

The Kibitzer

Newsletter for Duplicate Bridge Players

ACBL Unit 360

Spring, 2024



President's Message

The ACBL will be making changes to the reimbursements that units receive from member memberships starting April 1st. The changes are fully described in the article Return to the Fold (5 5 5) by Murlene Williams. In short, last year we received about \$1,400.00 from ACBL and this year if we did nothing to address the changes would receive perhaps as little as \$600.00.

To address the reimbursement change a committee composed of Murlene Williams, John Dukellis, Laura Lowan, Jodi Wyss and Sharon Kruse has been working to contact lapsed members before the April 1st deadline. The work of this committee has the potential of increasing the membership reimbursement from ACBL to as much as double the \$1,400.00.

In a second article titled Be A Recruiter Murlene identifies other significant information related to new member memberships and member benefits from recruiting new members. Please read the article.

A third article of importance again by Murlene details the Grouper (formerly Element3) benefit option for existing ACBL members to utilize their secondary insurance to receive free memberships. This is a developing benefit with additional secondary insurances being added to the list. If your secondary is not listed it does not mean that it will not be added.

While the desire is that all people playing in face-to-face games will have ACBL memberships, this may not be achieved. After April 1st lapsed members and non-members will be charged an additional fee to play. The hope is that everyone will renew or join ACBL prior to April 1st making this action unnecessary.

Bob Wagstaff

Achievements:

Junior Master (5 pts):

Ronald Bliss
Stephen Hosp
Pam McCutcheon
Roy Nachand
Diane Porter

Club Master (20 pts)

Sharon Dant
Barbaras Schmidt

Sectional Master (50 pts):

Laura Lowan

Regional Master (100 pts):

Sue Fullbright
Howard Jones
Sally Misko
Patricia Winters

NABC Master (200 pts):

Kay Brock
Robin Spaulding

Advanced NABC Master (300 pts):

Life Master: (500 pts)

Fred Cannon

Ruby Life Master (1500 pts):

Jean Collins

Silver Life Master (1000 pts):

Kay Malowney

Gold Life Master (2500 pts):

Mary Gollehon

Sapphire Life Master (3500 pts):

Robert Harward

Return to the Fold

5/5/5

Each year in the past, ACBL has given our unit 11% of our membership fees. As of April 1st, our unit will receive only 5%. However, we can earn an additional 10%. So, how can we get 10% more? We can get:

-Up to 2.5% by calling and letting you know that your membership has lapsed or is close to lapsing. We hope that you will chat with us when we call. We know a couple of ways for you to reduce your annual membership fee. We can also talk about the benefits of belonging to ACBL.

-Up to 2.5% when you all renew your membership. The more people that renew, the better percentage we get. Hopefully, we can convince all of you that ACBL is a great organization that is worth joining.

-Up to 5% by recruiting new people.

John, Ann, and Karen have done an amazing job in bringing new people into the unit. The parking lot is almost full-on Thursday mornings, and the 0-49 Tuesday afternoon game is growing by leaps and bounds! By the way, Karen, you will be sorely missed! But the rest of us can do our part! Ask friends and neighbors to come and take a look at our unit. Invite them to our 1st Saturday night of the month potluck! We're even trying out having soup on the 3rd Saturday night. . . Also, in January, we started a Thursday night open game for folks who work during the day. And anybody else who can come!

The bottom line is that ACBL wants to join with us to figure out ways to increase our numbers. Jodi Wyss, Laura Lowan, Sharon Kruse, and I have been and will be working on this new program throughout the year. Many thanks to all of them!

Be a Recruiter!

Have you heard of a Guest Member? Invite a person to try ACBL free for four months as a Guest Member. After four months, that person will have a month to decide if they actually want to join. If so, their ACBL dues are only \$29 for the first year! Here's the good news for you: you get \$10 off your dues when they sign up as Guest Member; you get another \$10 off your dues when they decide to join ACBL; AND you get an additional \$10 off your dues the next year if they renew!

Cheers.... Did you Know?

I am happy to send a card from the Bridge Center to anyone who is ill, had surgery, lost a loved one, etc. However, I need the input from the members for people needing cheer. When an ACBL member dies we send a memorial contribution (\$25) in their name. Diane Black, balloonblack@comcast.net

Element3Health/Grouper

Ever since I retired, I have heard people talking about Silver Sneakers. I found out that it is a health and fitness program that allows adults 65 and older to attend yoga and exercise classes FREE. It seems that some health care companies want to encourage people to get out and moving!

Now, some supplemental health care companies are taking it a step further. They want us to socialize with other people and to engage in activities that make us use our brains. Hmmm. What activity could possibly have people interacting with others and playing a game where we have to concentrate? We all know the answer: BRIDGE!

Element3Health used to be the name of the program that links ACBL and your health care company; they have now changed the name to Grouper (as in groups getting together). If your company is listed on their website, and you are an ACBL member, every bridge game you play at our unit will take \$1 off your ACBL membership dues. It's like belonging to this great organization that sponsors everything we do-FREE!

So give it a try and see if you qualify. Go to app.hellogrouper.com/p/ACBL. Follow the directions on the website to sign up. All of us have been taught to NOT give out our personal information. This is a legitimate site. Several people I know are already reaping the benefits. A friend just learned that she is 94% towards having her ACBL dues paid for this year. Once you are enrolled, ACBL and the health care company do the rest! They coordinate your visits to our club, and you are the winner!

If you need help, call 844 974-9558. Or call me and I will walk you through the process!

Murlene Williams 719 440-9442

Director, please!

Have you ever thought about directing? ACBL has you covered: <https://www.acbl.org/portfolio/director-courses/>. They regularly offer a \$50 Club Director Course taught online using Zoom. The next ones are offered in February, April or May, but there will be more offered as the year advances. Unit 360 can reimburse you for the cost of the course. ACBL offers an open-book test to people who complete the course. A score of 65% or better qualifies you to become a Director. ACBL also offers refresher courses for people who are already Directors as well as specialized courses about directing on a cruise or directing a sectional. Check out the web site and get ready to make your rulings. Phoebe Lostroh

The Importance of Opening Leads

Defense is one of the harder parts of bridge and can also be one of the real fun parts. We typically are Declarer only 25% of the time, while we're on Defense about 50%. We are trying to defeat our opponent's contract or keep overtricks to a minimum.

It all starts with the opening lead. As we know, there are standard leads from common holdings. We also have some clues from the auction. What was bid? What wasn't bid? Who didn't bid? Did pard do anything?

That first card we put on the table is very important and starts the communication between the defenders who can only see their own hand and the dummy.

To help newer players, and even experienced players, we are now entering opening leads on the Bridgemate. It's a simple process, just 3 clicks while the dummy is being put on the table and declarer is making a plan.

Now we can go back after the game and see what card other players chose and what happened at that table. Newbies and even more experienced players can benefit from this information. I have played in several clubs (including Durango and Tucson) that enter leads and have heard the enthusiasm from newer players who really benefit from this great information. Enjoy this new feature. Study the leads and improve your partnership defense.

See you at the tables...

bob somppi thebridgeaddict@gmail.com

Did you know that we have three other active clubs outside the Colorado Springs area that welcome visitors and that are part of Unit 360?

Rocky Ford Bridge Club, 301 N. 9th St., Monday Open Pairs, 1 pm.

Buena Vista Duplicate, 27900 CO Rd 319, Wednesday Open Pairs, 1 pm.

Pueblo Bridge at the Elks, 426 N. Santa Fe, Thursday Open Pairs, 12:30 pm.

PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE

Help is needed in keeping the Bridge Center clean and tidy. Since everyone who plays bridge at the Bridge Center is an adult, I'd like everyone's help in bringing back cups and glasses to the kitchen area, in throwing away paper and food wrappers, in putting back chairs and in general restoring the playing area to how you found it when you arrived. Directors have lots to do and it's a large room to keep clean and tidy. Thanks for the help and see you at the tables.

Bob Wagstaff

U360 Winter Sectional February 7th – February 10th

There were 136 players and 105 tables as compared to the 2023 Sectional which had 150 players and 162 tables. Of note is that the two session Saturday teams had to be cancelled. With the 20 teams registered, our table count would have been 145, slightly less than 2023.

The Winners:

Wednesday Swiss: Flight A - Judy Hummel, Kim Caley, Melvin Levine, Margie Schrader

Flight B - Tom Goings – Tami Hilton – Robert & Linda Harward

Flight C - Bob Wagstaff – Mark Bishop – Jim Wyss – Jodi Wyss

(tie) Bud Raabe - Carol Raabe - Joe Bricker - Pamela Bricker

Thursday A.M. 299ers: D, E, F - Christine Blackwell – Joe Blackwell

P.M. 299ers: D, E - Mike Crimmins – Leslie Kelly

Open Pairs: A - Dennis Goldston – Joe Pieper, *Longmont*

B, C - Mary Lynn Darcy, *Denver* - Ann Schuster, *Englewood*

Friday A.M. 299ers: D – Jane Vagge – Joan Newhouse

E, F - Howard Franson - Charles Barrett

P.M. 299ers: D - Don Washburn – Jean Washburn

E, F - Rock Goldberg – Gary Gossage

(tie) - Marcia Tedy, *Brighton* – Ned Noack, *Brighton*

Open Pairs: A - Dom Di Felice, *Denver* - Linda Sundbye, *Broomfield*

B, C - Paul Gefreh – Steve Lebel

Saturday Teams: cancelled due to weather, road conditions, and concern for the safety of our players

Top Masterpoint Winner: 1. 20.46 – Dom Di Felice, *Denver*

Top Unit 360 MP Winner: 2. 15.89 – Dennis Goldston

Many thanks go to:

Corban Black - Caddie

Kay Brock, Partnership Chair

John Dukellis – Board Duplication

David & Ellen Loring - Hospitality Chairs

Dawn Neeley – Kitchen Supervisor

Jeff Rapp - Reservations

John Worley – Director

Thanks to all who braved the weather and came to play – hopefully we will have balmy Spring weather for our April 18-21 Sectional. PLAN NOW TO PLAY!!

Bonnie Bagley

Tournament Chair

HELLO AND GOOD-BYE

Hello to Claudia Busch Lee who is the new editor of the Kibitzer. This is her first issue. Please thank her for stepping up and taking on the job.

Being editor involves more work than meets the eye. Thanks Claudia.

Good-bye to Kay Brock who has been the Kibitzer editor for the past three years. In addition to being editor Kay has also served on the board, been partnership chair for three years and recently become a game director making appearances lately several times a week filling gaps in our current director shortage. For those of you who don't know, Kay also sings in an award-winning chorale group and plays cribbage once a week. Thanks for all your work for the Bridge Center Kay. It's appreciated and hopefully noticed.

**MARK
YOUR CALENDAR!**



Colorado Springs 299er

Sectional February 24 - 25

Tucson Regional February 27 - March 2

Denver Sectional March 8 - 10

Louisville NABC March 14 - 24

Phoenix NLM 749er Regional April 12 - 14

Denver 499er Sectional April 13 - 14

Colorado Springs Sectional April 18 - 21

Boulder Bonanza Sectional April 26-28

Denver Regional May 21 - 27

Penticton Regional June 10 - 16

Prescott NLM 749er Regional June 21 - 23

Denver NLM 749er Regional July 12 - 14

Toronto NABC July 18 - 28

Phoenix Regional August 12 - 17

Colorado Springs Sectional Sept. 5 - 8

Taos Regional September 23 - 29

Las Vegas NABC Nov. 28 - December 8



New Life Masters 2023 Jason Thede, Barbara Kaiser, Fred Cannon, Sally Donaldson (not pictured Jodi Wyss)



Dave Loring, Robin Spaulding, Bonnie Bagley and Howard Donaldson, Retiring Board Members



Tom Goings and Claudia Busch Lee 70.42% game



Ed Hill, Phoebe Lostroh, Mark Bishop, Paul Gefreh, New Board Members



Bob Wingeard Family at Celebration of Life



Bob Harwood Sapphire Life Master 3500 points



Kay Malowney Silver Life Master 1000 points



Jean Collins Ruby Life Master 1500 points



Mary Gollehon Gold Life Master 2500 points



Howard Donaldson reporting to the membership



Christmas cheer

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 Claudia Busch Lee at claudiabuschlee@gmail.com

