



American Contract  
Bridge League

# NEWSLETTER

November 2017



## Events and News

The President's Post may be found each month at the Unit 174 Website, [www.acblunit174.org](http://www.acblunit174.org). Have you set your home page at our Unit 174 Website?

### *President's Message*

GNT qualifiers will be held at the three full-service clubs in Unit 174: **Bridge Club of Houston, Clear Lake Bridge Club, and Westside Bridge Academy**, for Flights B and C (Flight A is not required to qualify at the club/unit level and will compete at the district level during the Election Sectional in the spring.) Get your teams together and plan to enter! The clubs are scheduling the games (12/30 at BCoH; Westside's dates are the first Sunday nights of December, January, and February), so keep an eye on the Unit 174 Website and the clubs' sites for dates and further information.

We are really excited about all the upcoming parties during the Holidays (details in this newsletter), but the **LONE STAR REGIONAL January 29-February 4** has our rapt attention these days, as we make every effort to exceed 3,000 tables! The updated flyer is posted at the Unit's Website, so get your teams and pairs together and help us spread the word! Bracketed Swiss every morning and afternoon Tuesday-Saturday, Pairs games every day, and of course, KOs! The **BIG TEXAN PAIRS CHAMPIONSHIP** is a new, two-session with qualifying on Wednesday and the two-session final on Thursday.

**Charity Games in December: December 11, 13, 14, and 15** are set for Unit 174's Charity Games, with extra points given and \$1 of each entry will go to the charities. The **ACBL Charity Foundation** games are December 11 and 14. Unit 174's designated charity, **SEARCH**, will be the beneficiary of the December 13 and 15 games. SEARCH Homeless Services works to engage, stabilize, educate, employ, and house individuals and families who are homeless. Its essential services are highly effective in transforming lives, because they meet individuals where they are, and they provide what is needed to help them get off the streets and back on their feet. Help us support these fine charities with your attendance for all of the Charity Games!

Thanks to all for helping make our Unit 174 the best in all of the ACBL!

***Nancy Strohmer, Unit 174 President***

*Here's the November 1 report from ACBL for October 2017:*

Each month the ACBL sends us the new members and rank advancements for our Unit. Here is the list from the November 1 report.

**NEW MEMBERS**

**Gail Chapline, Diego A. Delgado, Sudhir R. Gejji, Amy Grossman, Ronda F. Kelly, Andy Kowalewski, Xinyun Liu, Tony Mirasola, Richard Napientek, Edna A. Rice, Mark Saving, Varun Suriyanarayana, David E. Vaughn, Jane A. Webb, Kelly Yao, Jiaming Zha, and Jijie Zhou,** 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**

(5 MP)

**Ram K. Agrawal, Rathindra N. Dutt, and Linda M. Spiegelhauler.**

**NEW CLUB MASTER**

(20 MP)

**Susan Thom and Kay G. Watson.**

**NEW SECTIONAL MASTER**

(50 MP)

**David Littman and Gregory May.**

**NEW REGIONAL MASTER**

(100 MP)

**May Hakki.**

**NEW NABC MASTER**

(200 MP)

**Doris R. Everette, Myra M. Marsh, and Julie Stewart.**

**NEW LIFE MASTER**

(126 in Unit 174)

Sam Khayatt, Deborah Reed, and Keith L Ritter.

**NEW RUBY LIFE MASTER**

(177 in Unit 174)

Lucy G. Hofman.

**NEW SAPPHIRE LIFE MASTER**

(45 in Unit 174)

Clif Capen.

**NEW DIAMOND LIFE MASTER**

(39 in Unit 174)

Mary Anne Woessner.

***Congratulations to all!***

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Food, food, food! As we give thanks, we stuff our faces, we love those new recipes, and we appreciate the bounty we have. As with nearly all things, moderation works pretty well, so we've enlisted our little Turkey Safety Patroller to remind us that the best holiday exercise might be the one where we push back from the table! Enjoy all the festivities with family and friends, and Bid On!

**HAPPY THANKSGIVING, EVERYBODY!!!**

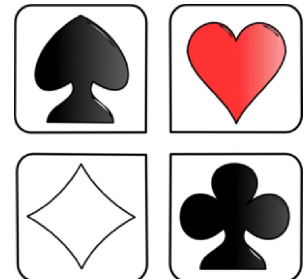
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***FEEDBACK & FODDER***

**Unit 174 News and Club News**

*Are you ready for another StaC week?* The week of **December 4-10** is your next time for those Silver Masterpoints!

*Thanks again to those who served on the Unit 174 Board Nominating Committee:*



Karen Nimmons, Chair, and Committee Members Tom Hogle, Pat Levy, Shawn Quinn, and Rick Stell have put together a strong slate, and they are, in alphabetical order: Jack La Vigne, Carol Lombardino, Kathleen Malcolmson, Ronnie Martin, Paul Nimmons, and Sheryl Thomas. We are so fortunate to have such talented candidates, and we thank you all for your willingness to serve!

## News from Clubs

### ***Holidays Are for Parties, Parties, Parties!***

Westside Bridge Academy is holding *three* holiday parties: Wednesday, **December 6**, at 7 p.m., during the STaC with SILVER points and lasagna to be served; a Double Session Swiss on Sunday, **December 10**, also during the STaC with SILVER points, and depending on attendance permitting, there will be a *separate* 499r Swiss, with turkey and ham served; and on Thursday, **December 14**, at 10:30 a.m., a Club Membership game with full sectional rating, with turkey and ham served! Side dishes, snacks, and desserts will be welcome and appreciated for all parties. **Reservations are REQUIRED** for all three parties so we can know how much food to plan for. To reserve your spot, please email **Katherine Onstott** at [kjonstott@comcast.net](mailto:kjonstott@comcast.net). (Please do not call or email the Academy to make your reservations.)



Tables will be preassigned for the pair games. Website: [www.westsidebridgeacademy.com](http://www.westsidebridgeacademy.com).

**Lake Conroe Duplicate Club** will be having their Holiday Party on Friday, **December 8**, 10:30 a.m., at April Sound in Montgomery, Texas. Club Manager **Gerry Earnest** advises that the price is \$25 per person (cash only). There will be a hot meal, coffee, tea, dessert, and a cash bar, and extra points will be available, as it is a Club Championship Game. For reservations call 936.447.6958 or email [gerryearnest@gmail.com](mailto:gerryearnest@gmail.com).

**Bridge Club of Houston's** Christmas Party is Wednesday, **December 13**, with game at 10:30 a.m. and meal at noon; food furnished, and *reservations are required*. **Bridge Club of Houston** will also hold a New Year's Day Party on Monday, **January 1**, with a pot luck meal at 11 a.m. and game at 11:55.

**Kingwood Duplicate Bridge Club** will host its Christmas Party on Wednesday, **December 13**, at the Kingwood Community Center, with food at 5 p.m. and game at 6. Club Manager **Jim Simmons** advises that the Club will provide ham, turkey, drinks, and paper goods, and they will appreciate any dishes that go with ham and turkey!

**Spring Branch Duplicate Club:** Holiday Luncheon on Thursday, **December 14**. Per **Judith Hoffing**, food donations of snacks, salads, and desserts will be greatly appreciated.

**Apple II Duplicate Bridge Club's** Holiday Party is Friday, **December 15**, advises Club Manager **Brigitte Sandifer**.

We hope to get news from other clubs about their events and happenings for the December issue of our Unit 174 newsletter.

## Final Thoughts . . . .

We have a really neat tip for you from **Sally Wheeler**, one of our Unit's top A players and teachers: Go to the App Store and download **KIDA**. This wonderful little piece of software will really help you with your declarer play, and it's free! The problems start out easy and progressively get a bit more tough, so just keep going, and you are sure to find some challenges! Standing in line at the grocery store? You can solve a couple of double dummy situations while you wait! *Thanks, Sally!*

Did you see that terrific letter to the editor in the current *Bulletin*? Titled "Houston Hospitality," it was written by a visitor to **Bridge Club of Houston** on August 24 and paid compliments to the club's hospitality and its ambassador program. These are the kinds of things we love to hear!

**Bridge Players Who Have Other Lives: Chin Lin**, who is a member of **Clear Lake Bridge Club** and is relatively new to Duplicate, received an outstanding honor on November 7. He was honored for his contribution to the team that won the 2017 Invention of the Year awarded by the NASA/Johnson Space Center Inventions and Contributions Board. The invention is the "Bigelow Expandable Activity Module," and it was successfully attached to the International Space Station in 2016. It's a pressurized, lightweight, collapsible, module that is compact prior to launch but capable of being enlarged for increased volume, such as for human habitation, lab work, spaceflight, etc. *Congratulations!*

**Paul Cuneo**, our District 16 Director on the ACBL Board, emphasizes in his current communication the critical need for a HUGE turnout for our 2018 Lone Star Regional January 29 thru February 4. Here is why it is important to District 16 that the event be successful, and that means having a table count over 3000:

Since 2012, District 16 has enjoyed **five** open regional tournaments in Texas each year. Our standard allocation is four, and we enjoy a fifth because the table count for the Lone Star Regional in Houston has been consistently above 3000 tables since 2010. ACBL's requirement is 3 out of every 4-year period. However, **unless** the Lone Star Regional has 3000 or more tables in **2018**, the District will lose a regional beginning in 2020.

Don't worry; Houston will not lose its regional. No one knows for sure how the D16 board will re-allocate regionals if we are cut back to only 4 each year, but Paul says it is a near certainty that Houston will maintain its annual tournament, San Antonio and Austin will continue to share the 4th of July, and any reduction will occur in other geographic areas. (*Note: Some of our players went to the recent regional in Corpus Christi and had to come back Sunday because there were not enough tables for the Sunday games!—Ed.*)

The point is that we need to do everything we can to encourage attendance at the 2018 Lone Star Regional and *exceed* the 3000 table count target. Bridge benefits when we have more regional tournament opportunities. Paul wants to hear from you by e-mail to [paulcuneo@sbcglobal.net](mailto:paulcuneo@sbcglobal.net). (I know one comment I have seems obvious: why is this big burden put on *our* regional?????? —Ed.)

**Unit Directory:** An updated Unit 174 Directory will be published in January and should be ready for distribution at the Regional. Make sure your information is correct at ACBL, because that's the source for the info. Please see the Website, [www.acblunit174](http://www.acblunit174), for details.

**October Extravaganza Sectional Tournament:** Big KUDOS to Co-Chairs **Dianna Gittelman** and **David Henke** and the entire Unit 174 Board for a very special tournament! Those of us who live on the north side appreciated the selection of the Hilton Greenspoint more than you know. The hotel was just superb, easily accessed, and provided such great food! **Dianna and David** did a great job of educating the staff to the particular needs of bridge players at a tournament, and the staff "hopped to" from where I sat! By the time Sunday arrived, the staff was a well-oiled machine getting us fed quickly, and I heard nothing but raves about the luncheon. I carefully noted players' comments about the venue, and I'd say the positives were 95% and the negatives only about 5%. Great work, all!

For the December, and all other newsletters, please send your news, ideas, articles, comments, and suggestions, to [carolwilson@earthlink.net](mailto:carolwilson@earthlink.net), or leave a message or text me at 281-642-4050 or find me at work, 281-600-6000x2.

That's all for now!

*Carol Ann Wilson, Unit 174 Newsletter Editor*