



THE WINNING FINESSE

Volume 18 Number 5

Website: <http://d16acbl.org/U172>

Oct, 2009



President's Message *by Everette Lewis*

Congratulations to Marilyn Arnold and Donna Watkins on the successful 299er tournament the last weekend of August. A total of 36 tables participated.

For those that qualified for the NAOP in any of the myriad games at the TCDBC, BCSA, or any of the outlying clubs in our unit, the unit final will be held at 10:00 a.m., October 3rd at the TCDBC. There are three stratifications for the game: Flight A is 2000+, Flight B is 500-2000, and Flight C is 0-500. The total number of your masterpoints as of June 6th will be used to determine your stratification. If you qualified and wish to play with a player in a stratification higher than your own, you may do so. There will be no 299er game as they will be included in Flight C. This game is a great experience for newer players. It's also free. You can check with Donna Watkins or Marilyn Arnold to find out if you qualified at the TCDBC or me to find out if you qualified at the BCSA. I know many of you qualified and don't know it.

The following Friday will mark the beginning of the Election Sectional at the TCDBC, October 9th-12th. A schedule of when you can vote at the clubs can be found elsewhere in this *Winning Finesse*. The schedule for the tournament can be found in the last *Winning Finesse*.

The Fall Sectional of the Bridge Club of San Antonio will take place November 12th-15th at the BCSA. The Holiday Party will take place December 12th at the BCSA.

Quarterly Calendar

- Sept 24 New Braunfels Sectional at
The New Braunfels Civic Center
- Oct 3 North American Pairs Unit
Finals 10:30 2 sessions
at Turtle Creek DBC
- Oct 9-12 Willson Davis Election Sectional
at Turtle Creek DBC
- Nov 12-15 Fall Sectional at the BCSA
- Dec 12th Holiday Party at the BCSA.

Unit Games

In addition to the NAOP Unit Finals discussed in the President's Message, the Holiday Party will be held at the BCSA Saturday, December 12th. The hosts will be Kay Laird, David Mitchell, and Pat Prichard. Don't forget, **it's free**; so everybody come and have a good time.

Voting Schedule at Clubs

You can vote at the following clubs on the days listed: Kerrville, Friday, October 2nd; Gonzales, Sunday, October 4th; Turtle Creek, Monday, October 5th; New Braunfels, Tuesday, October 6th; BCSA, Wednesday, October 7th; or Karnes City, Thursday, October 8th. Of course, you can wait until the Election Sectional at the TCDBC, Friday through Sunday, October 9th - 12th. Choose four of the nine candidates. Candidate bios are on pages 2-3

Luau *by Everette Lewis*

The Luau was a great success. Including six and a half tables in the 299ers' section, 38 and a half tables participated. Olivia Brown, Ed Rawlinson, and Paula Wissman did a great job in hosting. Winners were Ira and Ellen Hessel in Flight A, Paula Wissman and Forrest Gray in Flight B, Carole Lee O'Connor and Fran Vanecko in Flight C, and Ann Weaver and Toshi Nobe in the 299ers.

The only business addressed at the annual membership meeting was the approval of the slate of candidates for the new members of the Board of Directors, 2009.

Jodie McMahon

A native San Antonian, having attended Incarnate Word from the first grade through college, I've recycled back after a 40 year hiatus. Almost a Gold Life Master, I'm a certified ACBL teacher and have taught on cruise ships for the last 15 years. I've also participated in the mentor/mentee program in the past and at present.



I served on the Board of Directors for the Jackson, MS unit for four years and as President for two. I am an ally for the novices, and generally try and help people remember this is a game. I encourage the success of both bridge clubs, bringing an objectivity to which I feel all board members should aspire.

Forrest Gray

I'm 56 years old and have been married 25 years to my non-bridge playing wife. Fortunately, she understands my love of the game. My current occupation is Accounting Manager. My professional certifications are Certified Public Accountant (CPA), Certified Management Accountant (CMA), and Certified in Financial Management (CFM). I still work full-time (and then some), which will limit the amount of time I can dedicate to this position. I currently serve as treasurer of Alamo City Team Tennis, a position I've held since 1999.



I started playing duplicate bridge about 1970 while still in high school. In about 1992, I achieved the rank of Bronze Life Master. Following a 16-year hiatus raising kids, I started playing again about once a week last October; but would like to play more.

Fran Vanecko

After living on one coast, then the other, and in between, my husband's job brought us to San Antonio five years ago. I played bridge for several years in the 1980s, then took a 'break' to raise our family. Finding a bridge club and a bridge family helped make San Antonio feel like home. I am privileged to fulfill an unfinished term on the Board and have enjoyed learning the role of the Board member. I would like to say thank you to the San Antonio bridge world by giving my time to the Board and to help San Antonio bridge grow.



David Mitchell

I have been an educator -- teacher, coach, principal -- for 40 years and a bridge player even longer, since 1967. Bridge has become an even bigger part of my life since the breakup of my marriage and death of my son.

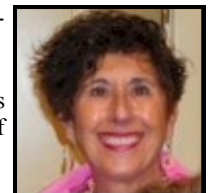


Having been on the board off and on for 20 years, I would do anything to promote bridge and help the unit any way I can. I welcome the chance to serve you again. Thanks!

Rebecca Brown

I finally came to my senses and started playing bridge in 2006. My addiction is unrelenting! Thanks to all of you who contribute to my 'habit' by guiding me and playing with me.

I am a semi-retired lawyer and mediator, former psychologist, teacher, and Tupperware saleslady. My last full-time job was doing international business transactions for a major energy company. For the past 12 years, I have advocated on behalf of abused/neglected children and disabled adults and have served on various civic boards.



If elected to serve on the Unit Board, I will bring the fresh perspective of a 'newbie,' an already deep passion for the game, and a strong work ethic informed by legal and business experience.

Steve Simpson

Born in England, Steve moved to the U.S. in 1982. His career as a freelance computer programmer has taken him around the country. He has lived in Chicago, IL and Louisville, KY, but is now retired and happy to be in San Antonio. Steve has been playing bridge for about six years and has about 200 masterpoints. He manages the Unit 172, BCSA, and Turtle Creek websites. He is running for the Board because he has lots of ideas and is keen to represent lower-level players.



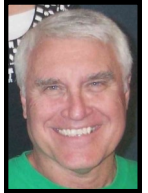
Verlyn Stahlecker

Having been a member of the San Antonio Bridge League for approximately 20 years and enjoying the results of the Board of Directors, if elected, I will work diligently to promote the game of bridge. As a retired Mathematics Professor, I have the time to be a board member and make additional contributions to the game of bridge. I am an ACBL Certified Teacher and since May I have been teaching a beginners bridge class at the Village at Incarnate Word. I would welcome any input from members and players on how the board could effectively promote the game and increase the number of players.



Pete Voges

Lifelong bridge player: Silver Life Master, director, club manager, and mentor. Born In Converse, Texas; graduate of Texas A&M with a master's degree in Mathematics. Retired military officer, Mathematics and Computer Science teacher at the high school and collegiate levels. VA certified builder/general contractor and owner of a small corporation whose primary mission is to meet the needs of senior citizens. Skills in business, hospitality, finance, and tournament set ups.



I will bring financial background, hospitality, and business experience to the board. Emphasis will be on mentoring junior players and keeping all bridge tournaments a pleasant place to play, especially for newcomers.

Roxana Tom

I'm Roxana Tom and I am a candidate in the board election. I am a Silver Life Master who began learning to play bridge in 1997, and believe me, I'm still learning. Since graduating from TCU with a BBA in accounting, I have enjoyed my career as an accountant. I volunteer for 4H events and for my church fundraisers.



Thanks to our hard working teachers (Diane, Laurie, Marilyn and Everette), there are lots of new duplicate players. I would like to work with the board to make them welcome as players and friends and to ensure they enjoy the game as much as I do.

Your support will be appreciated.

Membership Matters by *Olivia Brown*

Welcome to the following new ACBL members: Robert Allen, Rayallee Allen, Georgia Edmondson-Boyer, Lelia Jackson, Bettye Knox, Karen Lambdin, Susan Finch, Arden Moore, Jim O'Connor, Berean Deeter, Mary Goldman, Richard Greenbauer, Pat Hendren, Marilyn King, and Linda Murphy. We would also like to welcome the following transfers into our unit: William Leonard, Barbra Keyser, Joshua Roberts, and Dr. Timothy Roberts.

Congratulations to the many Unit 172 bridge players who continue to achieve new ACBL masterpoints rankings. Following are the latest winners: Junior Masters George Fillis, Albert Fulton, Suzanne Leatherman, Chuck Morton, Jr., Jon Tramer, Sharon Tramontana, Susan Wheeler, and Cathy Main; Club Masters Moshe Draznin, Carol Morton, Dee Pollock, Larry Staton, Frances Stoltz, Dr. Stuart Windeler, Dee Baker, Robert Jerns, Kathy Sinkin-Amor, and Jerrie Wiltgen; Sectional Masters Marilyn Bergman, Pansy Blakely, Mary Farris, Karen Fillis, and Ann Weaver; Regional Masters Bob Jonason and Tessa Bodnar. NABC Masters Bernadine Abend, Beth Gale, and Fran Vanecko; Life Master Janice Coley; Bronze Life Masters Kay Laird, Verlyn Stahlecker, Becky Tanner, and Andy Villastrigo; Silver Life Master Rosemary Quirk; Gold Life Masters Sheryleen Grothus and Carole Price; and Platinum Life Master Dr. Ira J. Hessel.

Proposed Amendment to the By-Laws by *Ed Rawlinson*

The following two items are to be voted on at the Election Sectional at the TCDBC and on the preceding dates at the various clubs outlined elsewhere in this issue: (The Board of Directors favors the amendment.)

- 1) Add a new paragraph 8(e) to Article V as follows:
To employ, contract with, or reimburse expenses of members of the Unit for purposes necessary to conduct the business of the Unit.
- 2) Redesignate existing paragraphs 8(e) through 8(k) to reflect the insertion of the new paragraph.

Rationale: The introductory section of the By-Laws includes the following statement:

"No member of the Unit shall receive any pecuniary gain from his membership in the Unit except as specifically provided as salary, wages or expenses in the By-Laws."

Article V includes, among other items, a list of the powers of the Board. These include such powers as "to conduct, manage, supervise and control all of the business and financial affairs of the Unit" and "to hire and discharge employees, to supervise their conduct, and to fix their compensation." However, Article V does not contain any language stating that compensation or reimbursement to members of the Unit is permitted. The proposed amendment would correct this.

There are several situations in which such compensation or reimbursement is appropriate and, in fact, has occurred. For many years the Unit has contracted with a member (the specific individual has varied over the years) to haul a trailer containing tables and supplies to tournament sites (in Kerrville, New Braunfels and San Antonio), set up the tables, take them down, and return the materials to the storage yard. The payment ranges from \$75-400, based on the location and size of the event. This is minimal compensation for the work involved, and, quite frankly, if the work were not compensated, it might only get done by contracting with non-members at a higher price. Another example involves possible major improvements to the website. Recent improvements have all been the result of volunteer activity, but additional improvements are under consideration which involve so much work that the Board believes some compensation is appropriate. Another example involves the prize dinners awarded at Unit games in recent years. The cost of groceries for these dinners has been reimbursed in the past. Each dinner benefits eight members at an average cost of \$12-15, whereas other typical Unit game prizes are \$20-25 gift cards for commercial restaurants or bookstores.

Note: A complete copy of the current By-Laws is available on the Unit website (<http://d16acbl.org/U172/>).

The Winning Finesse
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Bridge Club of San Antonio Fall Sectional

November 12-15, 2009

Thursday, November 12
1 pm Stratified Open Pairs
1 pm 299'er Pairs
7 pm Stratified Swiss Teams

Tournament Chair:
Rich Lampman
210.659.4248
210.867.4248

Friday, November 13
1 pm Stratified Open Pairs
1 pm 299'er Pairs
7 pm Stratified Open Pairs

Partnership Chair:
Everette Lewis
210.663.3545

Hospitality Chair:
Carol Campbell
210.659.7385

Saturday, November 14
10 am Stratified Open Pairs
10 am 299'er Pairs
Meal between sessions
2:30 pm Stratified Open Pairs

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

Sunday, November 15
10:30 am & TBA
Stratified Swiss Teams
Meal between sessions

Stratifications:
A 2000+
B 500-2000
C 0-500

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