

The Kibitzer

Newsletter for Duplicate Bridge Players

ACBL Unit 360

Fall, 2023



President's Message

As many of you know, our Bridge Center building is one of only three in the nation wholly owned by the Unit membership. And our structure is an enduring one. Despite the recent damage and the length of time it is taking to repair it, our Bridge Center will emerge stronger and more resilient than ever.

But many Unit 360 members have asked, "Why is it taking so long to complete the repairs?" In a nutshell, the central problem has been obtaining insurance claim settlements. As originally envisioned, the entire process was going to be transparent to us. When first contacted, our insurance company assigned one of their "preferred contractors" to quickly complete the restoration and repairs. The contractor would bill our insurance company directly, with our insurance company then subrogating against the insurance company of the person liable for causing the damages.

However, shortly after completing the "emergency response" repairs, the "preferred contractor" withdrew from the project. That left us scrambling to find a local construction firm that could quickly step in and repair our facility. We finally located one and they quickly accomplished some repairs on the inside that enabled us to re-open and resume operations, having been closed for only about a week.

After that, our insurance company sent in an independent adjuster whose estimate of the scope of loss was unacceptable because it was incomplete and inaccurate. Then, our insurance company hired an independent architectural

Achievements:

Junior Master (5 pts):

Ken Day
Margie Hilvitz
Betsy Sobral

Sectional Master (50 pts):

Kathleen Dawson
Joan Newhouse
Deborah Pierre

Regional Master (100 pts):

Danuta Brown
Sanjiv Damle
Maureen Tuttle

NABC Master (200 pts):

Arthur Bean
Mary Pat Bean
Paul Gefreh
Steve Lebel

Advanced NABC Master (300 pts):

Brett Hulet

Life Master:

Sally Donaldson
Barbara Kaiser
Jason Thede

Ruby Life Master (1500 pts):

Barry Roof

Gold Life Master (2500 pts):

Eva Johnson
Scott McClure

Sapphire Life Master (3500 pts):

Edward Texel

consultant. Of course, this all took time. Extensive negotiations between us, the insurance company's consultants and our contractor were fruitless and frustrating for a very long time.

Recently, our insurance company agreed to our contractor's price, which will result in the high quality that was lost rather than inadequate repairs at the cheapest possible price. Soon our building will be whole again. However, the insurance company has caused significant delays to the restoration.

I would be very happy to discuss this matter in more detail with anyone. We have learned valuable lessons about insurance coverages and claims after an accident like this. We all hope nothing like this ever happens again, but we need to learn from the mistakes we arguably made this time so we don't repeat them in the future IF we experience another significant loss.

Right now, let's all breathe a sigh of relief that this accident was not worse, and look confidently and optimistically forward to having our bridge home restored to its previous remarkable condition, and perhaps even better.

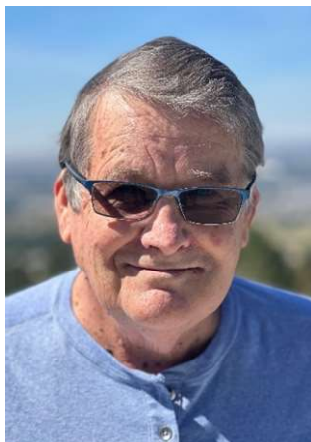
Very respectfully,

Howard

Board of Directors Election Is Coming

Currently, we have four candidates for the four Directors' positions running from 1/1/2024-12/31/2025. Nominations are open until November 9, 2023. If you wish to nominate any candidate for the Board (including yourself), please contact any current Board member. If no further nominations are received, the following slate of nominees will be elected by affirmation at the Unit 360 annual meeting on December 9. The candidates for election are listed below.

Mark Bishop



I started to learn bridge by kibitzing at my Mom's monthly neighborhood game. I played a lot late at night in college and then didn't play much until around 2010 when I reconnected with a high school friend. We started playing at the Bridge Center and I have been playing ever since.

I attended Indiana University and received a BS in Business. When I had the choice of a desk job in a corporate office or a job in the great outdoors...I decided to accept a tennis teaching position here in Colorado Springs. I taught for 44 years until I retired in 2016. I feel like my background in teaching and playing competitively gives me a unique perspective in dealing with many different people. I look

forward to serving as a board member and growing the game.

Paul Gefreh



I graduated from NDSU with a Bachelor's degree in mathematics and then went to University of Nebraska for law school where I got my JD. I have been a practicing attorney in Colorado Springs since 1977 with an emphasis in bankruptcy law, which really includes all areas of law. I am semi-retired and feel I have time to contribute to the bridge center. I have played at the bridge center in the 1970's and 1980's before taking twenty years off from bridge due to work and family commitments. I have served on the boards of service organizations and also on the board of Ent Credit Union. I believe my life experiences and background will be helpful to the board of the bridge center.

Ed Hill



I started playing duplicate bridge in Pueblo over 30 years ago. I had initially learned a bit of bridge at home watching parents and siblings play, and they—family and wife and friend—seemed to enjoy it. So I went to a few duplicate sessions, studied the vast stores of bridge literature in the Pueblo libraries, continued, and continue.

Once the president of Unit 367 in Pueblo, I have seen our numbers dwindle from 12 table games to 4 table games--on good days. Thanks to the efforts of Director George Hanzas, who comes into town from Rocky Ford, we still have a game at the Elks each Thursday. We used to have two sectionals annually, with about 50 tables for each session. Now, we cannot compete with the numbers up north, and have none. Ultimately, we folded as a unit, and joined you folks in Colorado Springs.

My goal in running for the board is to support the folks down in Pueblo and surround. Most of us rarely head up to Colorado Springs to play. Most of us rarely attend a sectional or regional or national. But it would behoove us to add a table or two of new players. We all seem to be getting old. We could benefit from your suggestions and support.



Phoebe Lostroh

I am a biology professor at Colorado College. I have lived in Colorado Springs for 20 years. I grew up in Nebraska and have spent significant time in Las Vegas, NM, Grinnell, IA, Boston, MA, Gaborone, Botswana, and Alexandria, VA. My partner and I married in Colorado Springs as soon as it was legal to do so, and we live near Patty Jewett with our furry family of one dog and two cats. She is a writer and songwriter, so she wants me out of the house playing bridge as much as possible!

Unit 360 is a big part of my life. I started as a novice player in 2016. Now you will most often find me playing in our 299- and 499-er games and occasionally dipping my toe into open games by playing with more experienced mentors. I love to play Saturday nights. When the pandemic first happened, I tried my best to use my skills as a microbiologist to teach our community about the relevant science. I also helped Howard Donaldson with Operation GRAND SLAM to collect therapeutic post-COVID-infection plasma from volunteer members. I know the community at Unit 360 is so important to you, too, and I would like an opportunity to help the club grow. It would be an honor to serve on the board.

Front Range Challenge

The Front Range Challenge will be held on Sunday, October 15th at the Denver Metro site and hosted by the Boulder unit (last year's winner). Boulder, Denver, Fort Collins and Colorado Springs units will compete for the traveling trophy, for the right to host the next year's event and for bragging rights.

This year's format allows each unit to submit up to six teams across the four brackets with no more than two teams per category. Unit 360 will have two A and two D teams along with one B and one C team. The 6 teams are:

A BRACKET:

Team 1

Bonnie Bagley, Bill Curtis, Dennis Goldston, Page Walker

Team 2

Chris Champion, Shirley Scott, Kim Caley, Judy Hummel

B BRACKET:

Ann Parker, Jean Collins, Lee Kulbitski, Lorna Perkins

C BRACKET:

Linda Nicholos, Davis Bennett, Sam Taylor, Conrad Waggener

D BRACKET:

Team 1

Fred Cannon, Mark Huth, Lee Brown, John Hurwitz

Team 2

Bob Wagstaff, Mark Bishop, Dave Loring, Sally Donaldson

Would you like to help the Bridge Center in a big way that won't take up too much time? We are looking for a new volunteer to take over the job of purchasing and restocking Bridge Center supplies. Interested? Talk to Murlene.

The Bridge Center is available as a meeting place! If you have a group of people needing to get together, consider us! Call Murlene at 719 440-9442.

BRIDGE INSTRUCTORS:

If you have taught any classes this year and were not compensated, please contact Murlene at 719 440-9442.



MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

Mon. Nov 6 - Sun. Nov. 12: District 17 STaC
at District 17 clubs

Sat. Dec. 9: U360 Membership Meeting & game

2024

Mon. Jan. 29 - Sun. Feb. 4: District 17 STaC
at District 17 clubs

Wed. Feb. 7 - Sat. Feb. 10: U360 Winter Sectional
at the Colorado Springs Bridge Center

Sat. Feb. 24 & Sun. Feb. 25: U360 299er Sectional
at the Colorado Springs Bridge Center

Fri. April 6 & Sat. April 7: D17 Championship GNT Finals
online on Bridge Base Online

Thurs. April 18 - Sun. April 21: U360 Spring Sectional
at the Colorado Springs Bridge Center

Sat. May 25 & Sun. May 26: D17 Flight A, B & C GNT Finals
at the Denver Regional

Mon. June 3 - Sun. June 9: District 17 STaC
at District 17 clubs

Thurs. Sept. 5 - Sun. Sept. 8: U360 Fall Sectional
at the Colorado Springs Bridge Center

Mon. Sept. 16 - Sun. Sept. 22: District 17 STaC
at District 17 clubs

Mon. Nov. 11 - Sun. Nov. 17: District 17 STaC
at District 17 clubs



U360 Fall Sectional September 7th-10th

There were 158 players and 154.5 tables as compared to the 2022 Sectional which had 171 players and 169 tables. A total of 766.86 silver masterpoints were awarded.

Top Masterpoint Winners: 31.71 –En Hay/Allen Kane, *Highlands Ranch*
Top Unit 360 MP Winner: 26.33 – Dennis Goldston

Gazette Trophy Winner: Dennis Goldston (U360 member with the most masterpoints in the three 2023 U360 Open Sectionals – Feb. – 0, April – 32.20, September – 26.33 = 58.53)

Many thanks go to:

- Kay Brock, Partnership Chair
- David & Ellen Loring - Hospitality Chairs
- Dawn Neeley – Kitchen Supervisor
- Jeff Rapp - Board Duplication, Reservations & Supplies
- Theresa Venhuis – Director
- Corban Black - Caddie

Thank you also to Treasurer Ann Couch who reported a surplus of \$3,350.47 and to the many U360 members who supported the tournament and helped in many ways. Much appreciation to all!!!!

Bonnie Bagley
Tournament Chair



Tree (for “Tremendous”) was our tournament director.



Ellen Loring, Dave Loring and Dawn Neeley were our great hospitality team.

The winners:



Thursday evening Swiss Flight A: Bonnie Bagley, Michael Hellman, Linda Sundbye (Broomfield), Dennis Goldston



Thursday evening Swiss Flights B, C: Thad Smith, Mindy Smith (Boulder), Jeff Rapp, Tom Baesl

Friday Morning 299ers: Sandra Brightwell, Margaret Willard (not pictured)

Friday Open Pairs, A: Andrea Johnson (Longmont), Paul Ossip (Englewood) (not pictured)

Friday Open Pairs, B: William Jeffers, Bill Hendrick (Boulder) (not pictured)



Friday Open Pairs, C: Jim Wyss, Jodi Wyss

Saturday Morning 299ers: David Kalman, Gary Reneau (not pictured)



Saturday Open Pairs A: Allen Kane, En Hay (Highlands Ranch)

Saturday Open Pairs B: Richard Berger, Ramona Berger (Denver) (not pictured)

Saturday Open Pairs C: Tom Basel, Fred Cannon (not pictured)



Sunday Bracketed Teams 1: Bonnie Smith (Littleton), Linda Sundbye (Broomfield), Dom Di Felice (Denver), Janet Degrazia (Boulder)



Sunday Bracketed Teams 2: Robert Lupton (Aurora), John Osher (Denver), Edward Yosses (Highlands Ranch), Paul Perkowski (Highlands Ranch)



Sunday Bracketed Teams 3: John Dias, Jean Collins, Ann Parker, Michael Stuart

70% Games:



Pat Atkinson & Mark Bishop, 70.83% Fri. 6/2/23.



Mike Hellman & Fran Pilch, 75.30%, Sat. 7/1/23.



Bob Somppi & Phyllis Dunn, 75%, Sat. 7/29/23.



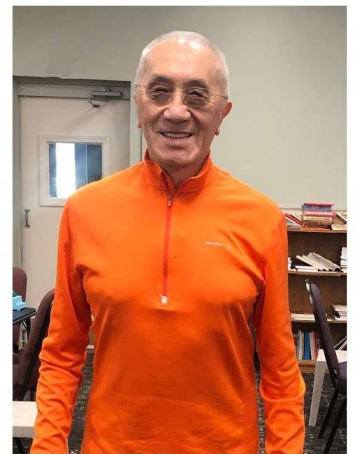
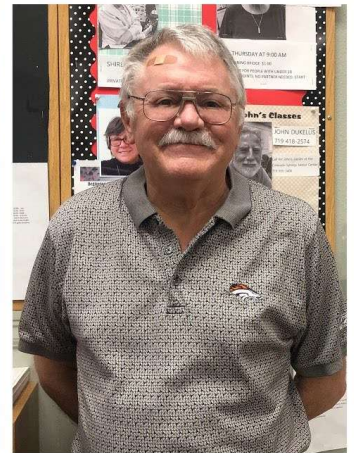
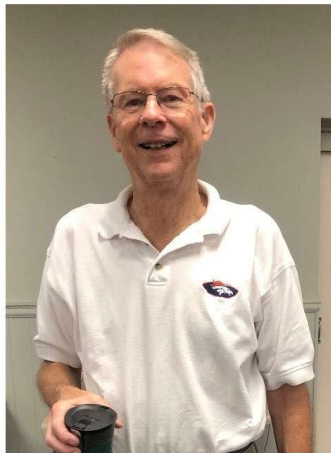
David Ruttner & Bob Harward, 72.22%, Mon. 9/4/23.



Jay Francis & Brian Hegarty, 71.88%, Mon. 9/5/23.

New Game Directors Needed

Have you ever thought of becoming an ACBL bridge game director? Unit 360 is in desperate need of new directors. The ACBL Zoom class is online for one weekend or four weekday nights. Unit 360 will reimburse the \$50 fee to take the class and the test. Current directors will provide plenty of help, advice and encouragement. Remember, we can't have bridge games without game directors.



There were plenty of Broncos fans at the fall sectional.

The Kibitzer is published several times a year by the Colorado Springs Bridge Center, Unit 360 of the American Contract Bridge League. Our unit is dedicated to the enjoyment and promotion of the game of duplicate bridge in the Pikes Peak and Southeastern Colorado region. News contributions and comments can be emailed to the editor Kay Brock at kay.brock@yahoo.com



AMERICAN CONTRACT BRIDGE LEAGUE

— DEALING INFINITE POSSIBILITIES —