



# **THE WINNING FINESSE**

Volume 17 Number 4 Website: <http://d16acbl.org/U172>

October, 2008

## **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE** *by Ed Rawlinson*

A big thank-you goes to **Olivia Brown** and **Becky Mosely** for hosting the recent Luau. There was a big turnout, and a good time was had by all. Well, almost all. The only minor problem occurred when it came time for the awarding of the Luau's most coveted prize, the Tiki fertility idol. This year's winner, Dr. Ira Hessel, declined the traditional opportunity to take the idol home for a year. He was later heard to remark "Why would I need it?...They should name it after me...They don't even post the winners on the website." The latter two comments are well-taken and will be considered by the Board.

Speaking of the Board, the annual elections are coming up (see articles), and another big thank-you goes to outgoing Board members **Helen McCrae** and **Sherry Johnson-DiBaggio**. Both have been extremely hard workers and outstanding Board members.

Congratulations to **Ira and Ellen Hessel**, who were honored at the recent Dallas Regional as recipients of the Oswald and James Jacoby Service Award, given by District 16 (covers most of Texas and all of Mexico) to individuals who provide exemplary service to the District and its members. Ira and Ellen are co-editors of the Scorecard. Ira and Ellen have also been co-editors of the Winning Finesse, our Unit newsletter. Both are major responsibilities. Their investment of time and hard work plus the quality product are deeply appreciated.

Kudos also go to **Darlene Riely** and **Greg Hinze**, each of whom became an Emerald Life Master. This ranking requires 7500 master points, which puts them into the top seven among Unit 172's 661 members.

On a sadder note, San Antonio bridge lost a most gracious lady with the passing of **Barbara Parker**. Barbara was a former owner of Alamo Bridge Club and was responsible for recruiting and nurturing scores of beginning bridge players. In 1995, she was the first winner of the Texas Star Award for Unit 172. This award is sponsored by District 16 and is awarded by each Unit annually to a member for exemplary service to the Unit and its members. Over the years, the winners represent an honor roll of volunteerism and service. To be selected as the first winner reflects a special recognition which was well-deserved by Barbara.

At the recent Annual Membership Meeting (at the Luau), an annual financial report was provided. The format of the meeting was not conducive to extended discussion (everyone was ready to play bridge), but a member subsequently sent in a question about why the Unit's bank balance had decreased significantly over the past year. The basic answer is that the Unit's primary source of revenue is the Regional Tournament held in July of odd-numbered years. So the balance peaks after the regional then declines for two years. Sectional tournaments sometimes make money, but usually do not. We receive about \$2000 annually in dues reimbursement from ACBL. On the other hand, we conduct six Unit games annually (at a cost of approximately \$1500 each), publish a directory biannually, publish newsletters for 660 members 4-5 times annually, and purchase supplies and equipment. The past several regionals have produced \$14K to \$18K in revenue. The message from the membership has historically been to reduce the Unit's balance and apply the funds to member benefits. The primary response of the Board to this has been to make Unit games free and to increase the prize budget for Unit games. The number of unit games was also increased by two. So, six units games per year at a cost of \$1500 equals 18K over two years. That alone equals or exceeds the revenue from the regional. We anticipate another boost with the 2009 regional, but the trend, as requested by membership, is to gradually reduce the balance. The Treasurer provides a monthly report, which is posted to the Unit website. We will also begin posting a copy on the Unit Bulletin Board at the commercial clubs.

## **QUARTERLY CALENDAR**

Sept. 27	Unit North American Pairs Final at Turtle Creek DBC-10 & TBA
Oct. 10-13	Willson Davis, Jr. Election Sectional at Turtle Creek DBC
Dec. 6	Christmas Party at Bridge Club of San Antonio-11:30 Food & Prizes; 12:30 Bridge
Dec. 11-14	Holiday Sectional at Bridge Club of San Antonio

## ELECTION OF BOARD MEMBERS

The terms of four members of the Unit 172 Board of Directors (Sherry Johnson DiBaggio, Helen McCrae, Olivia Brown, and Ed Rawlinson) are expiring. Six candidates are running for the four positions. Their statements/bios are shown below:

**Kenyon Daniel** - Native of Mobile, Alabama; moved to Texas in 1968; resident of San Antonio since October 2006; Bachelor Degrees in Finance and Nursing; Public School Nursing from 1995 to 2006; served on PTO Boards and Neighborhood Boards during the 1980's and 1990's; Duplicate Bridge Player since 2006



**Jeri Tribo** - Bridge is my passion. I would play the game every day if I could. When I was attending UCLA, I would watch the seniors in my sorority play, and when they were really desperate for a fourth, they would invite this beginner to fill in. During my husband's Air Force career and in between various jobs of my own, I played party bridge. After I retired from teaching, I started to play duplicate bridge when the Turtle Creek Club was located at the Church. Since then, I took the Director's course at the Reno NABC in 2004 and have been directing invitational games on alternate Fridays at Fair Oaks Ranch Country Club and Tapatio. I am a certified bridge teacher too, and taught a group of 4th grade GT students in an after school program at Blattman Elementary. This past year I made Life Master and am a few points away from making Bronze. If elected to the Board, I will be happy to represent my area of Unit 172 and give back to a game that has given me so much pleasure.



**Everette Lewis** - After graduating from high school, I spent six years in the U. S. Navy serving on diesel and nuclear submarines. Next, I attended and graduated from SACC(AA) and the University of Texas (BA&BS). After having taught Texas, American and World History; Computer Literacy; P.E.; Skills for Adolescents; and Girl's Athletics in Texas public schools for over twenty years, I retired. I have been playing bridge teacher and club director. What I have brought to the Board of Directors in the past is willingness to help out and to be fair and impartial, acting on what I believe is in the best interest in the members of the unit. Thank you very much.



**Olivia Ann Brown** – Entrepreneur. Born, raised and educated in San Antonio. Husband had a medical practice in the Hill Country..Owned and operated a motel, owned a working ranch, employed by Burnet Consolidated School District (Migrant Co-ordinator). Taught Spanish in the elementary. I have always been interested in early child care. Moved 10 years ago back to San Antonio (after husband died.) Presently married. I have volunteered with the San Antonio Housing Authority in the nutrition program for senior citizens..Past Pres. of Northside Bridge Club for (2) years .Present President of Hospitality Club (both Clubs have over 200 members.) Bexar County Election Judge. Hobbies: grandchildren, reading, scuba diving and playing bridge (both) duplicate and rubber. If elected I will help the District 172 with any position that needs help.



**Ed Rawlinson** - I have served on the Board for the past six years, including the last two as President. We have an excellent Board comprised of hard workers who get along well. There are excellent candidates who, I'm sure, will serve in the same manner. Managing the Unit means conducting Regional and Sectional tournaments, Unit Games, the GNT, the NAOP, mentor programs and communication programs. It takes years to learn what needs to be done (I'm still learning). I'm running again because I believe my experience will be useful.



**Mike Huiatt** - I started playing bridge at age 8, took up duplicate in 1965, became a certified director in 1968, then gave up duplicate for 35 years to raise a family and pursue my career as a CPA in a corporate environment. After retirement I took up duplicate again in 2004, becoming a LM at the end of 2005. Since retirement I have started a duplicate game at Fair Oak Ranch and in the mountains of Colorado. One of my hobbies is traveling to a couple of new locations each year to attend either a Regional or a Sectional. If elected I will do what is required to support and promote duplicate bridge, Unit 172 and the ACBL



### **2008 Voting Schedule and Locations**

Sunday, Sept. 28	Gonzales, afternoon
Tuesday, Sept. 30	New Braunfels, afternoon
Thursday, Oct. 2	Karnes City, evening
Friday, Oct. 3	Kerrville, afternoon
Monday, Oct. 6	Turtle Creek, afternoon & evening
Wednesday, Oct. 8	Bridge Club of San Antonio, afternoon
Friday, Oct. 10	Election Sectional, afternoon & evening
Saturday, Oct. 11	Election Sectional, afternoon & evening
Sunday, Oct. 12	Election Sectional, afternoon

## **UNIT NAOP FINALS**

The Unit Finals for the North American Open Pairs was held at Turtle Creek on Sept. 27. Participants had to qualify at club games held in the summer. Twenty-eight tables showed up to compete for the right to play in the District 16 Finals in Austin in January. The top three pairs in the District competition qualify to play in the National Finals in Houston in March.

Flight A played in a separate section (there were reliable reports that some asked “Why do we have to play with all these A players?”) In this tough field, **Carolyn Riely-Carole Lee O’Connor** won the two-session event, followed by **Miraim Dolan-David Mitchell**, **Carol Price-Sally Armstrong**, **Rosalie Ribnik-LaNelle Strickland**, and **Ellen & Ira Hessel**.

Flight B winners were **Howard Frederick-Bill Scarpero**, followed by **Daniel Blaettler-Tom Trudeau**, **Gool Castleberry-Janelle McArthur**, **Brian Bankler-Betsy Berg**, and **Toni Reinhart-Nadine Reineck**. **Gool & Janelle** also won Flight C, followed by **Charles O’Neill-Grant Coon**, **Pattie Thompson-Nora Scott**, **Sherill Harris-Andrea Williams**, and **Stephen & Judi Hoffman**.

The event was free, courtesy of Unit 172. The Unit also pays the entries of those who play in the District Finals and the National Finals. Everyone was well-fed, thanks to co-hosts **Linda Lawrence**, **Jay Thorne**, and **Ed Rawlinson**.

## **MEMBERSHIP MATTERS** by Helen McCrae

Thanks in part to our fine bridge teachers and pleasant bridge clubs, Unit 172 continues to grow with new members, transfers, and interest in the game...as evidenced by the latest member achievements in the master-point rankings.

**JUNIOR MASTER (5+)** - Barbara Thigpen, James Thigpen, Sue Blackwell, Candy Cheney, Harriet Held, Barbara Morgan, Virginia Allison, Carrol Fournier, Michael Gershman, Nanci Perkins.

**CLUB MASTER (20+)** - Marcia Pandjiris, Cynthia Schwarz, Diane Fisher, Stephen Hoffman, Joanne Kaplan, Edward Reese, Carol Ellis, Karen Fillis, Judith Hoffman.

**SECTIONAL MASTER (50+)** - Jacquelyn Fisher, James Babich, Tessa Bodnar.

**REGIONAL MASTER (100+)** - Kenyon Daniel, Susan Hernandez, Beth Gale.

**NABC MASTER (200+)** - Betty Knaggs, Eugene Haddock, Andrea Williams.

**LIFE MASTER (300+)** - Linda Garrett, Grant Coon, Tony Di Baggio, Clifford Jensen, Sherry Johnson, Linda Lawrence, Connie Matz, Susan Ohm, Verlyn Stahlecker.

**BRONZE LIFE MASTER (500+)** - Jeri Tribo, Paula Wissman, Tony Bi Baggio, Janet Huiatt, Clifford Jensen, Sherry Johnson, Linda Lawrence, Susan Ohm, Pat Prichard.

**SILVER LIFE MASTER (1000+)** - Jeri Martin, Aviva Lebovitz

**GOLD LIFE MASTER (2500 +)** - Marilyn Charlson

**EMERALD LIFE MASTER (7500 +)** - Greg Hinze, Darlene Riely.

Congratulations to all!

\*\*\*Please note that Life Master requirements will INCREASE as of January 1, 2010. (See current issue of SCORECARD.) The change will not affect current ACBL members who maintain their membership in good standing.

Please welcome the following new ACBL members: Margaret Hestilow, Betty Lou Sheerin, Abbie Weaver, Georgia Baron, Louis Cantu, Nancy Dewar, Nancee Manning, Bob Stiedel, Ann Weaver.

Unit 172 also welcomes the following transfers: David Herron, Bobbe Barnes, James Booker, Mark Kennedy, Barbara Keyser, Carolyn Lux, Gwen Sharp, Joe Wine.

## **DIRECTORY CHANGES**

Richard B. Curtin; 764-1800

Beverly Barnum; 497-2429

Stephen & Judy Hoffman; 1727 Morgan's Creek; SATX, 78230; 492-0827

David Herron; 8346 Settlers Peak, Boerne, TX 78015; 505-292-7711

Ann Whitt; 836-627-9760

John Grant; 826-8404

Nancy Goldbeck; 830-755-4496

Mildred Stewart; 677-0801

### **CARE & COMFORT**

Members are reminded to please notify Carmeline Squires at 658-0249 with information on the illness or death of Unit 172 members.

### **BOARD MEETINGS**

Unit Board meetings are held at 5 p.m. on the second Tuesday of each month at Turtle Creek Duplicate Bridge Club. Members are invited and welcome to attend.

## GONZALES HONORS KAY KARNAU AND LINDA GARRETT!!

Players who live in San Antonio have access to local bridge clubs on a daily basis, where they can win 3 or 4 master points just by winning a club game which may have over 20 tables. They also have easy access to several tournaments a year. For those members who live in small towns, the bridge club meets once a week and 6 tables would be a big game. Tournaments are out-of-town and expensive. Players from small towns who achieve Life Master status at the very least should be recognized as Life Master summa cum laude. The Gonzales Bridge Club recently honored **Kay Karnau** and **Linda Garrett** with presentation of their Life Master pins and a party attended by friends from Karnes City, Kenedy, Nixon, New Braunfels, Campbellton, and Gonzales. Congratulations to Kay and Linda.

## FUNNY THINGS HAPPEN AT THE BRIDGE TABLE (Note: Parental Discretion Advised).

At a recent club game, I came to the table where **Marilyn Arnold** and **Jo Grabow** were North-South. While she was dummy on the first board, Jo was munching on a sandwich. A chunk broke off and fell down her blouse. She giggled and squirmed. She reached down her blouse to no avail. She reached up her blouse from the waist, again to no avail. Finally, Marilyn said, "Ed, why don't you help her out." I'm sorry to report that I could only respond with a laugh and a blush. Jo, obviously alarmed, managed to get the morsel out.

### TALES FROM NEW BRAUNFELS

Several interesting hands or good stories occurred at the recent New Braunfels tournament...

## VIRTUE IS ITS OWN REWARD, EXCEPT IN DUPLICATE BRIDGE

Anyone who has been playing bridge for a while has experienced the frustration of making the right bid or play, only to get a bad score, while the players who didn't do the right thing get good scores. For example, one pair stays out of a 28-point game that everyone else bids, but gets a top because bad breaks or unlucky card placement sink the game. **Carol Price** bid to a good slam which had no losers outside of the trump suit. She held AK1098xx opposite a small singleton, with the lead in dummy. Obviously, the concern is about cashing the AK and having QJxx onside. However, if you finesse the 10, you go down when LHO had the stiff Q or J. So what's the right play? Well, you "count" the possible singletons. There are three possible small card singletons and two possible honor singletons. Thus, the finesse works 60% of the time and loses 40% of the time. Carol made the right play by finessing, but paid off to a stiff Jack. Another case...

♠-	N	E	S	W	Looking at both hands, I would want to be in 7♦. Unfortunately, West had all three diamonds and a singleton club. So being in the "best" contract wasn't worth much.
♥-A	2♣	P	2♦	P	
♦-AKJxxx	3♦	P	3♠	P	
♣-AKxxxx	6♣	P	7♦	All Pass	
♠-A10xxx					
♥-Jx					
♦-98xx					
♣-Jx					

## PARTNER PASSES YOUR TAKEOUT DOUBLE FOR PENALTY. WHAT'S NEXT??

The rule of thumb is that you should lead a trump. The reason is that partner should have better trumps than declarer. You are trying to pull declarer's small trumps before he uses them to trump your side suit winners. For example, if the bidding goes 1♥-X-P to you, and you hold Kx/Q10xxx/Kxx/xxx, you should not consider passing. Just bid 1NT. Holding xxx/QJxxx/xxx/xx, bid 1♠. You're not happy about this, but you don't have the strength to pass or bid 1NT. However, if you hold xxx/KQJ108/Kxx/xx, you should be happy to pass. You definitely want your partner to lead a trump. Occasionally, you may encounter a hand (see below) where you question the rule, but remember the principle that you are trying to prevent declarer from getting ruffs with small trumps.

♠-Q1098642 ♥-832 ♦-104 ♣-9				<p>South leads a trump. Declarer cashes 3 heart winners (pitching the ♦9) and then leads the ♥5. North trumps with the 8 to prevent East from trumping small. East might overruff or discard a diamond, but NS can limit EW to six tricks (3 hearts &amp; the A, K, &amp; J of spades) as long as they don't give East a chance to trump diamonds. Suppose East overruffs and leads a club. South should figure out the North and East distributions. First, East had 2 diamonds (if he had only 1, he would have ruffed a diamond rather than leading the fourth heart). Thus, North has 2 diamonds. North has shown 3 hearts &amp; therefore has 8 cards in spades &amp; clubs. Since (if) East may well have a 4-card spade suit, North may have 7 spades and 1 club. Thus, South should rise with the ♣A to prevent East from getting a trick to which he is not entitled. Then give North a club ruff. North will lead a high trump, get back in with subsequent club ruffs, and eventually pull East's small trumps.</p>
♠-A		♠-KJ75		
♥-AKQ5		♥-64		
♦-Q8762		♦-J9		
♣-K108		♣-Q5432		
		♠-3		
		♥-J1097		
		♦-AK53		
		♣-AJ76		
N	E	S	W	
			1♦	
P	1♠	X	All Pass	

### AT LEAST ONE CRIME WAS PUNISHED!!

♠-Q10873 ♥-97 ♦-1086 ♣-K104				<p>NS had about 10,000 master points. EW were in Flight C. South's double was lead-directing, although why he would believe that was desirable, given the strength behind him, is a mystery. Perhaps it was attributable to his indigestion. West's pass was reasonable; his partner would have a chance to describe his hand. East's pass was either coolly calculated or divinely inspired. When the smoke cleared, East made 2 and scored +670. While indigestion is not normally infectious, it was noted that North began to experience its symptoms.</p>
♠-AKJ9		♠-4		
♥-K105		♥-J86		
♦-AK2		♦-QJ943		
♣-AQ5		♣-8732		
		♠-652		
		♥-AQ432		
		♦-75		
		♣-J96		
N	E	S	W	
			2♣	
P	2♥*	X	All Pass	
*Negative				

## NORMAN'S THEORY CONFIRMED!!

**Norman Caruthers**, during a long and illustrious bridge career, has developed some remarkable theories about the game. For example, some players like to sit in a certain position (e. g., South). Norman's preference depends on whether he believes he is the stronger player or his partner. This is based on his theory that the stronger player should always sit North or East. His rationale is that, if 26 boards are in play, North and East are the dealer 7 times, while South and West are the dealer 6 times. He believes (perhaps correctly) that the dealer has an advantage because he has the chance to bid first. At any rate, Norman and partner started at a table where **Rich Lampman** was North and **Betty Jo Bettersworth** was South. Norman directed his partner where to sit, and, since time permitted, explained his theory to Rich and Betty Jo. When the game started, Rich (perhaps influenced by Norman's theory) opened the bidding with 1♣ (out of turn). The director was called. He ruled that Betty Jo had to pass at every opportunity. So Betty Jo passed, Norman passed, and Rich tried 3NT. After Rich made 5, Betty Jo's comment to Norman was, "Well, I wasn't sure about your theory, but now I can see that North really does have more opportunities to open the bidding."

## BILL WALKER BEHAVES IN AN EXCLUSIONARY MANNER!!

♠-Q1042	N	E	S	W	Exclusionary Blackwood is a convention to ask for aces (or key cards, if you prefer) <b>outside</b> of a specific suit. You use the convention by making an unusual jump to the five level in the suit you are "excluding". This hand illustrates its purpose. If you use regular Blackwood or regular Roman Key Card Blackwood by bidding 4NT and partner shows one ace, you won't know whether it's the ♣A (useless) or the ♦A (very useful). The bid asks for aces (or key cards) outside of your void suit. <b>Bill Walker</b> used the convention here to get to an excellent slam.
♥-J10			1♦	P	
♦-A1084	1♠	2♥	5♣*	P	
♣-K106	5♦**P	6♠	All Pass		
♠-AJ98	*Exclusionary Key Card				
♥-AK73	Blackwood				
♦-KQJ92	**1 or 4 Key Cards				
♣-					

## A Flannery Triumph *by Ira Hessel*

During the mixed Board-A-Match at the recent Nationals in Las Vegas I chanced to pick up three to the 10, void, AKQ542, and four to the 8, vulnerable vs. not. I ventured 2D. My left hand opponent overcalled 2S and my partner offered 3D. After a Blackwood inquiry they were soon in 6S. I happily doubled counting on my favorite partner to lead her longest side suit which was-- -- -- -- -- clubs. The opponents had no need to bid their 10 card fit. The declarer, who won the event, was kind enough to immediately note how unlucky we were. Expecting a push I was a tad disappointed to find that the World Champions in the other room were playing Flannery; so when 6S was doubled the diamonds were unbid. When that partner led the highest card from their longest suit it was ————-the diamond Jack. Well when the dummy hit and he held the lead he worked out the shift. Hmmm-I wonder if my partner had led the H I would have had the fortitude to underlead the diamond stack???

The Winning Finesse  
c/o Ira and Ellen Hessel  
2826 Barrel Oak  
San Antonio, TX 78231

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# Willson Davis, Jr. Election Sectional October 10-13, 2008

**Friday, October 10**  
1 p.m. Stratified Open Pairs  
1 p.m. 299er Pairs  
7 p.m. Stratified IMP Pairs

**Saturday, October 11**  
9:00 a.m. 1 p.m. and 7 p.m.  
KO Teams (0-1500 and "Pro-Am"\*)  
1 p.m. Stratified Open Pairs  
1 p.m. 199er Pairs  
7 p.m. Stratified Open Pairs

**Sunday, October 12**  
1 p.m. Stratified Open Pairs  
1 p.m. 299er Pairs  
7 p.m. Stratified Barometer Pairs

**Monday, October 13**  
10:30 a.m. & TBA Strati-flighted  
Swiss Teams  
meal between sessions

**Tournament Chair**  
Marilyn Arnold 210.273.1128

**Partnership Chair**  
Donna Watkins 210-355-2724

**Hospitality Chair**  
Olivia Brown 210-494 1877

**Card Fees:**  
\$10/person/session  
\$88/Swiss Team  
Unpaid and non-ACBL members plus \$1

**Stratifications:**  
A 2000+ B 500-2000 C 0-500  
299er & 199er by director.  
"Pro-Am" KO teams No more than 2 players with 2000+ MP

**Nearby lodging:**  
Homegate Hotel, 11221 San Pedro Ave, San Antonio, TX, 78216, 1-866-502-5970, \$56 per night and is 3.4 miles from The Club.  
Hilton San Antonio Airport (210) 340-6060 611 NW Loop 410, San Antonio, TX 78216 \$129 per night and is 1.4 miles away from The Club.