

It's NAP time!!

Not the naps we take in the middle of the afternoon. But the North American Pairs qualifying club events. During June through August, the clubs are holding special games to begin the qualification for the NAP event at the National American Contract Bridge League tournament to be held in Philadelphia in March 2018. The conditions of contest can be found at <http://www.d16acbl.org/COC/NAP-2017-18.pdf>.

The 3 flights are based on the number of master points as of June 2017 masterpoint cycle:

Flight A – Open to anyone

Flight B: Players less than 2500 MPs as of June 2017

Flight C: Non-Life Masters with fewer than 500 MPs as of June 2017

Both my wife, Nancy, and I have fond memories of the NAP. We were privileged to represent District 16 at the Nationals several years ago when we were in the C bracket. We did not know each other then. I qualified twice. My partner, Steve Johnson, and I got support from the district to attend the Nationals in Philadelphia, and the next year I did it again with a different partner for Nationals in Dallas. My wife and her ex-husband, Charlie Brown also represented District 16 at the Nationals in Houston 2002. So you can see that the NAP events are very special for us, and we hope they will be for you as well.

For those qualifying at the club level, the next step is the Unit 174 qualifying event, which will be held in October at BCoH (Bridge Club of Houston, Spring). Those dates are tentatively scheduled for October 14-15, 2017. You don't have to play with the same partner. As long as you and your partner have qualified for your flight at a club, even if you did not qualify together, you may play in the Unit qualifying event. In fact, you can have a different partner for the District as long as both of you qualify for that flight at the Unit qualifying event.

Then it is on to the District 16 qualifying event in Austin on January 4-7, 2018. There, the top 2 pairs will be financially supported to attend the Nationals to represent District 16. ***I would love to see at least one pair at each level be from UNIT 174.*** That could happen, as we have some outstanding bridge players in UNIT 174.

We are trying some different things at our upcoming Sectionals.

AUGUST 10-13 Tournament

A 2-day pairs game.

\$10 Sunday with lunch on your own.

Starting times will be 10 and 2:30.

OCTOBER 27-29 Tournament

We are going all out with a Casino night on Saturday. Dianna Gittelman has outdone herself. Prizes include bridge bucks and bridge books. Spend the weekend at a great hotel (the Hilton North near Intercontinental Airport), for very low rate (\$92) and have a great day of bridge and social events afterwards.
So book a room and be there or be square!

(Did I *really* say “be square”?) Have fun at the tables!

Bill Riley
President UNIT 174