

My achieving the rank of life master has certainly motivated others. On more than one occasion, I have seen that sideways glance of "if she can do this, surely I can as well." This assessment is more than fair as my partner and I made some glaring, but often amusing mistakes along the way.

At our first regional tournament, we won gold in the morning, so we decided to leave, have lunch and go shopping. We had no idea that you had to play twice to keep your gold. Our teacher said that under no circumstances were we to ever mention his name.

When asked, "How do you card?" I was pretty sure that I had never carded as this is an illegal activity where credit cards are stolen and then used to purchase gift cards to cover your tracks.

When asked, "How do you lead?" I remained quiet as I didn't want to say that I picked a card out of my hand and put it on the table.

Once when the director was called, my opponent stated in a rather loud voice that I was "in the tank." I was at a total loss as I have never been in the military.

Recently, my opponent told my partner to play the hand, but he would call director after. It seems that even brief hesitations can cause consternations.

And my favorite comment was made by an expert. Obviously, having a bad day, he muttered, "When are these people going to learn how to play bridge?" I do so love to challenge the experts.

So, how did I get here?

When asked any question, I respond, "Attitude."

I learned to interpret the "umps of bridge", both the intonation and the number.

I have been blessed with wonderful people who have come into my life to share knowledge, motivation, and friendship. Thank you all from the bottom of my heart.