

I am no longer acting president but officially the president of UNIT 174. So the unit is stuck with me for another 12 months. Congratulations to our new board members, Nancy Guthrie and David Henke and to Daniel Jackson who was reelected.

We had a great April sectional, a record turnout of 750 tables of bridge players in 3 days.

In case you were not at the annual meeting, here are some of the highlights. Our unit continues to lose money at the sectionals so the Board is reviewing ways to insure the sectionals are break even events. At a cost of approximately 4 thousand dollars each tournament, the board is considering not providing free coffee. The board will need to increase the playing fees for the next year. Currently we are evaluating how much the fees will need to increase. Since we had to set the fees for June early, the fees for Friday and Saturday will still be a bargain at \$10. We had increased the playing fee to \$15 on Sunday to offset the cost of the lunches. Our tournaments will still have one of the lowest playing fees in District 16. **So let's break another attendance record in June!!**

Each year the Helen Shanbrom Ace of Clubs awards are presented to the players from the unit who obtain the most masterpoints in club games for their point category. The Mini-McKenney awards are presented to the players who obtain the most total masterpoints in all ACBL sanctioned games. In 2016 the ACBL increased the number of point categories for both awards.

There is also a national competition for these awards in the various categories. There were 20 players from UNIT 174 who finished in the top 20 nationally for their respective point categories. **Quite an accomplishment!!**

Meng-Chr Tsai, or "Michael," won the national title for the Mini-McKenney and the Ace of Clubs in the 200-300 point category. This is the second year in a row where Michael has finished high nationally. He was first nationally in the Ace of Clubs and second nationally in the Mini-McKenney for the 5-20 point range category in 2015. In that same point category Steven Bell of UNIT 174 was 2nd nationally behind Michael in the Ace of Clubs race. Great Job!! Steven knows how Beyonce felt at the Grammys about Adele. The unit should be proud that players from UNIT 174 won the GOLD and SILVER at the national level for the 200-300 category!! Victor Tong won the unit Ace of Clubs award and placed 2nd nationally in the 50-100 point category.

Eddie Wold is a perennial winner of the unit Mini-McKenney in the >10000 point category and was the 4th place finisher in the country with 2608 master points. He has won the Mini-McKenney nationally on numerous occasions and always finishes in the top 10. He now has more than 70,000 masterpoints and is so young! Mary Pat Gentry, a perennial winner in our unit, won both the unit Ace of Clubs and unit Mini-McKenney award for the 7500-10000 category. She ranked 16th nationally in the Ace of Clubs race.

Who says that couples should not play bridge together? I would strongly disagree, as would 3 of our couples who play almost exclusively with each other. Robert and Mary Gale Vilyus won the unit Mini-McKenney in the 20-50 category, placing 12th nationally. Jack and Jeanette Dean also play solely with each other as partners and won the unit Mini-McKenney award for the 50-100 category and were 6th nationally. They were also 7th nationally in the Ace of Clubs category of 50-100. Susan Stubinski won the unit Mini-McKenney award in the 2500-3500 category and Bruce Wick won the Mini-McKenney award in the 3500-5000 category. This couple is a formidable pair and won the national mixed pair event at the 2016 NABC.

Patti Mullendore won the unit Mini-McKenney in the 1500-2500 point category bracket and placed 6th nationally. Ariel Leibovitz won the unit Ace of Clubs in the 1500-2500 category and was 4th nationally. Bill Gemas was the unit Ace of Clubs winner in the 2500-3500 category and was 5th nationally. Jeff Kroll was 13th nationally in the same category. Mary Ann Woessner won the unit Ace of Clubs in the 3500-5000 category and was 11th nationally.

Remember bridge is a game. Let's make UNIT 174 the friendliest place to play in the country.

Bill Riley
UNIT 174 President