

Why We Need Your Vote

For starters, we need to address a couple of rumors: No, ADBC does not wish to close down the Fort Worth Duplicate Bridge Studio. Our President, Buck Buchanan, plays two sessions every week in FW and loves the directors and players. And no, Arlington is not after Unit money. We have \$70,000 of our own, and that is more than enough to run our Club.

What would we like to see done differently? For 30 years, the Unit appears to have largely served FW bridge. This has led to nearly all Unit events being held at the FW Studio, twice the Sectional tournaments held in FW as in Arlington, all Unit spending going to support FW bridge, and no Unit-wide programs to build membership, provide education, and to address challenges such as lagging table counts. This situation, we believe, needs to change, and our candidates have a great vision for how to move forward.

ADBC is now the Unit's largest studio (by table count), and we would like to be treated as an equal. Denton is a newer and thriving studio, and deserves considerable Unit support as well. We are pleased to report that, after an 18-month effort, an equitable division of Unit Championships has been achieved. Call us slow learners, but that success came only after we found an ACBL rule we could use to force the Unit to share. We also believe other Unit events - GNT, NAP, Awards game, Town Meeting, etc. - should be spread around the Unit.

We would like to see a different Unit business plan. Currently, the Unit spends virtually all its proceeds from Regional tournaments to subsidize the FW Studio and FW Sectionals. In the last ten years, this has apparently amounted to tens of thousands of dollars. A provision in the Unit 183 Standing Rules requires that the FW Studio be self-sufficient, but that has been ignored. There is no reason why the FW Studio, with over 4,000 tables per year, can't break even, freeing up Regional proceeds for much-needed Unit-wide programs.

Beyond a few overall figures, trying to talk about Unit finances is very difficult because Unit records are incomplete, inaccurate, or missing. No year-end financial report for 2012 has been done. ADBC requests for financial reports have gone unanswered. These omissions violate Unit By-Laws, ACBL Rules, and State and Federal statutes, putting the Unit and its finances at risk.

Getting Unit issues resolved has been and will continue to be difficult because FW game owners are routinely elected to the Unit Board, where they often vote on matters affecting bridge in FW and, therefore, their income as game owners. This practice violates the conflict-of-interest provisions in the Unit 183 By-Laws and IRS Non-Profit Charter, further undermining the Unit's safety.

Lastly, and missing entirely from Unit 183 history, are programs that bring together all studios and clubs for the benefit of bridge in our area. Arlington candidates for the Unit Board have wonderful ideas for what can be done. As mentioned above, these include recruiting and educating new players, educating up-and-coming players, reaching new bridge audiences, and addressing the factors that are pulling players away from our clubs. Please talk to our candidates for their thoughts.