

**GOLDen Fall Fest! NLM Regional Wrap**  
**September 21-23, 2023**

We just concluded our first ever District 14 Non-Life Master Regional. We went in pumped – and prepared! Over three days, we had 91.5 tables. We hosted players from six states. We received rave reviews — for our friendliness, followed closely by our fun, the setting, and food. One person said as she was leaving for her return trip to Fargo, “*I just had 300 pounds of fun!*”

To me, our VIPs are those playing in a *first ACBL tournament ever*. We had six! – Fay Clark (Goodyear AZ), Mary Hudson (Rogers MN), Bruce Keifenheim (Grand Forks ND), Calvin McMahon (Minneapolis, MN), Lisa Olson (Rice MN) & Zachary Wefel (Sartell MN). Welcome to tournament play! Now, you are experienced.



Mary, Bruce and Fay



Calvin, Zachary and Lisa

During our Tournament, ***seventy-seven*** different players earned master points. Bringing it close to home, four of our St Cloud Club placed in the *Top Ten* master point winners! *First place* was taken by **Jane Schmidt** (St Paul MN) who earned almost nine points, followed closely by our own **Nancy Balfanz, Sandra Fedor & Kathleen Stadther** who each earned over seven points.

Jane Schmidt took 1st

Nancy Balfanz (2nd) and Nancy Schnepf (7th)



**GOLDen Fall Fest! Top Ten Masterpoint Winners**

- 8.78 Jane Schmidt (St Paul, MN)
- 7.71 Nancy Balfanz (St Cloud MN)

- 7.65 Sandra Fedor (Waite Park MN)
- 7.38 Kathleen Stadther (St Cloud MN)
- 6.66 Tom Malterer & Bill Sozansky (Duluth MN)
- 6.55 Nancy Schnepf (Sartell MN)
- 5.95 Barbara Maag & Barbara Johnson (Fargo ND)
- 5.74 Joan Lossing & Dennis Schulte (Woodbury MN)

Quite a few different people were able to experience the fun of winning a section top, or the daily overalls. Congrats.. so happy for all of you! Just look at these smiles....

**Thursday**

**Robert Nairn** Gold Rush Pairs – First Overall



Tom Malterer Duluth MN Bill Sozansky

**Friday**

**Chuck Head** Gold Rush Pairs – First Overall



Joan Lossing Woodbury MN Dennis Schulte

**Saturday Gold Rush** Pairs – First Overall



Wendy Hennes (Sartell MN) Sandy Fedor (Waite Park MN)

A few of many Section top winners:





Jon Hatch & Sandra Hatch   Theresa Kornwolf & Kathy Stadther   Lois Head & Amy Roske  
St Cloud MN   Elk River MN   St Cloud MN   St Cloud MN



Sandra Fedor & Joann Sufka   Judy Mosford & Pat Yozamp   Francis Luikart & Dan Ganter  
Waite Park MN   St George UT   Sartell MN   Estero FL   St Paul MN   Maple Grove MN

This was the first year we had *Named Games* at one of our tournaments, thanks to Club member' donations. On the day we honored **Robert Nairn**, we gifted every player a "stress ball" world globe, in honor of Robert's international background. Kathy Stadther said that grabbing the "stress" balls added some humor wherever things got a little too serious. Honoring **Chuck Head**, who loved ice cream enough to eat it every day, we gave every player a dilly bar (with help from *25th Street Dairy Queen*). And, because of the generosity of **KNSI** (thanks, Bob Leighton!), we were able to offer a complimentary pizza lunch from House of Pizza.

*Each of you* helped make our Tournament such a success. So many people brought food, carried tables, answered questions, decorated, gave rides, and welcomed our guests.



Cindy Carlson, Sun City West AZ

Virtually every out-of-towner commented on our Club's friendliness. One person sent me this note: *"Thanks so much! The entire conversation throughout the tournament was how gracious you and your entire team were to all of us! You gathered up so many more to come to all your future tournaments."*

And, our Club did “gather up” people, including after the bridge games ended. **Joan Sand** and **Kathy Stadther** visited more than four places, before choosing a Thursday gathering place. More than fifteen people came. And, almost thirty people came to Jim and my home after Friday’s game. We were delighted people would come all the way to Avon!



Sue Nielsen, Jane Curtis, Sandra and Jon Hatch enjoy the Greek gyros!

I have to share *one of my smiles of the week*, though. I emailed one person, who recently moved to MN, to ask him to come over to my house after Friday’s game. He wrote back: *“Thank you very much for the dinner invitation! I realize that I’m part of a large group being invited, but I’m totally blown away! To my knowledge, nothing like this has ever occurred in (my last state) and likely never will. Such an invitation would likely result in a referral to the police for investigation of suspicious activity.”*

Last, please help me give a HUGE thank you to our Club’s tournament team: Nancy Balfanz, Saundy Fedor, Wendy Hennes, Sue Knauss, Wayne Reynolds, Joan Sand, Nancy Schnepf, John Selden, and Kathy Stadther. And, you should know that Scott Krupke took off three days of work to provide any and all help needed, supporting us all the way. This tournament was a lot of work, but as Nancy Balfanz said, *“It was a labor of love.”*

Kory would be proud of us! Thanks everyone.  
Connie