

Thank you for the LM recognition letter. It was appreciated.

Hard to believe, but it took me over 65 years!!! to reach this goal - and I was never away from Bridge in all of that time. I won my first point in the sixties in NOLA at age 17 and started working as a Tournament Director a year later. After 20 plus years in the field, where there were very few opportunities for me to play and later to accumulate red points, I was recruited to work in the Tournament Division at ACBL Headquarters.

At that point, I was 40 years old, married with three children, and working full-time. Bridge play consisted mainly of team of four games at home with my husband, Steve, and friends. I really didn't have the time or the energy to play in tournaments, but I did play at the local bridge club.

Writing the "Ruling the Game" column for many years, creating "Duplicate Decisions" to help club directors with their rulings, and being transferred to the newly formed Education Department, to help get it established, kept me very busy until I retired in 2010 - a little over 50 years with the ACBL. These were fun years - working with bridge teachers, writing a newsletter for them, helping to get the ACBL Bridge Series produced and published, working with the development and growth of the TAP (Teacher Accreditation Program), organizing and running programs for teachers at the NABCs, working to start the Junior Bridge Program, including participation in international bridge camps, writing a newsletter for these young players, and working on other ideas and programs as they came up. I made many friends during this time and worked with some truly amazing people.

By 2010 I had more than 300 points but the last few red points were very elusive. I really didn't have the interest in playing at tournaments, mainly because the game had become so complicated. Every pair you competed against, played endless conventions that I didn't have the drive to learn. I continued to play locally, primarily for the social aspect and because I knew Bridge was a great way to exercise your mind.

Enter the covid-19 virus, quarantine, and online Bridge. I was reluctant at first to try online bridge but my regular partner talked me into it. We had been playing often at our local club and I was missing my friends and this activity. So many of the things I enjoyed were put on hold during the quarantine and I was bored.

Once we started to play online, I found that there were many aspects of this new form of Bridge that I really liked. I enjoyed playing against the local players I knew, but also against players from NOLA that I hadn't seen or heard of in years. The ability to pull up the history of your games on BBO and analyze them with your partner was fantastic. We can decide to play at a moment's notice by just turning on the computer, and when the NAP games started, there was access to those few red points I had needed for years!

It took all of this change to create an environment where I could become a Life Master. It was a fun journey. Thanks for asking.

Julie Greenberg