

EMBA Officer Candidates for Election to the 2027 EMBA Board

Stan Piltch – President

David Aronson – Vice President

I am pleased to run for the position of Vice President of EMBA. Years ago, I did serve as VP and President. I left those positions so that other might take the reins of the organization. I have seen those EMBA members strengthen and enlarge our organization.

Now we are making some changes in how the various committees will be working to set up and strengthen our unit's long-term growth and stability. I would like to be a part of shepherding those changes.

I have been an ACBL member since 1998 and it has been my pleasure to watch EMBA grow and become more accomplished in holding our sectional tournaments. I am a long time EMBA board member having served on the Finance, Tournament, and Auditing committees. I have a background and experience in how EMBA operates and how it could do better. I know many of you, but even if you don't know me personally, you will feel comfortable coming up to me to share both your concerns and appreciations of EMBA's work.

I humbly ask for your vote for Vice President.

Rita Vachani (incumbent) – Secretary

I am running for the position of Secretary of EMBA. I have served as Secretary for the last 2 years and as an active Board Member, including Membership Chair, for several years. I have been working with the Board to attract new members to the game and to our tournaments. I love the game of bridge and want to do all I can to keep it alive and thriving in Eastern Massachusetts. I am asking for your vote and support.

Walt Fey (incumbent) – Treasurer

My name is Walt Fey and I'm running for the EMBA Treasurer position for 2027. I am a practicing accountant and have a splendid relationship with numbers and accounting except for the occasional lapse at the bridge table. I look forward to working with the rest of the board to solidify EMBA's financial position as it continues to provide tournaments, support educational and social engagement for its members as well as continuing to reach out to the greater community, extolling the virtues of playing our wonderful game. I appreciate your support.

EMBA Candidates for Election to the 2027 EMBA Board – 9 to be elected

Barbara Blauer

I have been playing Bridge for 15 plus years and have gotten much pleasure out of the game. It's been lovely making new friends and meeting new people along the way. My brother is an expert bridge player and that helped influence me in taking up the game.

I am a retired social worker, and have lived in Newton / Needham for the past 30+ years.

I hope I can help bring new players to this wonderful game and I will happily work with the board in whatever capacity they may need me should I be chosen.

Muriel Golden (incumbent)

Moved to Cape Cod early in 1997

Began my duplicate bridge journey in 1999

Joined ACBL and became an active participant in the Upper Cape Bridge Club. I have continued those relationships, uninterrupted, during more than a quarter century. (As well as playing in two other games (live; and playing online during and since COVID).

With my partner, Jackie Shahood, I co-chaired the successful Cape Cod Sectional. We had a strong field and increased attendance both in the open and for 499ers. Also a financial success, we netted over \$2000.00.

I am happy to lend my support to the health of bridge on the Cape and in Eastern Massachusetts. Bridge is not just a game. It is an exercise in logic, memory, and strategy; additionally, it provides important socialization. I have formed life-time friendships in my club. All of this is worth preserving.

David Greenstein

Thank you for considering me in this election. I am new to this organization. I learned bridge from my grandfather when I was 8. Since then, I've been a recreational player through multiple phases of my life. It started first with my family then with classmates through many long nights of medical school and now online multiple times a week with family and friends. I hope to play more competitive bridge as I inch closer to retirement. I bring a love of the game and a desire to see the game grow especially among the younger generations. I also bring experience as a member and chairman and treasurer of multiple boards, both private companies and charitable organizations. Thanks again for your consideration.

Rob Jones (incumbent)

Like most I was dragged to the bridge table by my parents when I was young but sports and other distractions won out. Then I played bad bridge in college during finals. It wasn't until 1980 that I picked it back up in St. Louis in the form of duplicate bridge. That lasted about 3 years playing Goren

bridge in a novice environment. Then life and raising a young family got in the way until about 7 years ago. I went with a partner to Bob's Maynard game and the rest is history. I was just awarded both my Life Masters and Bronze Life Masters rating, I enjoy both the intellectual challenge as well as the social connections that I have made. As an EMBA Board member, I would try to do what I can to bring the board closer to our local clubs and embrace programs that would encourage new players to attend the EMBA functions. I have accepted and Performed as the Publicity / Promotion Chairperson for the last two years. Initiated a Presenter team to promote the Watertown Sectional Tournaments.

Neil Montague (incumbent)

Ron Peacetree

Many of you know me since I've been a duplicate player in the NE bridge community for ~30 - 35 years. I took a break for ~10 years, but returned last year; and discovered that my love for the game was as strong as ever.

I began playing @ MIT back in the days when Paul Kinney was playing with Sheila Gabay. When Gary Schwartz, David Metcalf, etc were Directing there. When just about every table you went to was using a different bidding system: Roth Stone, EHAA, KS, Precision, other Forcing Club systems, SAYC, 2/1 GF, Goren, Acol, ... you could encounter each and every one of these on the same Tuesday evening in those days.

It was a great way to seriously study the game we all love.

Then I went on the tournament circuit to continue that education and played all over the Eastern US and Canada. I met players and Board Members that I learned from in all of those places.

Coming back, I've missed many of those people since they are no longer with us. But I hear them in my head saying "it's you and everyone else we left behind who has to do the work now".

So here I am.

In "Real Life", I'm a Physicist and Electrical Computer Engineer who took my senior management experience and turned it into a Tax and Business consulting service. My entire adult life has been about analysis and action to improve situations or solve problems based on analysis.

I'm also involved in Voting Rights and Election Protections work both here in MA and at the national level.

I look forward to helping out in whatever way I can.

Max Senter (incumbent)

My name is Max Senter and I have been playing duplicate bridge for a little over 20 years. I took lessons in Boston in the early 2000's, having experienced the game in my childhood through my parents playing social bridge, in my native state of North Carolina. My mother was a pretty good duplicate player, but she developed dementia before I was able to play with her.

I spent most of my career in Boston as an Investment Advisor, primarily for non-profits, helping to manage their endowments. I had a great career and retired at the beginning of 2025, a little before my 65th birthday. I play bridge now in person and online, for about 5 sessions per week. In person I play at BayState Bridge, Family Friendly, and Winchester Duplicate. I consider myself to be an Intermediate player and hope, in time, to become an Advanced player. I have just over 500 MPs, almost all coming the past 2 years. I am currently serving out a six month period on the EMBA Board,

Bridge has become a considerable part of my life. I might say that bridge frustrates me, but a better characterization is that I frustrate myself at bridge. 'How did I miss the likely lay of opponents' cards? Why can't I count under pressure?' Nonetheless, I am happily addicted.

As mentioned I am retired, and I know that bridge is under a lot of demographic pressure. I would like to help the game because it is worthy, and is a fabulous way to slow down, concentrate, and have fun. My primary interest is helping to grow the game.

Tom Shea (incumbent)

I have been an avid card player since I was a young boy. I discovered the game of bridge in my mid 20s and fell in love with it. Like many of us, I was never able to play as much as I would have liked until retiring. And it has become a significant part of my leisure and social life (sound familiar?). I have also been conducting some informal tutoring sessions for a few friends. I have served in a number of volunteer positions. I was the treasurer at my church for five years and served on the church's lay governing board. I have served as a mentor to both children and adults while volunteering in a couple of different organizations. I would like to volunteer my skills and experience as a member of the EMBA board.