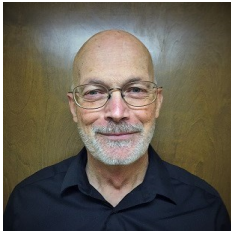


Northern Indiana Unit 154



June 2019 Newsletter
Editor: Kim Grant

President's Corner



Gary Chaney

It is June. Summer is here. There is a sectional or a regional almost every weekend within a couple of hours driving distance. And there is no snow or ice to contend with. What more can a bridge junkie ask for! Grab your favorite bridge partner head for the gold, silver, and red points. **Just a quick reminder, the South Bend Sectional is Fri-Sun, August 2-4, at the Kroc Center in South Bend. Unit 154's Annual Meeting is that Sunday, Aug 4, during the lunch break of the Swiss Team Game.** The Board will have a quick report and the members will vote on the proposed Bylaw revision while you are munching on your sandwich. Then it is back to the table and more silver point pursuit.

ELECTION OF BOARD MEMBERS. For 2019 there were five Board seats up for election: Angola, Kokomo, South Bend/Mishawaka, Michigan City/Long Beach, and Highland. If there is more than one candidate for any given seat, an election is held during June 1-15. Candidates are self-nominated. This year there were no candidates for Highland, South Bend/Mishawaka, Angola, and Kokomo. Marci Meyer stood for election for Michigan City/Long Beach. As she was the only candidate for that seat, she is deemed elected by acclamation. In accordance with the Bylaws, the Board may select a member-at-large to fill any vacant seat. The selected member-at-large serves a one-year term and the seat is again open for election the following year.

Maybe it is time to discuss the viability of Northern Indiana Unit 154. If the Unit were to dissolve due to lack of interest in unit governance, the neighboring units in Michigan, in Chicago, in Northwestern Ohio, and in Indianapolis would gladly absorb any interested club(s). The typical club player would not notice any change at all at the local level. The primary change would be North American Open Pairs (NAOP) and Grand National Team qualifying sites and competition for any club that chose to go to Indianapolis or to Chicago. If you have an opinion on the subject of dissolution, please express it to me or Marci Meyer, or Alan Yngve, or Barbara Stroud, or Tom O'Connell, or Terry Bauer, or Stan Davis, or Bud Hinckley. I assure you the topic will be discussed at our next Unit Board meeting on August 3 in South Bend.

In the meantime, enjoy the warm weather and the companionship and the competition that duplicate brings into our lives. I wish all of you a pleasant and enjoyable summer for 2019.

Bylaw revision to be voted on at the Annual Meeting in South Bend

Hello, Unit 154 Members. At its meeting on October 20, 2018, in Highland, the Board discussed and then approved a motion to submit to the Membership for approval a slight revision to the Unit Bylaws. Section 6.6 says in part "...The Board shall consist of thirteen voting members..." The Board is requesting revision of this section to read "...The Board shall consist of **at least nine but not more than** thirteen voting members..."

The reason for the revision is, with the ongoing problem of unfilled Board vacancies, the Board may not meet the quorum requirements of the Bylaws, and, thus, be unable to transact needed business. With five Board seats up for election this year, I encourage all interested members to stand for election to the Board.

NEW LANGUAGE

Section 6.6 Number of Board Members

The Board of Directors, including all officers, shall consist of at least nine (9), but not more than thirteen (13) voting members. All Directors must be members in good standing of the ACBL as well as members of the Unit. The immediate Past President, if not an elected member of the Board, shall serve for one year, as a non-voting Board member.

ANNUAL MEETING ON SUNDAY, AUGUST 4. MUST BE A UNIT 154 MEMBER IN GOOD STANDING TO VOTE.

South Bend Summer Sectional

August 2, 3, & 4

Kroc Corps Community Center
800 West Western Ave.
South Bend, IN 46601
(574) 233-9471

Unit 154 Annual Meeting at 1PM on Sunday

Tournament Co-Chair:

Bill Searcy
(574) 536-1632
Willyslots@aol.com

Bylaw revision to be voted on.

Tournament Co-Chair:

Dave Bontrager
(574) 293-1375
bogeybontrager@comcast.net

Partnerships:

Karen Nagy
(574) 514-7677
kanagy14@gmail.com

Hotel

Holiday Inn & Conference Center
1208 E. Douglas Road
Mishawaka, IN 46545
574-258-4408
*Mention the South Bend Tournament
for the \$102 Bridge Rate
Available through July 20.*

From South Bend...



South Bend Pro-Am Game a Great Success!

South Bend's semi-annual Pro-Am Swiss Team Event, held on Saturday afternoon May 25th, was a great success! There were 12 teams of life masters or players with more than 500 points partnering with non-life master players with fewer than 500 points.

The winners were (pictured l to r): Kathy Stegmaier, Elaine DeLaney, & Gini Stipp. The fourth member, Margaret Lewis, was not available when the picture was taken but added. We send our congratulations! In addition, a hearty thank you to Director Bill Searcy (the hot dog chef) for running the event so smoothly & to Joan Tobler's committee, Leslie Garvey & Tricia Killeen for the festivities and the tasty spread. Look for the next Pro-Am in August!

In the Northwest...

A 299er Game Starts in Portage

For those novice and intermediate players who want to enjoy the open pair experience with players whose experience is at the same level of expertise as theirs, a new game has begun in Portage. It is held on the fourth Tuesday of every month. If you are interested, call Barbara Walczak (219-923-2288) for information or a partner or just to sign up to come.



Encouraging Younger Players



On April 10 eight students from Oregon Davis Junior/Senior High School got their introduction to duplicate bridge at the Valparaiso game. Their math teacher, **David Pinkham**, is also a bridge aficionado wanting to pass the game on to the next generation.

Oregon Davis Junior/Senior High School is in the small town of Hamlet. Hamlet has a population of about 800 people and its total area is one square mile. Within the Jr/Sr HS something great is going on — bridge lessons and bridge play is happening twice a week within the math club. David says that the true blessing in starting a bridge club has been the type of student that has decided to join. There is always the fear that the

same students volunteer for everything, but that didn't happen. For six of the students, this is the only club in which they participate. Of the remaining three, two of them are involved in Future Farmers of America, and the last student is involved in multiple clubs and organizations.

David tells that their trip to Valparaiso had been so very fruitful for the group. It created quite a buzz around the school, prompting other students to show an interest and to commit to joining the bridge club next year.

Here is an excerpt from one student's testimonial — "From my point of view, bridge is the ultimate war game. I didn't think so at first until my teacher, Mr Pinkham, introduced me to the game. It was quite hard to get the hang of it, but once I did, I loved it. It works all parts of the brain and if you're not always on your toes, they'll catch you on it and drop you to your knees.

There are many benefits of playing bridge. It's an amazing way to help with communication, thinking and problem-solving skills. Not only that, but it helps strengthen friendships, teaches you patience and dedication and just so much more. I, for one, will continue playing bridge because it truly is very competitive but also one of the friendliest games I have ever played."

All students displayed excitement and enjoyment of being part of the bridge world. Our hats are off to David Pinkham for inspiring students to develop an abiding interest in the greatest card game ever — that can provide a lifetime of ultimate intellectual competition.

From Fort Wayne...

"Longest Day" in Fort Wayne on June 19

Again this year, the Fort Wayne Club will host a 'Longest Day' event on June 19 to raise money for the Alzheimer's Association. Players can enjoy a light breakfast and rubber bridge game starting at 8:30 AM, a duplicate game with extra masterpoints at 1 PM, a raffle, and a silent auction. In 2018 the club raised more than \$12,700 through this event. For details, visit fortwaynebridge.org



Chairs: (L toR) Stan & Dena Davis, Matt Farber
Not pictured: Teresa Nelson

MONTHLY SWISS TEAM GAMES START JUNE 17 AT FORT WAYNE CLUB

Starting June 17, the Fort Wayne Duplicate Bridge Club will offer a 1 PM Pro-Am Swiss team game on the third Monday of each month (with possible exceptions in September and October). For details, visit fortwaynebridge.org

FORT WAYNE SECTIONAL

FORT WAYNE SECTIONAL MASTERPOINT LEADERS

Judy Nelsen and **David Himmelhaver**, both of Fort Wayne, won the most masterpoints at the Fort Wayne Sectional May 3 to 5 with 20.55 and 19.92 MP's respectively. **Donald** and **Virginia Hixson** of Rapid City, SD were third/fourth with 19.86 each. A total of 105 players played at 96 tables during the event.



Friends That Will Be Missed



ANNA ROBINS, Kouts

March 22, 1934 – May 8, 2019



Anna Robbins passed away on May 8. She lived in Kouts and played duplicate bridge in the Wednesday game in Valparaiso

Anna loved bridge and played it so much. She was one of the best players — terrific, to say the least! She played three times a week at the Banta Center. When she went to Florida, she played constantly. She was such a nice woman — people cared so much about her. And she was brilliant! — in bidding and play of the hand — always outsmarting the opponents.

She appeared on Jeopardy and was a winner. However, due to a technicality, she was disqualified for the second day. She was invited to come back at another time, but did not choose to do so.

Anna loved to travel and had spent time with her daughter in France. She loved that she got to wade in the Mediterranean and Aegean Seas. They went to Portugal together 17 times spending time in Estoril, Sintra and Cascais.

She was appreciated for the strawberries she always brought to the game — when they were in season.

ROSALIE WITUCKI, Fort Wayne

November 19, 1933 – May 22, 2019



It's empty. The South seat at Table Six at the Wednesday afternoon game at the Fort Wayne DBC is empty. Its usual occupant, Rosalie Witucki, passed from this earthly life on Wednesday, May 22. Rosalie occupied that seat for many years at the Fort Wayne DBC. It did not matter where Table Six was, Rosalie could be found in the South seat. When queried if she was superstitious, Rosalie responded, "No, but Six is my lucky number." And so it probably was. Rosalie and her partner were usually 'in-the-money' at Table Six, frequently first or second. Wherever she is now, there is surely a Table Six and Rosalie can be found in the South, seat. Play on, Rosalie.

70% + Games!

Kimberly Grant, Fort Wayne, & Joe Shull, New Haven: **70.31%** 4/2
Elaine DeLaney & Jimmy Cordas, South Bend: **72.69%** 4/9
Lou Nimnicht, Crown Point & Dan Spain, Portage: **70.00%** 4/27
Sally and Rich Will, Valparaiso: **70.14%** 4/30
Vallory Blanton & Pat Augustyn, Fort Wayne: **77.38%** 5/8
Jo Ann Steigmeyer & Chris Barker, Granger: **70.14%** 5/10
Betty & Dick Brewe, Michigan City: **70.14%** 5/13
John Goring, Frankfort, IL & Larry Rabideau, St Anne, IL: **73.36%** 5/13
Bonnita Laub, Mishawaka & Candace Hurwich, South Bend: **78.57%** 5/17

RISING IN THE RANKS

JUNIOR MASTER (5)

Terry Brendel, Valparaiso
Elaine Fritz, Fort Wayne
Miki Grant, Elkhart
Beatrice McCarthy, Fort Wayne
Barbara Nikceovich, Dyer

CLUB MASTER (20)

Anne Heger, Fort Wayne
Joseph Mihalov, Valparaiso
Ram Prasad, Munster
Kathy Stegmaier, Mishawaka

SECTIONAL MASTER (50)

Steve Brock, Auburn
Joel Charpentier, Chesterton
Vernon Clark, Decatur

RUBY LIFE MASTER (1500)

Shirley Johnson, Kentland