



Meet Rich Eshelbrenner

The McKinney Duplicate Bridge Club boasts many members from the Heartland of America. Richard Eshelbrenner is one of them—having grown up in Ft. Scott, Kansas. After high school Rich attended Kansas State University (go Wildcats!) where he earned a degree in Engineering.

Once he graduated from college Rich went to work for AT&T where he did tech support for 20 years. After retiring from that company in 1997, he worked several jobs and then joined Fujitsu Network communications where he sold telecommunications equipment and eventually became a product manager. Rich retired again in 2016 to care for his late wife Carol who succumbed to pancreatic cancer after 44 years of marriage.

Rich attributes his interest in bridge to Carol. Right after they married, he realized that her family were avid bridge players and it was time for him to learn the game as well. For the next four decades they played party bridge and then graduated to duplicate games in a variety of locations. In recent years Rich has become a regular at the MDBC and was Club Master for 2 years before becoming a board member and vital part of that organization. Richard can always be counted on to arrive on site early on game days and get the table, chairs, and equipment set up in a timely manner. He says “I have always been a person who gets the job done whether at work or anytime else.”

Rich has a son, two daughters, and 6 grandkids. His grandchildren especially love the fact that their granddad has an intricate train set with more than 100 pieces. For the past 40 Christmas seasons he has set up a ping pong table with a 6-foot Christmas tree in the center.

He then erects a train village with a track, train cars, a station, an ice rink, people, and other accessories to encircle the tree. Powered up, the train can move around the entire circumference. The kids love it!

Wanting to stay connected to his family, Rich and his siblings have set aside time to be together. During the 80s and 90s they did family campouts and for the past 40 years they have gotten together the weekend before Christmas. Rich bowls and volunteers at Love for Kids as well as the Single Parent Advocacy organization in McKinney. He continues to be an active and treasured part of any community or organization he joins.

Contributed by Nancy Connors, McKinney Board Secretary