



American Contract
Bridge League

NEWSLETTER

April 2017



Events and News

President's Message

Election Sectional April 7-9

Congratulations to our newly elected board member **Nancy Guthrie** and **David Henke**, and to **Daniel Jackson**, who was re-elected for another term! The bylaw amendments did not pass, and the Board will be looking at potential changes needed for the future. We broke all attendance records with 750 tables! Thanks to all who participated, and especially to all the Board members who worked to hard to make this tournament the success it was. We were happy to present awards to all the Mini-McKenney and Ace of Clubs winners from Unit 174, as well as the special awards to **Gary King** and **Kay Johnson**. We continue to see more evidence that Unit 174 is the BEST in all of the ACBL! And the great people make it so.

We recognized the outstanding accomplishments of our members who won the Ace of Clubs and Mini-McKenney races from Unit 174 at the annual meeting, and we especially want to mention again the repeat national win by **Meng-Chr ("Mike") Tsai**, and we ask for prayers for him and his family as he faces a serious health crisis in the days to come.

If you have questions, suggestions, or comments please contact any board member; we are here to serve you.

Now we prepare for the June Sectional. See you at the tables!

Bill Riley, Unit 174 President

Bill Riley, ichibanbill@gmail.com

Here's the March report from ACBL:

Each month the ACBL sends us the new members and rank advancements for our Unit. Here is the list from the March 31 report.

NEW MEMBERS

Mary Ann Boerner, Cathy Brewton, Lisa B. Caldedonia, Margot L. Curry, Lewis B. Frapart, Karen Harris, Michelle Herring, Dorothy Karnaky, Keith Karnaky, Nicki R. Lamey, Carolan F. Mendel, Bill Nash, Burrel Rowe, Pamela Sue Rush, David Senior, Marc Sullivan, H. Ray Yoder, and Gordon Zothner have joined Unit 174. Please welcome these new members of our Unit as you meet them at the tables.

Congratulations to these new Masterpoint Milestone Makers:

NEW JUNIOR MASTER

Charles H. Carter, Cindy Cox, Michael Hick, Changling Huang, Mary Jaffe, Suzanne M. Little, Baines Manning, and Janet W. Miller.

NEW CLUB MASTER

Mary A. Bryan, David Chester, Patricia Freeman, Cameron Lawton, and Yandell Rogers Jr.

NEW SECTIONAL MASTER

Paul D. Axelson, Sally Axelson, Jan Pasternak, and Becky Vogel.

NEW REGIONAL MASTER

Elizabeth G. Giroir, Judith M. Glasco, and Ede R. Weiner.

NEW ADVANCED NABC MASTER

Michael I. Windham.

NEW BRONZE LIFE MASTER

(320 in Unit 174)

Elizabeth P. Cabiness and Maureen Vlaclovsky.

NEW RUBY LIFE MASTER

(171 in Unit 174)

Beverley C. Cheatham, Darlene M. Moody, and Kitty L. Wong.

NEW GOLD LIFE MASTER

(100 in Unit 174)

Steve N. Vaughn.

NEW DIAMOND LIFE MASTER

(37 in Unit 174)

Ralda St. Pierre.

NEW EMERALD LIFE MASTER

(9 in Unit 174)

Shirley W. McKee.



Top row (l.-r.): Jimmy Breihan and Mike Doyle; Bottom row (l. -r.): Tony Haddad and Daniel Jackson

**DISTRICT 16 FLIGHT A WINNERS
GRAND NATIONAL TEAMS
ALL FROM UNIT 174**

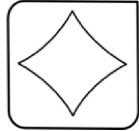
The winning team from the District 16 qualifying round for the ACBL Nationals in Toronto in July are all from Unit 174! Help us to boost them on as they enter the national competition.

Congratulations to **Jimmy Breihan, Mike Doyle, Tony Haddad, and Daniel Jackson!**

He who does not climb will not fall, either.



FEEDBACK & FODDER



Unit 174 News and Club News

Nearly Summer Sectional

Our "Nearly Summer Sectional" is **June 9-11** at the Houston Marriott Westchase, bridge rate **\$89+ and cutoff date May 18**. All sessions are at 10 a.m. and 3 p.m.; once again, NO night sessions. \$10 entry fees, with Sunday at \$15. Need Silver MPs? Plan your schedule now to attend this tournament and bring your favorite partners and teammates. Two-session Pairs and Bracketed Swiss events will be held daily, with Teams bracketed into groups of 7 to 9 by total master point holding and teams will play within their bracket. Our Unit 174 members are gaining experience with the Bracketed Swiss and Round Robin movements, and it's evident from the smoothness as players move to their new tables. Remember, any bracket with an odd number of teams (which all will have) will have at least one Round Robin event. The event goes much more smoothly when the players know that all their games will be in the same row (bracket), and when they learn the basics of a Round Robin movement (A goes to B, B goes to C, C goes to A, etc.).

News from Clubs

From **Walter Arnold: The Southwest Duplicate Bridge Club** will move for the summer to Congregation Brith Shalom, 4610 Bellaire Blvd., 77401; (713) 667-9201. The last game to be played at Merfish will be Wednesday, May 17. The club will move back to Merfish in August 2017.

Classes, classes, classes! Every month we have a newsletter about Classes being held at various clubs in our unit. Be sure to check them out and make sure to check *all* the Websites of our Unit 174 clubs (links at www.acblunit174.org) for 2017 bridge classes and other learning opportunities. Their calendars will also have news of all scheduled events.

Have you met **Syed R. Naqvi** (who is called “Raza”) yet? He plays mostly at **Westside Bridge Academy**, and he hails from Pakistan. Although he works full time with an import company, he managed to win the most MPs at WBA during March (27.38), and he also played the most times (22). This friendly fellow is a very good player and a very nice opponent. April is charity month, and all games are upgraded and award double points. The local charity for April is Child Advocates. Tom Jahnke is conducting an 8-week “Learn to Play Bridge” Course beginning April 27 on Thursday afternoons, 2 to 4 p.m. The \$150 fee includes materials. Pre-registration required, so email Tom at tomtomj211@yahoo.com to sign up.

Bridge Club of Houston has a special game to honor **Thomas Rush’s** attaining Silver LM on Wed. 4/26 at 11, with game at 11:55; reservations needed. They will hold a 299r Tournament May 4-7, so 299ers, make those plans now!

Final Thoughts

I’ve been thinking a lot about partnerships lately, about what makes them good, what pains must be endured, what makes a “good” partner, and things like that. Most would agree that one of the best partnerships in the world has been that of **Jeff Meckstroth** and **Eric Rodwell**. On March 29 **Jeff** was featured in *Bridgewinners.com’s* “In the Well” series for the first time. It’s worth your time to have a look at his comments. Here was one great exchange on the subject of partnerships:

“Hey Jeff, as skilled as you and Eric are, the most impressive thing about your run to me is how long you have been playing at a high level with the same partner, without ego or anger having broken you guys up at any point, a relative rarity in high level bridge. Why have you guys worked for so long when so many others have not?”

Jeff’s reply: “Hi Chris, a bridge partnership is like a marriage; it takes work from both people to make it thrive. I am very lucky in that department. I picked the right guy in 1974!” [Great response, Jeff!]

So I’ve asked some of the “good partners” I’ve seen around the unit and am gathering pointers. One if them shared with me the excellent book by Bob Hamman, with Brent Manley, *At the Table, My Life and Times*, and I strongly recommend it. He shares a lot of good information about bridge partnerships. I would appreciate input from our members for next month’s newsletter.

Finally, we celebrate the amazing win by our Unit 174 Grand National A Team (pictured in this newsletter) and wish them well in Toronto at the Nationals. We are also very proud of **Eddie Wold**, whose team won the Championship Flight and boost them onward. But the A team of **Jimmy Breihan, Mike Doyle, Tony Haddad, and Daniel Jackson** are all four from Unit 174! Three of our Unit members, Carolyn Lanier, Jan Siefert, and Carol Wilson, have formed a Texas nonprofit corporation to help raise funds for the team. Toronto will be very expensive, and the GNT is a five-day event. The Board has advised that they have no objection to letting our readers know about it via the newsletter. Let Carolyn, Carol, and Janet know if you have suggestions or can help, and when the Support Parties are announced, they will appreciate your support.

For the May, and all other newsletters, please send your news, ideas, articles, comments, and suggestions, to carolwilson@earthlink.net, or leave a message at 281-642-4050 or 281-600-6000x2.

That's all for now! Let us hear from you.

Carol Ann Wilson, Unit 174 Newsletter Editor