

THE KIBITZER

Colorado Springs, Colorado www.bridgewebs.com/coloradosprings/

Unit 360 Board of Directors

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Vice President - Howard
Donaldson

Treasurer - Linda Nicholas

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Membership/Hospitality -

Shari Carnelli

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Bonnie Bagley

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Ann Couch and Fred Cannon

There will be another Board of Directors election in November 2021 in order to replace or re-elect the four members with terms ending December 2021. Please let the board know if you are interested in being a candidate for the next Unit 360 Board.

Note from the Editor:

There are many things that have happened, or are about to happen, to Unit 360 that are much welcomed.

First of all, a big thanks to the new officers and board members who are working very hard on many projects, including getting our club re-opened in the not to distant future.

A very big and hearty welcome to our new Unit 360 members from Unit 367. We know many of you already and look forward to getting to know many more.

A big thanks to the directors who have kept the games alive via BBO. There is probably a pretty good chance that playing online will remain with us a long time since it really does serve an important alternative for many of our members, but your efforts have kept people involved and will make the transition back to F2F-playing easier.

Good luck to the GNT participants from our unit. Hopefully we will be well represented at the Nationals in July.

An event that has become an integral part of our big-hearted, generous membership is The Longest Day, which supports the Alzheimer's Association. Yes, it is happening online this year, however, you do not have to play to donate to this organization that does so much to fight the devastating illness that has affected so many of our friends and relatives. Please see the link to the donation website in Randy Rush's article.

Here's to seeing each other again in person soon!

Cheers,

Ann Parker

New ACBL Achievements

Sectional Master (50 points) -
Steve Lebel

Bronze Life Master (750 points) -
Joe Melton

Gold Life Master (2500 points)-
Judy Bredall

A Hearty Congrats to all!

The Longest Day
June 19th and 20th

Dear friends,

May 19, 2021

I am not a medical doctor but I have often been consulted about COVID-19 because of my expertise as a Ph.D.-holding microbiologist. I shared my opinion about safety precautions at the bridge center with the board and now they have asked me to share it with you in writing.

I think that we are never again going to experience a time when there is no SARS-CoV-2 in circulation in the United States. So, our choices are not how to be safe or unsafe, but rather where we want to fall on the scale of safer to less safe.

Playing exclusively with people who have been fully vaccinated and waited two weeks after their final shot is safer than playing with people who have been partially vaccinated or not vaccinated at all. It is safer still if everyone wears a face mask. If someone has not been vaccinated, it is safer for them to play exclusively if they have taken a rapid over-the-counter COVID-19 test over the most recent 48 hours before they come into the building and if they wear a mask. I think it would be safer if we made sure that the ventilation in the building takes into account the [CDC recommendations](#) for safer building occupancy. The main recommendation is to minimize recirculation of air, which can be done in a variety of ways. I think it would be safer to find out how well the ventilation is doing, and it is possible to do this by purchasing and using a CO₂ meter. Low CO₂ levels indicate that recirculation of possibly contaminated air is at a minimum. It would be safer to open the Bridge Center for in-person play when level of new cases in El Paso County is <100 per 100,000 in a week, which is the CDC's "high risk" condition. It would be safer to have no food indoors and consider setting up an outdoor space with shade and seating so that people could eat outdoors in good weather. It would be safer to wait until we achieve local new cases <10 per 100,000 in a week before we resume eating and drinking indoors. Enhanced hand hygiene is always safer, taking into account many infections in addition to COVID-19. I do not think that temperature checks contribute much to COVID-19 safety because there is no consistent time over the course of infection that everyone with COVID-19 has a fever. But on the other hand, temperature checks are simple, affordable, and non-invasive and could detect a fever associated with any infection. So, I would not be opposed to temperature checks even though I would not use them as the only safety measure.

Some people are not convinced that getting COVID-19 is especially dangerous. I know that my statistics will not sway people with this position but I will try this last argument – this virus is evolving to adapt to human beings and spread more and more efficiently, and it is deadly for some people (as it was for some people at our bridge club). If you can't get vaccinated, you could continue all the practices that help prevent transmission such as wearing a face mask and regular use of a home COVID-19 test. The reason to avoid getting infected is to ensure as best as you can that, "the virus stops with me." The only way to combat viral evolution is to stop virus reproduction.

It's going to be difficult to get through these next few months and figure out how to be together as safely as possible but without safety precautions that some might consider excessive. My biggest recommendation is that we try to face this situation with kindness and patience for each other and for ourselves. Some of us have lost more than others in the pandemic. Let's try to work this out as gently as we can – it's the least we can do for our friends who lost their lives to COVID-19.

Thanks for your attention, and thank you to every one of you for making Unit 360 such a joyous part of my life.

Sincerely,
Phoebe



Re-Opening Unit 360 for F2F Play

Recently, the Re-Opening Committee received an email from one of our members who thanked the Committee for its hard work on behalf "of all of us who love Bridge and each other." Although it may not seem like our efforts to re-open our Bridge Center for F2F play are proceeding at warp speed, that slower pace is almost doubtlessly appropriate. The person who expressed that gratitude has exactly the right perspective. We are making significant progress, but we absolutely must take the time to get it right. We are working toward a re-opening that is consistent with guidance from the CDC, and El Paso County Public Health as well as other local experts. In short, we are proceeding deliberately, with due diligence in order to achieve an outcome that is in the best interests of all of our members.

Toward this goal, a Re-opening Committee has met twice and the latest one on May 20th was attended by nearly all the club owners. Following a thorough discussion, the committee decided to recommend to the BOD at a Special Meeting set for June 1, that the Bridge Center re-open not later than July 6th, with the possibility of an earlier opening if necessary servicing and repairs to the facility are completed sooner. The committee also recommended that all members who desire to play F2F in our Bridge Center certify that they have either been vaccinated for COVID-19, OR have a valid medical exemption based on advice from a licensed medical doctor. Additionally, those who have not been vaccinated will be required to wear a properly fitting and correctly worn facial covering while in the Bridge Center. The individual club owners may impose other restrictions on their games, but must abide by any minimum standards set by the BOD. These recommended minimum standards will be set out in an attachment to the certification form. There will also be some other initial rules like the requirement to make advance reservations, no communal food and drink and modified social distancing procedures. The committee, however, intends to recommend that coffee be made available to participants, but only if served in disposable, disposable cups (furnished by the Bridge Center) and using prepackaged sweetener and creamer. The kitchen facilities will initially be closed, except for the coffee maker.

It is important to understand that the recommendations made by the committee, and the rules eventually adopted and approved by the BOD, are INITIAL efforts. As time goes by, the rules will almost certainly be relaxed and we will eventually be able to return to normalcy. But right now, we will need to start our transition cautiously and be governed by careful, prudent optimism. The bottom line is simply this: getting vaccinated, wearing a mask (if required) and taking all the other careful, prudent precautions are relatively minor inconveniences. Moreover, these actions will underscore the teamwork and heartfelt consideration for others for which Bridge players, in general, and our Unit 360 Bridge players, in particular, are uniformly noted. In short, it's what we have grown to expect from our splendid members. More than ever, we need to pull together, make the needs of the group paramount and elevate "our love of the game of Bridge and each other" above relatively minor inconveniences experienced by adhering to these necessary rules.

Welcome to Unit 367 Members

In early May, the Board of Directors were notified that Colorado Unit 367 was joining Unit 360. This came about through the efforts of Karen Campbell (past Unit 360 President) and several people in D-17 and people in Unit 367.

The members of Unit 367 live in Southern Colorado and are mainly in the cities of Pueblo, Rocky Ford and Buena Vista. Karen sent an email message to the Unit 367 members welcoming them to Unit 360. We want to get know these new members and when our Bridge Center is open for F2F play we hope they drive up to play with us sometime.



Unit 360 Support for the Alzheimer's Association – Longest Day 2021

Longest Day is the day of the year with the most light — the summer solstice. It is a day that bridge players across the US are playing, donating, and supporting the effort to find a cure for Alzheimer's disease! I'm leading this effort for our bridge club. My wife Tami, who battled this disease for 11 years, just passed away in November.

Today, an estimated 50 million people worldwide are living with Alzheimer's or other dementias. More than 6 million Americans are diagnosed; more than 11 million friends and family members are providing and caring for them. We must act now or these numbers will continue to rise. As of this date, there are no known survivors of Alzheimer's Disease.

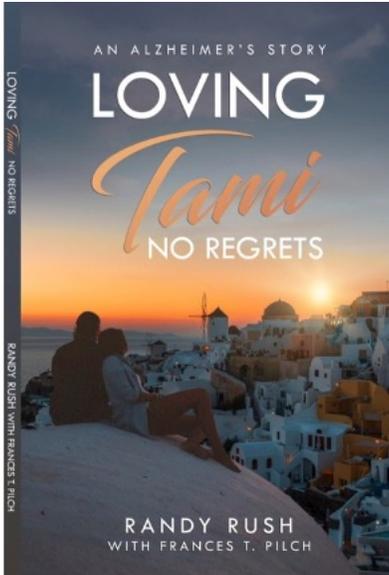
The Alzheimer's Association [lists](#) Bridge as one of the top 10 activities that can keep all our minds healthy. Playing bridge, making friends in the unit, and finding a healthy distraction for Tami's progression was a wonderful help and support to me. Join me and other Unit 360 players in support of this fight.

In prior years, our bridge club has raised almost \$11,000 and donated it to the Association. Our goal this year is to raise over \$10,000 for this worthy cause. There are three ways to participate in the fund raising:

1. Play in Shirley Scott's 10:00 virtual game on BBO to be held on Saturday, June 19th
2. Play in Shirley Scott's 12:30 virtual game on BBO to be held on Sunday, June 20th
3. Donate directly to Unit 360's fund raising page for the Alzheimer's Association by clicking here: <http://act.alz.org/goto/TamisfighttoendALZ>

Donations can be made now through the last day - June 21st.

Thank you, Randy Rush



To commemorate
The Longest Day

Randy Rush and Fran Pilch cordially invite you to a book signing of Randy's new book

Loving Tami: No Regrets – an Early Onset Alzheimer's Journey (\$10.00 per copy)

Monday, June 21, 2021

Drop in between 4-6 PM

Randy's Home: 1735 Peak Prairie Lane
 Monument, CO 80132

Light appetizers and beverages

All proceeds of book sales will be donated to Randy's No Regrets Foundation and used to further Alzheimer's research. Randy is a regular member of our bridge club



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