

October, 2017

Toronto and Fall, 2017 Report for District 12 Unit Board Members

From: Dennis Carman, District 12 Director

### District News – Longest Day

As noted in the October Bulletin starting on page 12, the Bridge Connection in Southfield MI raised \$9,795 to place 20<sup>th</sup> in the fifth annual Longest Day fund raiser for the Alzheimer's Association. The League raised \$1,027,000 to break the million dollar barrier for the first time. The Kalamazoo Bridge Club was 28<sup>th</sup> with \$7,750. (Top 40 list below and on page 16 of the Bulletin.)

#### THE LONGEST DAY TOP TEAMS

1. Sagamore Bridge Club – Syosset NY .....	\$209,211
2. Bridge Club of Atlanta .....	\$57,188
3. St. Louis Bridge Center .....	\$50,620
4. Indianapolis Bridge Center .....	\$42,478
5. Fort Lauderdale Bridge Club/Quick Tricks.....	\$27,096
6. Fred's Bridge Club – Athens GA .....	\$23,617
7. Santa Barbara (CA) Rufnsluffers .....	\$23,445
8. Duke City Bridge Club – Albuquerque NM .....	\$20,511
9. Bridge Heroes United – Fairfax VA .....	\$20,132
10. Maine Bridge – Oxford Hills DBC, Oxford ME .....	\$19,241
11. SLO Bridge to Remember – San Luis Obispo CA .....	\$19,116
12. Jefferson Bridge Association – Charlottesville VA .....	\$17,754
13. Unit 512 – Sonoma CA .....	\$16,801
14. Charlotte (NC) Bridge Association .....	\$15,453
15. Aces Against Alzheimers – New Orleans LA .....	\$13,264
16. Platinum CEM – Boca Raton FL .....	\$12,065
17. Granbury (TX) Bridge Club .....	\$11,066
18. Daniel Island (SC) Bridge Club .....	\$10,705
19. Amelia Island (FL) DBC.....	\$10,567
<b>20. Michigan Bridge Connection – Southfield MI .....</b>	<b>\$9,795</b>
21. Colorado Springs Unit 360 .....	\$9,765
22. The Mixed Nuts – Skaneateles NY .....	\$8,525
23. Bridge For Better Brains – Tucson AZ.....	\$8,312
24. Play with the Pros – online auction .....	\$8,125
25. Sandpoint (ID) DBC .....	\$7,938
26. Evansville (IN) Bridge Club .....	\$7,910
27. Durango (CO) DBC .....	\$7,770
<b>28. Kalamazoo (MI) Bridge .....</b>	<b>\$7,730</b>
29. Beaumont (TX) Bridge Studio .....	\$7,500
30. Vanderbilt Bridge Club – Nashville TN .....	\$6,874
31. The Villages (FL) DBC .....	\$6,650
32. DBC of Sun City Center (FL) .....	\$6,580
33. Penalty Doublers – Fort Wayne IN .....	\$6,201
34. Westside Bridge Academy – Houston TX .....	\$6,106
35. Unit 473 – Reno NV .....	\$5,921
36. Carteret County Bridge Club – Morehead City NC.....	\$5,918
37. M.A. Lightman Bridge Club – Memphis TN .....	\$5,752
38. In Tempo Bridge Club – Scottsdale AZ .....	\$5,659
39. Chattanooga (TN) Bridge Club .....	\$5,475
40. Williamsburg (VA) Unit 110 .....	\$5,332

While you're looking at the Bulletin, check this out:



After receiving an email from Ron Horwitz expressing concern about the next two years' Longest Day dates, which would be during the annual MBA/SOMBA Sectional, I arranged a meeting to discuss this in Toronto with the head of ACBL Marketing, Dan Storch, and his staff. Our new CEO, Bahar Gidwani, endorsed the idea of allowing the Longest Day to be any day of the week associated with the Longest Day. A motion to this effect will be made at our next Board meeting in San Diego. This way, all clubs will be able to offer this special game, with additional master points, to their players when there is a conflict with the actual Longest Day and tournament schedules. I expect this motion to be approved, as there is no down side.

### **Board of Director and Committee Actions in Toronto**

Three motions that passed in Toronto, all of which I favored, were:

1. Item 172-06 - Removal of the Stop Card.

We voted 21-4 in favor of this. As I am one of two board members assigned to the Competitions and Conventions Committee, I sat in on these discussions and the C & C members felt strongly about this issue.

2. Item 172-09 – Passed unanimously.

This allowed using prepared lesson hands for teaching purposes. This only applies to regular club games with a master point limit of 20 or less. Master point awards are the same.

3. Item 172 – 04

We passed an updated code of disciplinary regulations (CDR). The vote was 24-0 with one abstention. The new CDR is user friendly toward understanding the disciplinary process at the Unit, District, and National level. These changes can be found at <http://www.acbl.org/conduct-and-ethics/code-of-disciplinary-regulations/> .

These changes are also featured on page 59 of the September Bulletin.

## Toronto Nationals, July 20 – 30, 2017

The Toronto Nationals exceeded the projected table count of 12,500 by 789 tables, 13,279 totals tables. The US dollar was worth 25% more in Canadian dollars, and that was a reason given by many players for attending the tournament.

The conference center was well lit and easy to access. Food choices were abundant and close to the tournament site.

District 12 players who had high national finishes in Toronto were:

Linda Perlman & Debra Eaves; **2<sup>nd</sup> in the Women's Pairs**

Grant Peterson, Zachary Wasserman, Thomas Thomson, Michael Kraut, Ching Po Wang, and Xingh Zhang; **2<sup>nd</sup> in Flight B of the Grand National Teams**

Mike Levine; **2<sup>nd</sup> in the Roth Swiss Teams**

Arthur Wasserman & Bob Rasmussen; **tied for 5 (5 – 8) in the 0 – 6000 Mini-Spingold**

Jonathan Fleischmann & Jordan Kaye; **tied for 9<sup>th</sup> (9 – 16) in the 0 – 6000 Mini-Spingold**

Scott Roland, Doug Minder, Susan Minder; **tied for 5<sup>th</sup> (5 – 8) in the 0 – 2500 Mini-Spingold**

Arlene Geisler, Kenneth Geisler, Susan Woodrow, Phillip Smith; **tied for 9<sup>th</sup> (9 – 16) in the 0 – 2500 Mini-Spingold**

David Aderente, Wilber Argersinger; **9<sup>th</sup> in the Bean Red Ribbon Open Pairs**

John Koschik and David Whitehouse; **11<sup>th</sup> in the Werner Open Pairs**

The District North American Pair Finals were held September 17 in Lansing with eleven pairs advancing to play in Philadelphia next March at the Spring Nationals. The ACBL awards cash for pairs participating at the national level for the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> place winners in each flight. The District compensates all qualified 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> place pairs who play in Philadelphia at \$300 per player.

Flight A: 1. Gary Brinker, Maumee, OH and Joseph Ernsthausen, Sylvania, OH  
2. Robert Katz, Ann Arbor, MI and Frank Treiber III, Toledo, OH  
3. Martin Hirschman, Southfield, MI and Edward White, Grand Blanc, MI

Flight B: 1 – 2 tie Ben Bomber, East Lansing, MI and Cameron Shunta, Spring Lake, MI  
1 – 2 tie C Phillip Simonds, Livonia, MI and Richard Johns, Okemos, MI  
3. Brenda Fortunate, Grand Blanc, MI and Christopher Grant, New Lothrop, MI  
4. Wilbur Argersinger, Ann Arbor, MI and Bob Rasmussen, Ann Arbor, MI

Flight C: 1. Henry Zhang, Novi, MI and Yanping Zhang, Livonia, MI  
2. Rich Oom, Kentwood, MI and Sharon Oom, Kentwood, MI  
3. Mark Hugger, Dexter, MI and Bob Ondo, Ann Arbor, MI  
4. James McNamara, Brownstown Town, MI and Douglas Sweeder, Bloomfield, MI

Congratulations to all and hope to see you victorious in Philadelphia!

## Personal Accomplishments and Stories

As your District Director, I have had the pleasure of receiving notification when members of District 12 reach masterpoint milestones. I've been able to congratulate these people and ask them for a story or for suggestions on how the ACBL can improve their bridge experience. Here are some belated notices in my reports. (However, I did send congratulations in a timely manner!)

**Rose Dunholter** achieved the rank of life master two years ago; and I, unfortunately, overlooked her accomplishment in my report at that time. Here are her suggestions:

"Thank you for your congratulatory email. What a thoughtful thing to do! You asked for any suggestions on how the ACBL can serve us better. My bridge partner and I have often said that we would like to see more daytime events in the tournaments. By that I refer to having, for example, the Gold Rush Pairs at 9:00 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. as opposed to 1:30 pm. and 7:30 p.m. My partner and I do not like to play in the evening and have had many people voice the same concern. We always selected regional tournaments that offered those daytime sessions and in doing that we were limited in our selection."

She has a nice little story, but has asked that I not "share" or publish it.

**George Seroka** also achieved the rank of life master two years ago. Here is his story:

"Bob Palmer & I played a lot of lunchtime bridge before deciding to try duplicate bridge about 7 years ago. When we first started out with zero Masterpoints and no duplicate experience, we were getting beat up rather regularly at the Bridge Connection in Southfield, Michigan, playing against really good players with tons of MP's! During some early, dark moments we were very grateful they didn't take Masterpoints away! But all that grueling work at our weekly game against better players really helped us to perform well in the tournaments with folks of our own experience/MP level, and that reflects in the ratio of black MP's to "colored" tournament MP's: only about 31% of my MP's are black, the rest are gold, silver and red. In fact, we have almost as many gold as black MP's!"

"What a fun ride it's been!! Besides the local games, we've been in tournaments throughout the state: Kalamazoo, Bay City, Petoskey, Lansing, Flint, and even Florida!! Of course you can't forget the Motor City!"

"The Bridge Connection has really helped improve our game by utilizing dealing machines with hand records and providing enhanced results on-line via their website. These tools facilitate the learning process by allowing you to review each and every hand and compare your outcome with the results of all the other teams, and we used them "religiously."

"Now because of our schedules we were playing together only once a week, so working toward Life Master was a slow process, but we are proud of the fact that we averaged just a little under 1 MP per session, though many of those were in "chunks" from the tournaments."

"So, we're still getting clobbered at our local club game and still very grateful they don't take Master points away! It is the most maddening game but we're hooked and, like everyone else who play on a weekly or daily basis, we'll continue to play until we can't hold the cards any longer!"

Good job, George! I am especially impressed that you continued to play with better players and in tough fields. It certainly seemed to have enhanced your game.

**Tyrone Loving** became a life master July 2017. Congratulations, Tyrone!



**Hwaja K Kim** has reached Club Master status. She writes:

“Thank you for letting me know that I have achieved Club Master status, that is very exciting!”

“I started playing bridge at the Southfield branch 2-3 years ago. I found that playing twice a week has added structure to my life and helps to keep my mind active. I really enjoy how Bridge is a game that tests your skill but also places everyone on the same level. I enjoy getting the chance to learn from teachers as well as have the opportunity to play against the highly skilled players. I feel like I'm back in school, and it invigorates me to keep improving! I look forward to continue learning from the great players and teachers at the Southfield branch and improving my game. My goal is to continue playing, I hope to get at a level where I can consistently earn points to improve my standing.”

“As for my experience so far, the only thing that I can think of that would make our experience better are the snacks. It would be great if we had more fruit, it's great to keep our energy up as we play and it's the first thing to run out.”



From **Murray Rosenthal** who very recently became a Silver Life Master:

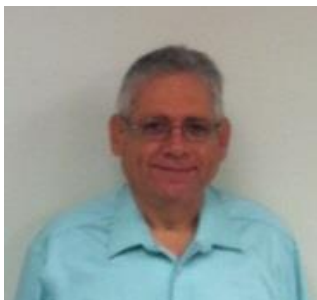
“In early May this year, Jimmy Kimmel opened his show with the touching story of how his newborn son’s life was saved by heart surgery. It is very likely that the heart lung machine used during this surgery was made here in Ann Arbor at Terumo Cardiovascular, where our team works on making heart lung machines better and safer. Working at my dream job is great but we all feel overwhelming satisfaction knowing that our daily efforts help to save thousands of lives.”

“Being employed full time, being with my family and my other interests leaves little time for bridge. But I could find time to play in club games with a partner ready to learn and to help me learn this game. If you can play an evening game in Ann Arbor, look me up!”

“I learned bridge in the fifth grade on a camping trip with my family. My parents both played and they taught my two brothers and me the basics using a flashlight to light up the tent so we could see the cards. That means I have been playing bridge for 52 years! Both of my parents were avid players and had house games with their friends on a frequent basis. My brothers and I played with my parents whenever we could throughout Junior High and High School. My first introduction to duplicate was a club game at college (Case Western Reserve University) in Cleveland. I was hooked. After college, I returned to my hometown of Akron, Ohio and started playing in club games (many were at the rubber companies – Firestone and Goodyear). I became involved in the local unit and served on the Unit 107 board and unit officers including president from 1989 to 1992. During this time, our board’s major problem and accomplishment was the slow process of removing smoking from our club games. It was tough but we did it!”

“I have some great stories from playing in bridge tournaments. My proudest moment was getting my friend and long-time partner, Mollie Green, over the life master hump. It was the last match of a Regional Swiss Team event and the last hand required me to declare and make 3NT, which I made using the Statue of Liberty play (I played the deuce from dummy towards my hand in my weakest suit at trick two – the opponents never led spades again). I remember bidding and making 7NT playing against Ron Anderson for a top. And, I remember playing against Barry Crane, dressed in a Tuxedo. And my famous opponents included Meckwell, Mike Passel and Ralph Katz. That’s the great thing about the ACBL, sometimes your entry fee allows you to play versus the Arnold Palmer and Jack Nicklaus of bridge. And I used to play on a Swiss Team of Rosenthal, Rosenthal, Rosenthal (with my brothers) and Smith.”

“Lastly, yours truly is a famous scientist. When I was 24 years old, I helped invent the first commercial test for Hemoglobin A1c at a company named Isolab in Akron, Ohio. The HbA1c test is used to monitor and diagnose diabetes. I get reminded of this every day by the commercials on TV (lower your A1c!). So here is your chance to be partnered with famous scientist and bridge player – contact me and we can play!”



It would be my pleasure to play bridge with you, Murray. Hope we can make a date sometime soon. - Dennis

I plan to attend the Detroit Regional this week, Monday through Thursday and Saturday/Sunday. If anyone wishes to talk to me in person, please look me up or send me a note; email preferred.

The District 12 Fall StaC starts Monday, October 30 and runs all week. I hope your club will be participating.

Looking ahead, the 2018 Grand National Teams (GNT) will be held Friday (qualifying) and Saturday (final), May 11 – 12, at the Bridge Connection in Southfield. Winners advance to Atlanta next summer, 2018.

Lastly, the Fall NABC is in San Diego this year, November 23 – December 3, 2017. For the few or many of you who attend, I wish you well!

Dennis Carman, District 12 Director

