

Dear Unit 174 members

I thought about writing a letter for the April newsletter with an April Fools theme like the article from the CEO of ACBL in the April Bulletin about increasing the value of the diamonds and clubs to make them equal to hearts and spades. But, alas, I was a little tardy.

The board has received several questions in the past year about ethical and zero tolerance issues. If there is an ethical or ZT issue at a club game it should be reported to the club manager to address. I encourage club managers and their directors to enforce the zero tolerance policy.

The Unit has no jurisdiction over games held at clubs unless the game is a Unit sectioned event such as STaC games and GNT & NAP unit qualifying games.

In addition, reporting all issues to the recorder is critical. If the offending player has had similar problems at other clubs, then the recorder will refer it to the ethics committee for possible further action. The current recorder for Unit 174 is Bob Dowlen. Repeat offenders need to be counseled and possibly sanctioned.

These policies are in place as we want the game to be fun! **After all, bridge is a game!** It is frequently frustrating, always challenging, and highly competitive, yet it is a game. We have to deal with life and death situations too often, some of us more than others. **Let's remember to enjoy our time at the tables.**

There was a question about the use of professional titles like Dr. William Riley when printing rankings etc. We have a lot of attorneys, doctors, dentists, professors, PhDs, past presidents and CEOs of companies, and even a Nobel Laureate in our unit. When Arlene Weingarten was webmaster, she felt that everyone was equal in bridge regardless of their title in life and never included them. Bert Onstott continued the practice. We will continue the same practice.

We have a vote on petition to change the bylaws. Six outstanding candidates are running for election to the board. Please exercise your right to vote.

I hope to see all of you at the April Election Sectional.

Bill Riley

Acting President of Unit 174