



# THE WINNING FINESSE

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## President's Column by *Rebecca Brown.*

Happy New Year! May the upcoming year find you in good health, in good company, with great cards *and* the ability to play them well!

Say "congrats!" when you see them. Ira Hessel, Greg Hinze and Venkatrao Koneru all went over 15,000 points in a 2 week period in October and November.. That's quite an accomplishment for any individual and more remarkable to have three San Antonians reach that milestone in such a short time.

You may have heard that the District no longer requires Unit finals for Flights B and C for the GNTs: all teams may proceed directly to the District finals in May in Richardson. So, your Board of Directors has substituted a two-session Swiss team game at the Fiesta Bridge Club on February 13, previously reserved for the GNT qualifier. Come out and have fun and practice for the GNTs!

The Board meets at 4 pm on the second Monday of each month at Fiesta Bridge Club. Show up, participate and get more involved in our community. **SEE YOU AT THE TABLE!**

### Care & Comfort

Carmeline Squires sends get-well or sympathy cards for illness or death of members.

Please notify Carmeline at 658-0249 .

### Board of Directors Meeting.

The Board of Directors meets monthly at 4:00 p.m. on the second Monday at Fiesta BC. Visitors are welcome.

### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Jan. 15-18	Winter Sectional/District NAP	Omni
Jan. 29-30	NLM Sectional	Fiesta BC
Feb. 13 (10 & TBA)	Two Session Strafed Swiss	Fiesta BC
Mar. 4-5	NLM Sectional	Fiesta BC
Mar. 31-Apr. 3	Kerrville Sectional	Inn of the Hills

**Mike Vivian Wins Lewis Prize.** The Lewis Prize is awarded to the member with less than 300 masterpoints at the beginning of the year who wins the most masterpoints in Unit 172 sectional tournaments during the year. **Mike Vivian**, who was in second place with two tournaments to go, did well in those tournaments to win the award. Congratulations to Mike and the other top winners in 2015.

1. Mike Vivian	24.39	6. Geneva Johnson	17.99
2. Elisabeth Kay	23.23	7. Jo Ann Manfredi	17.85
3. Ann McMullen	20.79	8. Beverly Flannery	17.12
4. Jim McMullen	20.79	9. Elia Rosetta	16.00
5. Gerda Jacobs	19.94	10. Jan Wingate	15.70

**Mentor-Mentee Championship Results by Debbie Schweiss.** Eight Tables competed for the Annual Mentor-Mentee Championship on Saturday, November 14 at Fiesta Bridge Club. Winners included **Bill McCarty -Lelia Jackson (A1, B1), Roxana Tom- Jim Seiders (A2), Nell Morgan-Georgia Schwartz (A3), Judy Taquino- Marybeth Parsons (B2, C1), Charles Walker-Mike Vivian (B3)**. Thanks to co-hosts **Steve Hoffman, Ed Rawlinson** & Mentor-Mentee Chair **Debbie Schweiss**, and Director **Judy Hoffman**. We hope all the mentees, even those that did not “scratch,” will continue playing at the bridge clubs. We will start another Mentor-Mentee Program in January, 2016. Thank you to all the Mentors who gave their time and expertise to this Program.

**Piggy-Back Pairs Results.** The Board decided to hold a “big party” rather than a “small party” by adding an “open” section to the Mentor-Mentee Championship. Each section was a separate event. Winners for the Piggy-Back Pairs (15 tables) included: **Beth Gale-Bob Otis (A1, B1), Larry Levin-Jim Gorman (A2, B2), Carolyn & Terry Riely (A3), Jeri Tribo-Fran Vanecko (B3), Denise LeClerc-Yves Decelles (C2), and Carol Zulich-Jo Ann Manfredi (C3)**.

**Holiday Party Results.** 28.5 tables showed up for the annual Unit Holiday Party Dec. 12 at Fiesta BC. Winners included: **Dave & Donna Swarthout (A1), Barbara Morgan-Rita de Hoyos (A2, B1), Laurie & Larry Levin (A3, B2), Karen & George Fillis (B3), John Hilbig-Delores Reiley (C1), Jan Wingate-James Gardner (C2), Debbie Schweiss-Judy Taquino (C3)**. In the 499ers, winners included: **Don Mahoney-Diana Drenner (A1), Hank Norvell- Gale Hadovsky (A2, B1), Eliza Sonneland-David Holcomb (A3, B2, C1), Marjorie Tucker- Ken King (B3, C2)**. Since the event was held during STaC week, many of these winners got a nice masterpoint award based on a 51-table count for the “Saturday afternoon STaC”. Congratulations also goes to **Rosemary Kelley**, who returned to her old stomping grounds (Austin) for their Holiday Party, had a huge game and won the STaC event. Thanks to co-hosts **Kathy Sinkin-Amor, Rebecca Brown, and Beth Gale** for the arranging the great hospitality. Thanks also to Director **Judy Hoffman**, with an assist from **Jerry Harrington**, for managing the big crowd. **Ed Rawlinson** violated Unit Policy (which prohibits the serving of alcohol at Unit events) by disguising it in his Creole Bread Pudding with Bourbon Sauce. An unseemly number of imbibers requested the recipe, so here it is.

### Creole Bread Pudding

Pudding		Sauce	
12 oz.	Day old French Bread	8 T.	Butter, cut into ½ “ bits
1 qt.	Milk	1 c.	Sugar
3	Eggs	1	Egg
2 c.	Sugar	¼ c.	Bourbon
½ c.	Seedless Raisins	¼ c.	Water
2 T.	Vanilla		

Preheat oven to 350°. Butter a 9 x 13 baking dish.

Sauce: Melt butter bits in top of double boiler set over boiling water. Stir 1 c. sugar and 1 egg together in small bowl and add the mixture to butter. Stir for 2-3 minutes until sugar dissolves completely and the egg is cooked (do not let sauce boil). Remove the pan from heat and let sauce cool to room temperature. When ready to serve, combine bourbon and water and stir into sauce. Note to Bourbon aficionados: use ½ c. bourbon, no water!!! Note to dieters: mix the bourbon with Diet coke, have a drink, and skip the pudding!

Pudding: Break bread in 1-2" chunks in large bowl. Pour milk over bread, and mix by hand to soak bread thoroughly. Beat 3 eggs and 2 c. sugar together until mixture is smooth. Stir in raisins and vanilla. Pour over bread mixture and stir until well mixed. Pour the pudding into buttered dish, spreading evenly. Bake in center of oven 1 hour or until knife inserted in center comes out clean. Serve immediately, spooning sauce over individual servings

**Dave Swarthout Top Winner in STaC.** Dave Swarthout had 3 firsts and 1 second in the recent STaC week, finishing with 29.68 masterpoints (tops for the entire STaC).

**Kudos To Pat Balhorn.** Pat Balhorn made the "honor roll" in the "It's Your Call" feature in the ACBL Bulletin (Oct. 2015). This monthly feature presents a collection of difficult bidding problems. Serious competitors can send their solutions in to the Bulletin to compete with other submissions across the ACBL. Pat was the only Texas winner on the list. She's the only winner from Unit 172 in recent memory, perhaps ever. Well done!

**Mentee Deserves Oscar for Screenwriting in a Comedy by Ed Rawlinson.** One of the challenges to a mentor is to develop a "poker face"—a certain stoicism—when mentees do goofy things. I'll claim to have made some progress toward the desired behavior, but I still have a lot of work to do. An example occurred during the Mentor Mentee Championship. My mentee, **Janina Kuzma**, was playing a 4H contract. She pulled trumps, ending in dummy, which held Kxx of diamonds. She thought for a moment, then called for the diamond King, playing the Ace from her hand. Although I didn't say a word, I had the sense that my jaw dropped and my eyes may have bulged. The opponents' eyes sparkled. Then Janina proceeded to cash the diamond Q and J. When it was all over, she had taken the maximum number of tricks. She had a twinkle in her eye, and the opponents were still giggling. One described my expression as priceless. I then asked if there was a feminine version of "rascal". One opponent offered *rascalette*. I felt this fit and told Janina she was a *rascalette* and that if she continued such actions, she would become known as a naughty lady. Due to my hearing problems, I'm not sure what she said to the opponents, but I think it was "that's my next goal."

**Membership Matters.** We welcome the following new members and transfers: **Gretchen Barr, Nancy Deschaine, Jim Roff, Evelyn Slapkunas, Carolyn Archer, Richard Archer, Barbara Beach, Karl Beach, Jeanne Dawley, Joseph Gross, Marcia McDonough, Joan Newhouse, Susan Hutton, Warren King, Nan Houston Lovejoy, Sue Perkins.** Congratulations to all those who received higher ACBL ratings: new Junior Masters: **Beth Senneff, Priya Sharma, Ricky Therneau, Jeanne Binovi, Joan Buerschinger, Maria Carstensen, Julius Grossenbacher, Suzanne Thomas;** new Club Masters: **Carol Ramberg, Paul Drexler, Rita Hendershot, Ajit Murarka;** new Sectional Masters: **Vijay Koli;** new Regional Masters: **Janina Kuzma;** new NABC Masters: ; new Life Masters: **Carol Ellis, Marjorie Miller;** new Bronze Life Masters: **Leslie Tramer;** new Silver Life Masters: **Tessa Bodnar, Rich Curtin, Beth Gale, Jo Kuehl, Susan Ohm, Larry Levin.**

# Kerrville Spring in the Hills

March 31-April 3, 2016  
Inn of the Hills 1001 Junction Hwy  
1-800-292-5690  
Bridge Rate: \$95 (Book by 2/29/16)



## Thursday, March 31

Stratified Pairs 10 am  
Stratified Swiss Teams 2:30 pm

## Friday, April 1

Stratified Pairs 10 am & 2:30 pm  
Wildflower Knockout Teams (sessions 1, 2, & 3)  
7:30 pm 10 am, 2:30 pm &  
Fast Pairs (24 boards, finished approx. 10pm) 7:30 pm

## Saturday, April 2

Stratified Pairs 10 am & 2:30 pm  
Mesquite Knockout Teams (sessions 1, 2, & 3)  
7:30 pm 10 am, 2:30 pm &  
Fast Pairs (24 boards, finished approx. 10pm) 7:30 pm

## Sunday, April 3

Margaret Higgins Stratified Swiss Teams 10 am & TBA

499er pairs will be held with 3 table minimum  
Card Fees: \$11/person/session, \$120/team Sunday Swiss (includes lunch)  
Non or unpaid ACBL members add \$3  
Stratifications: A: 2500+; B: 750-2500; C: 0-750 (averaging)  
KO events are handicapped

**Host Hotel:** Inn of the Hills - Room rate includes breakfast (book by 2/29/16)

**Tournament Chair:** David Ewing 830-895-4718 [ewingd@stx.tx.com](mailto:ewingd@stx.tx.com)

**Partnership Chair:** Richard Hamm 830-895-2085

**Director in Charge:** Tom Marsh

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