



THE WINNING FINESSE

Volume 24 Number 3 Website: <http://d16acbl.org/U172>

September, 2015



. Thanks to all of you who made the July 4 Regional a big success! Special congratulations to Jeri Tribo and her excellent committee whose efforts resulted in lots of fun for 1269 tables of players and netting more than \$16,000 revenue for our Unit. (Our bi-annual regional is the major source of revenue for our Unit.) Thanks, too, to DIC Tom Marsh, who managed everything so seamlessly, including teaching a Directors Refresher Course. And thanks to Betty Starzec from Houston who did an excellent job leading a Teacher Accreditation course. Both courses were offered in collaboration with District 16 and were resoundingly successful.

We had our Annual Meeting and Luau at St. Francis Episcopal Church. First, let me thank all the volunteers who brought goodies and those who helped with the set-up and clean-up, including dealing with the tables and chairs for us all. Thirty tables were in play, including 6 tables of 499'ers (yay!). The "jury is still out" on which is the best venue for our larger games; our goal is to offer the best playing and social experience for all of you. So please bear with us as we experiment! One thing which won't change is our demand for more of Ed's home-made, excellent foodstuffs!

Care & Comfort

Carmeline Squires sends get-well or sympathy cards for illness or death of members. Please notify Carmeline at 658-0249 .

Board Meetings.

Board of Directors Meeting. The Board of Directors normally meets monthly at 3:45 p.m. on the first Monday at BCSA. Visitors are welcome. HOWEVER, there will be no meeting in July, and the August meeting will be Aug. 3. The regular schedule will resume in September.

Calendar of Events

| | | |
|-------------|--|--------------|
| Sept. 10-13 | New Braunfels Sectional | Civic Center |
| Oct. 8-11 | Willson Davis, Jr. Election Sectional | BCSA |
| Oct. 24 | NAP Unit Finals | Fiesta BC |
| Oct. 30-31 | NLM Sectional | BCSA |
| Nov. 14 | Mentor-Mentee Championship | Fiesta BC |
| Nov. 20-21 | NLM Sectional | Fiesta BC |
| Dec. 12 | Holiday Party | TBD |

Farewell to a Great Lady



The Unit mourns the passing of **Cisse Horton**. Although Cisse played sparingly in recent years, she had a long and distinguished record of service to the Unit. She was known for providing terrific hospitality, both at tournaments and Unit Games. She was a co-chair for the Nationals held in San Antonio. She was named the Oswald and James Jacoby Award Winner for District 16 in 1986 and the National Goodwill Member of the Year for ACBL in 2006. The Unit recognized her service by naming the competition for best performance in Unit tournaments by a female as the Cisse Horton Award. She was fun to be around and will be missed.

Board of Directors Election

Seven candidates are vying for five positions on the Board of Directors. Voting will occur during the first three days of the Willson Davis, Jr. Election Sectional in October and at clubs in the three weeks prior to the tournament. The schedule for voting at the clubs is: BCSA: 9/21 and 9/30; Fiesta BC: 9/26 and 10/5; New Braunfels 9/17; Kerrville: 9/28; Gonzales 9/22. Candidates and their statements are shown below:

Roxana Tom.



I am Roxana Tom and I am a candidate in the upcoming board election. I am a retired accountant, although I still help my family and our family business. I am currently serving as Treasurer on the Unit board. It has been a great experience learning how the ACBL, District 16, our unit and our clubs interact to promote bridge and make your participation pleasurable. I hope to put that experience to use in another term. Bridge is the best game around and I want to see it thrive. Your support will be appreciated.

Hank Eng.

I started playing bridge over 20 years ago. I went to school at Texas A&M and Ohio State. I earned a PhD in chemistry, did research, and taught in colleges. I am now working in financial services, but my desire to play has never waned. I love playing and teaching bridge. If elected to the Board, I would work for the betterment of the game, specifically with the goal of increasing the attendance at our local tournaments. In my years of playing bridge, I've played in thousands of games at various levels in different states. Some of those games had great ideas that I would like our Unit to implement.



Kathy Sinkin-Amor



My name is Kathy Sinkin-Amor and I am running for re-election to your bridge board. I have enjoyed representing you for the last 3 years. I am a native of San Antonio and I am a 42 year real estate broker who runs my own business. I am not really active anymore but basically manage my own commercial properties. On a very basic level, I am the mother of 4 and grandmother of 7.

I have learned a lot in the 3 years that I have been on the board about the behind the scenes workings of the board and just exactly how much effort goes into the events that we all enjoy. Again, thank you all for the honor of allowing me to represent you!

Bob Otis



I first became interested in bridge while in college, and in newcomer clubs while teaching math and physics in the Midwest. I found duplicate bridge in California after receiving my masters, while working as a systems programmer for Rockwell Int'l, managing a club there and becoming its director (before the use of computerized scoring!). After transferring to Texas, I took some time off from bridge, doing volunteer work with Reading and Radio Resource in Dallas, recording audio books for the visually impaired. Now that I have retired, I will devote my time and energy to help keep Unit 172 moving forward, so we may all continue to have a pleasant atmosphere at the tables. I kindly ask for your vote.

Jerry Harrington

Now that I am fully retired, I have the time to give back to the bridge community. While I have been an ACBL director since the early eighties, this is my first foray into Bridge governance. A gold life master and certified ACBL bridge teacher, I spent almost 30 years in the Air Force retiring in 1989 as a Colonel. Flew C-141's, KC-135's, and 184 combat missions in Vietnam in the F-4 before flying a desk, commanding a "Red Horse" combat engineering squadron in Korea and the AF Center for Environmental Excellence at Brooks in San Antonio, where I retired. Ran much of the AF's military housing privatization effort until July, 2014, working as a contractor for Booz Allen Hamilton and then ran my own small business concern. Mary has put up with me for 51 years (best 20 years of her life!) and we have 3 adult children -- all doing well (i.e. not living with us). Although my strengths lie in getting things done, I realize how important it is to listen to the wants and needs of all the Unit 172 bridge players. I hope you will give me this chance to serve.



Debbie Schweiss



For the past three years, it has been my privilege to serve of the board. For the first year, I was the Secretary. For the past two years, I have chaired the Mentor-Mentee Program. This past July, I chaired the Intermediate/Newcomer Games at the San Antonio Regional. My main goal has been to get newer players more involved the bridge games. VOTE FOR ME...I will continue to encourage novice and new players to come and enjoy the great game of bridge!

Lew Spurlock

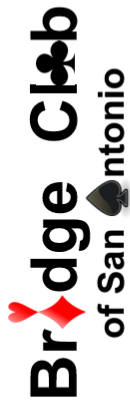
I was born in a small agricultural town in central California and worked in the farming industry from a very young age all the way through summers in college. I received a BA from the University of California, Santa Barbara and then an MA and PhD from the University of Iowa, all in Classics. I was a pilot in the US Navy at the end of the Vietnam War, and then after a few years of teaching at the college level, I started work at a large insurance company. I ended my career there as Senior Vice President in charge of non-life insurance operations. I was on the corporate budget committee for three years, ending as chairman of the committee that oversaw a \$1.2 billion budget. In my role in the company, I oversaw about 12,000 employees spread over 18 offices throughout the country. I redesigned the workflow of the operation and implemented changes that resulted in greatly improved efficiency and customer satisfaction. As an example, call wait times decreased from an average of over 5 minute to 80% of all calls being answered within 10 seconds. At the same time, I reduced the number of offices from 18 to 10. Since retirement, I have served as the President of the Elections Committee for the Homeowners Association in Sun City, Palm Desert. My wife and I moved to Houston in 2004 to be near the grandchildren and moved to Fair Oaks Ranch in 2008 after my wife tired of running from the hurricanes. I have two children and four grandchildren. If elected to the Board, I will do my best to bring whatever it takes to make this an enjoyable experience for everyone in Unit 172.



Unit Game Results. A Pro-Am Swiss attracted 16 tables July 18 at Fiesta BC. Winners included: **Lynn Pierson-Chris Maguire-Rosemary Kelley-Ed Rawlinson (1A), Diane Olson-Janina Kuzma-Laura Matuszewski-Forest Gray (2A), Jeri Tribo-Fran Vanecko-Beverly Flannery-Rowena Gorman (3A, 1B), Jan Wingate-Ann Gary-Geneva Johnson-Roxana Tom (2B), Carol Zulich-David Mitchell-Carole O'Connor-Jim O'Connor (3B), Joe Zulich-Carol Lahser-Pete Voges-Susan Ohm (1-2C), Dick Arnold-Earl Cutler-Shirley Brooks-Ann Weaver (1-2C).** Thanks to co-hosts **Jan Wingate and Ed Rawlinson** for organizing the event and providing great hospitality.

The Luau and Annual Meeting attracted 30 tables August 22 at St. Francis Episcopal Church. Winners included: **Jo Neesvig-Susan Spencer (1A, 1B), Hank Eng-Brian Bankler (2A, 2B), Ira & Ellen Hessel (3A), John Hilbig-Dolores Reiley (3B, 1C), S. K. Sharma-Bill Norvell (2C), Georgia Baron-Steve Simpson (3C).** 499er winners included: **Carol Muir-June Eubank (1A, 1B, 1C), Charlotte Schuepbach-Mike Vivian (2A, 2B), Paul Drexel-Jack Cassidy (3A, 3B, 1C), Evelyn Pitman-Ronnie Gollehon (3C).** **Kathy Sinkin-Amor** won the coveted Tiki Fertility Idol for the coming year. Special entertainment was provided by five intrepid participants in the Hula Hoop Contest. Best Hawaiian Outfit prizes were won by **Sharon Koenig and David Herron.** Thanks to co-hosts **Rebecca Brown and Ed Rawlinson** plus Hospitality Volunteer Chair **Jo Ann Robertson** plus numerous individuals for providing an abundant variety of goodies. Thanks to Director **Judy Hoffman** for handling the big crowd and overcoming a balky computer.

Membership Matters. We welcome the following new members and transfers: **Carol Waryas, Paul Waryas, Tom Keith, Carolyn Lux, Eugene Lux, Hazel Medellin, Sherry Brewer, Christine Carbaugh, Pearl Eng, Norma Khoshbin, Janie Nash.** Congratulations to all those who received higher ACBL ratings: new Junior Masters: **Toby Tate, Robert Craig, H. A. Quiles;** new Club Master: **Nancy Moorman, Dee Kite, Robert Watson;** new Sectional Masters: **James Cuccia, Carol Hall, Elia Rosetta;** new Regional Masters: **Ruth Eilene Sullivan, Jo Ann Robertson, Charlotte Schuepbach, Lew Spurlock, Mike Vivian;** new NABC Masters: **John Nydick, Geneva Johnson, Ann Perry, Sisir Sharma, Carol Zulich;** new Life Masters: **John Gitzen, David Herron, Ann Kuehler, Stewart Windeler;** new Bronze Life Masters: **David Herron;** new Silver Life Masters: **Carole Lee O'Connor, Terry Rice, Penny Smith;** new Gold Life Master: **Jerry Harrington.**



The Winning Finesse
2826 Barrel Oak
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*Willson Davis Jr. Election Sectional
October 8 – 11, 2015*

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 8

10:00 am Stratified Open Pairs
10:00 am 299er Pairs
3:00 pm Stratified Swiss Teams
3:00 pm 299er Pairs

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 9

10:00 am Stratified Open Pairs
10:00 am 299er Pairs
3:00 pm Stratified Open Pairs
3:00 pm 299er Pairs
3:00 pm Bracketed KO Teams (1 of 3)

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 10

10:00 am Stratified Open Pairs
10:00 am 299er Pairs
10:00 am Bracketed KO Teams (2 of 3)
3:00 pm Stratified Open Pairs
3:00 pm Bracketed KO Teams (Final)

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 11

10:00 am & TBA
Stratified Swiss Teams
Meal Between Sessions

CARD FEES

\$11 per person per session
\$100 Swiss Team (Sunday)
(unpaid and non-ACBL members add \$3)

STRATIFICATIONS

A 2500 +
B 750 - 2500
C 0 - 750

TOURNAMENT CHAIR

Rich Lampman (210) 659-4248

PARTNERSHIP CHAIR

Sue Ohm (210) 379-4342 or
orgs@ohmslaw234.fastmail.fm

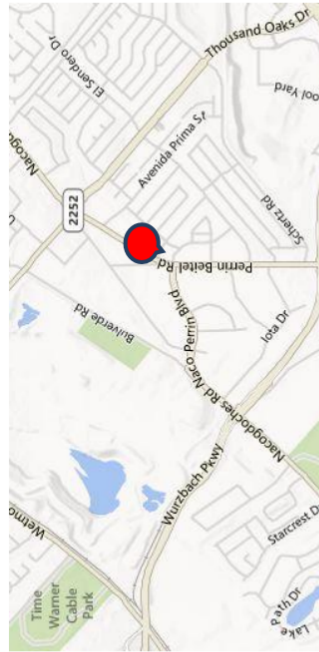
HOSPITALITY CHAIR

Penny Smith (928) 444-6854

Average masterpoints will be used in all games

499er games at director's discretion (three table minimum)

KO will be handicapped



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