support teaching new players. Bob has organized countless Bridge with Bob informal learning session, matched countless advancing players with Mentors in a very successful Mentor Program (co-chaired by Barb Levinson) and is expanding his volunteering effort to two weekly sessions of Supervised Bridge on Tuesday and Thursday Afternoons.

Of course there was bridge to be had too! Here are the top results from the Unit Championship Holiday Game. Congratulations to Al and Janet Venosa on their win !!!:

Dir	Pr	Name	Name	Fit	OA	OB	OC	SA	SB	SC	Score	Pct	MPs
NS	10	Al Venosa	Janet Venosa	C	1	1	1	1	1	1	210.25	67.39	3.94(OA)
EW	6	Donald Etson	John Meinking	A	2	.	.	1	.	.	205.87	65.98	2.96(OA)
EW	12	Robert Prosize	Marilyn Prosize	C	3	2	2	2	1	1	196.05	62.84	2.22(OA)
NS	4	Joyce Tedrick	Barry Wauligman	C	4	3	3	2	2	2	194.5	62.34	1.66(OA)
EW	3	Cliff Pleatman	Robert Fisk	A	5	.	.	3	.	.	190.5	61.06	1.25(OA)
EW	7	Herb Schapera	Sheldon Kushner	B	6	4	.	4	2	.	188	60.26	0.93(OA)
NS	16	Lary Klein	Agnes De Lany	A	.	.	.	3	.	.	182.25	58.41	0.84(SA)
NS	8	Arun Goyal	Rachna Goyal	B	.	5	.	4	3	.	180.5	57.85	0.66(OB)
NS	11	A J Stephani	Ryan Schultz	A	.	.	.	5	.	.	179.37	57.49	0.34(SA)
NS	2	Betty Torello	Gloria Over	B	.	6	.	6	4	.	167	53.53	0.50(OB)
EW	8	Peggy Barrett	Pam Campbell	B	.	.	.	5	3	.	163.75	52.48	0.52(SB)
EW	11	Patty Eber	Reeta Brendamour	B	.	.	.	6	4	.	155.9	49.97	0.36(SB)
EW	16	Albert Beaupre	Rob Weidenfeld	B	.	.	.	7	5	.	155.67	49.89	0.24(SA)
EW	13	Larry Newman	Susan Wisner	B	.	.	.	.	.	.	155.3	49.78	
NS	6	Kay Mulford	Loma Davis	A	.	.	.	7	.	.	154.6	49.55	0.24(SA)
EW	10	Stephen Felson	Robert Brown	C	.	.	.	4	.	2	154.5	49.52	0.58(OC)
EW	9	JoAnne Essig	Judy Barron	C	.	.	.	5	.	.	154	49.36	0.44(OC)
NS	5	Arun Gupta	Ambrish Bansal	C	.	.	.	.	.	3	153.5	49.2	0.36(SC)
NS	12	Thomas Mess	Helen Mess	C	.	.	.	.	.	4	152.63	48.92	0.25(SC)
NS	3	Barbara Levinson	Norman Coombs	A	.	.	.	.	.	.	152	48.72	
NS	9	Richard Freiberg	Adrienne Freiberg	C	.	.	.	.	.	.	150.37	48.2	
EW	2	Amy Gerowitz	Jane Duncan	C	.	.	.	.	.	.	149.25	47.84	
EW	17	Joann Katz	Jerry Katz	A	.	.	.	.	.	.	149.13	47.8	
NS	7	Nancy Luetge	Justina Clendening	A	.	.	.	.	.	.	147.21	47.18	
EW	4	Paul Pschesang	Michael Purcell	A	.	.	.	.	.	.	141.13	45.23	
EW	5	Potter Orr	Sanderson Orr	B	.	.	.	.	.	.	136.5	43.75	
NS	1	Pam Heckel	Carol Scovic	C	.	.	.	.	.	.	133.87	42.91	
EW	1	Phyllis Bishop	Susan Hermans	B	.	.	.	.	.	.	130.63	41.87	
NS	15	Deborah Cumming	Michael Lipp	A	.	.	.	.	.	.	128.46	41.17	
NS	17	Joan Mehl	Linda Woodham	C	.	.	.	.	.	.	125.34	40.17	
NS	13	Patrick Hoffman	Nalin Mehta	C	.	.	.	.	.	.	124.75	39.98	
EW	15	James Jacobson	Leonard Kanterman	C	.	.	.	.	.	.	123.5	39.58	
NS	14	Patricia Burnam	Liz Lin	C	.	.	.	.	.	.	113	36.22	
EW	14	Joanne Earls	Judith Lubow	C	.	.	.	.	.	.	104.75	33.57	

Thanks to all who volunteered to make the Holiday Celebration so much fun.

2017 Indianapolis Crossroads of America Regional

January 30 - February 5 - 2017
Wyndham Indianapolis West
2544 Executive Drive

Wonderful playing site Evening hospitality
Onsite restaurant FREE airport shuttle
FREE parking FREE Wi-Fi
FREE 24 hour business and fitness centers

MONDAY January 30th

Indy GOLD RUSH Charity Pairs (2 sessions)	1:30	7:00
Indy A/B/C Open Charity Pairs (2 sessions)	1:30	7:00
Circle City Bracketed KO Teams (1/2 of 4)	1:30	7:00
Single Session Stratified Charity Swiss		7:00

TUESDAY January 31st

**Rise 'n Shine Side Series (1 of 5)	9:30	
Early Bird Bracketed KO Teams (1 of 4)	9:30	
299er Pairs	9:30	1:30
Capitol City Open Pairs (2 sessions)		1:30 7:00
Circle City Bracketed KO Teams (3/4 of 4)		1:30 7:00
Compact KO Teams (1/2)		1:30 7:00
Tuesday Single Session Stratified Swiss		7:00
After Dinner Side Series (1 of 3)		7:00
Newcomers 0-20 Pairs (FREE)		7:00

WEDNESDAY February 1st

**Rise 'n Shine Side Series (2 of 5)	9:30	
Early Bird Bracketed KO Teams (2 of 4)	9:30	
Afternoon Side Series (1 of 4)		1:30
Hoosier GOLD RUSH Pairs (2 sessions)		1:30 7:00
Hoosier A/B/C Open Pairs (2 sessions)		1:30 7:00
Crossroads Bracketed KO Teams (1/2 of 4)		1:30 7:00
Wednesday Single Session Stratified Swiss		7:00
After Dinner Side Series (2 of 3)		7:00

THURSDAY February 2nd

** Rise 'n Shine Side Series (3 of 5)	9:30	
Early Bird Bracketed KO Teams (3 of 4)	9:30	
Thurs/Fri Morning Compact KOs (1 of 2)	9:30	
Afternoon Side Series (2 of 4)		1:30
Mid-week GOLD RUSH		
Swiss Teams (2 sessions)		1:30 7:00
Mid-week ABC		
Swiss Teams (2 sessions)		1:30 7:00
Crossroads Bracketed KO Teams (3/4 of 4)		1:30 7:00
After Dinner Side Series (3 of 3)		7:00

FRIDAY February 3rd

**Rise 'n Shine Side Series (4 of 5)	9:30	
Early Bird Bracketed KO Teams (4 of 4)	9:30	
Thurs/Fri Morning Compact KOs (2 of 2)	9:30	
Afternoon Side Series (3 of 4)		1:30
Open Pairs (2 sessions)		1:30 7:00
Weekend Bracketed KO Teams (1/2 of 4)		1:30 7:00
299er Pairs (Single sessions)		1:30 7:00
Friday Evening Stratified Swiss		7:00

SATURDAY February 4th

**Rise 'n Shine Side Series (5 of 5)	9:30	
AM Single Session Swiss	9:30	
0-20 Pairs FREE	9:30	
199er Pairs	9:30	
Afternoon Side Series (4 of 4)		1:30
Weekend Bracketed KO Teams (3/4 of 4)		1:30 7:00
White River GOLD RUSH Pairs (2 sessions)		1:30 7:00
White River A/B/C Pairs (2 sessions)		1:30 7:00
Saturday Evening Stratified Swiss		7:00

SUNDAY February 5th

Stratified Swiss (2 sessions)	9:30 (play through)
A 3000+, A/X 0-3000	
D 0-500, C 500-1000, B 1000-2000	

Food available at playing site

FOR RESERVATIONS

THE EARLIER YOU RESERVE, THE MORE YOU'LL SAVE!

Until December 15, 2016

\$95 plus tax (includes 2 breakfast coupons daily)

After December 15 (depending upon availability)

\$105 plus tax (includes 2 breakfast coupons daily)

NOTE: Reservations for the Wyndham must be made by phone to ensure tournament discount!!!

REQUEST CENTRAL INDIANA BRIDGE ASSN. RATE

1-317-248-2481 or 1-877-361-4511

From I-70 (east of Indianapolis): Take I-70 through Indianapolis to Sam Jones Expressway (located on the southwest side of Indianapolis.) Merge onto Sam Jones Expressway and exit at Executive Drive.

From I-70 (west of Indianapolis): Take I-70 east to I-465 North to Sam Jones Expressway. Merge onto Sam Jones Expressway and exit at Executive Drive.

Strata determined by average masterpoints. Games with upper limit on points restricted to players who do not exceed that limit.

**Pay a full entry for a Rise 'n Shine side game and receive a \$5 non-transferable coupon for your next Rise 'n Shine side game.

KOs, Compact KOs or Swiss Team events offered daily.

Non Life Master Events: Gold Rush (M, W, Th, S); Newcomers (0-20 - Free Games Tuesday and Saturday); 299er pairs (Tuesday and Friday); 199er pairs (Saturday)

Session Charge: \$13 per session. Add \$4 surcharge if not an ACBL member.

Youth Bridge Players Welcome - Free games on Tues. and Sat. for 0-20 MPs. All other youth players with ACBL membership play for \$7.00 per session.

District 11 regulations for Regional Events

- KO events may be handicapped
- Open events w/o Gold Rush: C 0-750 B 750-2000 A 2000+
- Gold Rush/ABC Pairs and Gold Rush/ABCswiss: GR: 0-100 100-300 300-750 & ABC Pairs: C 0-1500 B 1500-3000 A 3000+
- ACBL Mid-Chart allowed in top bracket of KO and Flight A events

Co-Chairs:

Liz Brown	317-250-7922	lab1613@aol.com
Maribeth Ransel	317-649-0866	marjoeransel@live.com

Partnership Chairs

Sheila Baker	317-437-5458	bakers7935@att.net
Peggy Kramer	317-727-0009	margaretkramer@ymail.com

Sponsored by the
CENTRAL INDIANA
BRIDGE ASSOCIATION



Zero Tolerance Observed

2017 Cincinnati Flying Pig Regional: Hog Heaven

Two-Day Flying Pig Pairs Championship!

Ramada Plaza Sharonville

June 5-11, 2017

	10:00AM	2:30PM	7:30PM
Monday June 5		Pro Am Pairs* (reservation required – see details in sidebar) Open Pairs Side Series I*	Pig Out KO (Round 1) Open Fast Pairs Evening Side Series I
Tuesday June 6	Hog Wild Gold Rush Pairs (2 sessions) Hog Wild Open Pairs (2 sessions)		Pig in Mud Evening KO (Round 1) Pig Out KO (Round 4) Open Fast Pairs Evening Side Series I NLM Pairs
	Miss Piggy KO (Round 1) Pig Out KO (Round 2) Open Pairs Side Series I 199er Pairs	Miss Piggy KO (Round 2) Pig Out KO (Round 3) Open Pairs Side Series I Piglet Single Session Swiss	
Wednesday June 7	Road Hog Gold Rush Swiss Teams (2 sessions) Road Hog Open Swiss Teams (2 sessions)		Pig in Mud Evening KO (Round 2) Hogwash Horizontal Swiss (Round 1) Open Fast Pairs Evening Side Series I
	Miss Piggy KO (Round 3) Open Pairs Side Series II NLM Pairs	Miss Piggy KO (Round 4) Open Pairs Side Series II NLM Pairs	
Thursday June 8	Pig in a Poke Gold Rush Pairs (2 sessions) Pig in a Poke Open Pairs (2 sessions)		Pig in Mud Evening KO (Round 3) Hogwash Horizontal Swiss (Round 2) Open Fast Pairs Evening Side Series II NLM Pairs
	Baby Back KO (Round 1) Open Pairs Side Series II 199er Pairs	Baby Back KO (Round 2) Open Pairs Side Series II Piglet Single Session Swiss	
Friday June 9	Igpay Atlinlay Gold Rush Swiss Teams Igpay Atlinlay Open Swiss Teams (2 sessions)		Pig in Mud Evening KO (Round 4) Open Fast Pairs Evening Side Series II
	Baby Back KO (Round 3) Open Pairs Side Series III NLM Pairs	Baby Back KO (Round 4) Open Pairs Side Series III NLM Pairs	
Saturday June 10	Flying Pig Pairs Championship (2 Session Qualifying) Flying Pig Gold Rush Pairs (2 sessions) Three Little Pigs Open Swiss Teams (2 sessions)		Open Fast Pairs Evening Side Series II
	Open Pairs Side Series III 199er Pairs	Open Pairs Side Series III NLM Pairs	
Sunday June 11	Flying Pig Pairs Championship (2 Session Final) Hog Heaven Stratiflighted Swiss Teams (2 session playthrough)		Swiss Teams in Red NLM Events in Blue * Charity Game - Championship Rated

♥ **Tournament Highlights** ♥

New Location!

Great Rooms @ \$79/Night at Playing Site
Easy Access to I-75 and I-275
Wine and Cheese Hospitality Daily
Only Two-Day Championship Pairs Event in the Midwest

♠ **Tournament Chair** ♠

A.J. Stephani
ajstephani@gmail.com
(513) 313-0488

♦ **Partnerships** ♦

Steve Messinger
smessinger9063@gmail.com
(513) 441-8858

♣ **Pro Am Pairs** ♣

Reserve by June 1
Margaret Young
margyoung@msn.com
(513) 284-5731

♥ **Hotel Information** ♥

Ramada Plaza
11320 Chester Road
(513) 771-2080
\$79/Night Double or King All Week Long
Ask for "Flying Pig" or "Bridge Tournament" Rate
Reserve by May 15, 2017



Newly Crowned Life Masters Are Engraved on our Pigasus Trophy!

Stratifications

- ♥ Open Pairs & Side Games (w/o Gold Rush): 0-750/750-2000/2000+
 - ♣ Open Pairs & Swiss (with Gold Rush): 0-1500/1500-3000/3000+
 - ♦ Gold Rush Pairs & Swiss: 0-100/100-300/300-750
 - ♠ Stratiflighted Swiss: B/C/D 750-1500/300-750/0-300 A/X 3000+/0-3000
- All events stratified by average MPs
All players in events with upper MP limit must be under limit
KO events may be handicapped



More Info: cincybridge.com

Two-Day Flying Pig Pairs Championship Saturday-Sunday
Our Famous T-Shirt Prize Desk



Attention Intermediate Players! Looking to Bid Your Wednesday Slams?



We've Got a Home for You!

Cincinnati Bridge Center

<1000MP Duplicate 11:00AM

Begins March 1

Homestyle Game on Regular Schedule



Questions or Need a Partner?
Call Mike Lipp at 513-467-8054 or
lippmichael@gmail.com
Standby Available