

# ACBL Unit 179 News

Summer 2025

[www.acblunit179.org](http://www.acblunit179.org)

The Unit Awards Luncheon was held on Wednesday May 7, 2025 to celebrate the achievements of our bridge community!



We honored our new Life Masters, Ace of Clubs, and mini McKinney winners. Thanks to Mickey Wilson a delicious barbecue lunch from Edley's was served. New Life Masters included John Lander, Mary Lewis, Pat Robichaux, Carol Schnaars, Pricilla McKeenan, John Lee, Mary Ruth Smith, Peggy Crawford, Bill Flanagan, Edward Swenson, Kathy Ganske, Julie Walker

Our very own Mike Lawrence has been inducted into the ACBL Hall of Fame. Mike is the author of a number of bridge books, the latest, MY LIFE WITH BRIDGE, is presently on sale. We were treated to a witty, interesting talk by Mike, followed by questions from the group.



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## Lecture Series

For our lecture series, we have been lucky to have expert players willing to give their time with seminars on subjects of interest to members. Bill Lefko

spoke on "Forcing Club System", Jon Young spoke on "Everything You Need to Know About Tournaments", David Birnbaum spoke on "IMPs vs Masterpoints" and Chuck Said spoke on Doubles.



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## Don't miss the Grand Ole Regional October 13-19

- Monday - Bracketed Swiss
- Tuesday - Gold Rush Pairs
- Wednesday - Bracketed Swiss or 1499er Pairs
- Thursday - Bracketed Pairs
- Friday - Bracketed Swiss
- Saturday - B/C/D Pairs
- Sunday - Bracketed Swiss or Gold Rush Pairs
- Nights - Two Gold Rush Pairs

It takes volunteers to have a successful tournament. Mickey Wilson and Ann Gibson are co-chairs of the tournament. Contact them to find out how you can help!

Get a flyer at [www.acblunit179.org](http://www.acblunit179.org)

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## Mentor/Mentee Game



The Mentor/Mentee game continues to attract both experienced players and those who would like to improve. Please contact Ruth Raines if you are

interested. [ruth.rainesvbc@mail.com](mailto:ruth.rainesvbc@mail.com).

## Congratulations To 2024 Unit 179 Winners

	Mini-McKenney	Helen Shanbrom
		Ace of Club
0-5	Christine Spaid	David Mundie
5-20	Michael Schneider	Michael Schneider
20-50	Linda Nagle	Cassandra Estes
50-100	Donnie Pennington	Dominique Piot
100-200	Kurt Schneider	Kurt Schneider
200-300	James Ray	Doug Matthews
300-500	Mary Pepper	Mary Pepper
500-1,000	Suzanne Torrence	Suzanne Torrence
1,000-1,500	Richard Chalal	Richard Chalal
1,500-2,500	Merrie Alexander	Laurie Howorth
2,500-3,500	David Cochener	William Lefko
3,500-5,000	Linda Murdock	Linda Murdock
5,000-7,500	Michael Reeslund	Michael Reeslund
7,500-10,000	Patrick Williams	Rebecca Lowen
10,000+	Arthur Lowen	Arthur Lowen



Donnie Pennington



Kurt Schneider



Doug Matthews

## Unit Member Milestones

January - March 2025

### **Emerald Life Master**

Bryan Howard

### **Diamond Life Master**

Steven McMahan

### **Sapphire Life Master**

Larry Averbuch

### **Gold Life Master**

Greg Reichert

### **Ruby Life Master**

Betsy Keeling

Mary M. Hamlett

### **Bronze Life Master**

Hilary Hart-Brown

### **Life Master**

Morris Kupfer

Linda S Locke

### **Advanced NABC**

#### **Master**

Laura Schachter

Kurt Schneider

VeeVee Scott

### **NABC Master**

Marilyn Leathers

Henry Richardson

Carolyn Robinson

### **Regional Master**

Craig Sussman

### **Sectional Master**

Edward Gaffney

Robin Hopp

Ray Hunter

Don Marler

Roger Adamson

Beth Singer

Dudley White

### **Club Master**

Donna Dalton

Karen Shelton

Paul Levine

### **Junior Master**

Martha Phipps

Betsy Burrus

Ken Nelson

Susan Gray

Darlene Peters



Hilary Hart-Brown , Bronze Life Master



## FROM THE PRESIDENT

### **Celebrating a Season of Success: Spring & Summer Highlights from Unit 179**

As we move through the heart of summer, it's the perfect time to reflect on an incredibly vibrant and successful spring—and look ahead to the exciting events still to come for Unit 179!

This past May, we gathered for one of our most meaningful annual traditions: the 2025 Unit Achievements Lunch, held on May 7th. This special celebration recognized our 2024 new Life Masters, as well as the winners of the Mini-McKenney and Ace of Clubs awards. A highlight of the afternoon was the tribute to Mike Lawrence, who was inducted into the ACBL Hall of Fame—a richly deserved honor that reflects his extraordinary contributions to the game and the bridge community.

Spring also brought an engaging lineup of Education Talks, offering valuable insights on topics such as Precision, Tournament Strategies, and Team Play vs. Pairs Play. These sessions were well-attended and generated great discussions. While the talks are now on hiatus for the summer, stay tuned—a survey will be coming soon to gather your feedback and ideas for future topics when we resume in the fall.

We were thrilled with the turnout and enthusiasm at our June Sectional, which was a resounding success. A heartfelt thank you goes to Jon Young for chairing the tournament and to the many volunteers who gave their time and energy to ensure the event ran smoothly. It was a shining example of what we can accomplish together.

Looking forward, our Education Committee is expanding its impact in the community. In the fall, we'll resume our Education Talks, and even more exciting, Michelle Coop and her Team are adding three new schools to our growing effort to introduce middle school students to bridge. This is a vital part of building the future of our game, and we're proud of the progress being made.

Mark your calendars now for our next major event: the Unit 179 Regional Tournament, beginning October 13. This seven-day event will offer a full schedule of Pairs and Team competitions and promises to be a highlight of the fall season.

It's been a busy and rewarding year, and there is still much more to come in 2025. Thank you to all our players, volunteers, and supporters who continue to make Unit 179 such a strong and welcoming community. We look forward to seeing you at the tables—and beyond!

## BOARD MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Jon Young, a college math professor, is always willing to share his expertise and a witty quip, and, along with Michelle Coop, is our Education Chair. Meet Jon Young!

