

Washington Bridge League Board of Directors Candidates

October 1, 2022

President: Hadi Abushakra

As I conclude my first year as WBL President, I am keenly aware of the importance of continuity to help WBL deal with the challenges facing local bridge. I am therefore seeking a second term as President, hoping to assist WBL in adjusting to an environment where players continue to reconnect with face-to-face bridge without forsaking the convenience of online bridge.

Vice President: Lloyd Rawley

Lloyd Rawley has been a member of the Washington Bridge League since 1995 and on the Board since 2014. He plays in several regular partnerships at Ohr Kodesh on Thursday nights. When not playing bridge, Lloyd enjoys long-distance running. Lloyd and his wife Lisa have three grown children and live in Greenbelt, MD.

Secretary: Bob Bell

Having survived a year as WBL vice president, Bob Bell is eager to return to being secretary. He would like to continue helping bridge recover from the pandemic, rebuilding a community of people who enjoy local bridge, and helping the WBL adapt effectively to a world in which online and face-to-face bridge will both play important roles.

Bob has been a member of the WBL since 1985 and served two terms on the Board late last century. He has also served as the WBL Recorder, the District 6 Conduct and Ethics Appeals Chair, and as a member of the District Grass Roots Committee, which organizes the Grand National Teams and North American Pairs competitions. He would like to continue contributing to keeping bridge alive and well during the pandemic and working to ensure a smooth transition to post-pandemic bridge.

Treasurer: Herb Schulken

Herb Schulken has been the treasurer of the Washington Bridge League since 2017. He began playing duplicate bridge in 2007 following his

retirement. He became a tournament assistant director in 2012 and has been a member of the WBL directing team since that time. Herb had a 30-year career as a certified public accountant with PricewaterhouseCoopers, beginning in his native South Carolina before moving to Washington in 1993. He had assignments in Moscow, New York, and London. Following his retirement from PwC, he worked with the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (PCAOB), the regulator of the auditing profession, for two years, and he was an advisor to the Audit Committee of the Smithsonian Institution for six years.

Member: Carole Banks

Carole Banks, CPA, is the Deputy Chief Financial Officer for the Department of Treasury. She has been a member of the WBL since 2000. Carole's enthusiasm for bridge stems from her mother, who was a long-time duplicate bridge player and member of the American Bridge Association (ABA). Carole's interest in bridge began at an "Easy Bridge" class taught by Charlie Williams and Leslie Shafer, and she has been "hooked" ever since. Carole says, "Since joining the WBL, I have gained a large family of close friends and strong supporters." Her bridge family, combined with her enthusiasm for bridge, is what keeps her committed to helping the bridge community to not only stay alive, but to thrive in the years to come.

Member: Kim Gandy

Having enjoyed over 5 years of WBL duplicate games (starting in the 0-5 group with Bryan and Lois Geer) as well as many WBL tournaments, I would be honored to have the opportunity to "give back" to the WBL as a board member. I have 350 masterpoints, and know many of the 499er players, but I have a particular interest in supporting and promoting bridge in local schools. I have loved coming back to Ohr Kodosh in person, but also recognize that there are many members who are not ready to return to in-person play, and I hope we can continue to be creative in retaining those members while expanding our reach.

Member: Alexander Gretsinger

Alexander Gretsinger started playing bridge in 2009 and joined the Washington Bridge League that same year. He graduated from the

University of Maryland with a BS in Computer Science in 2006. One of Clyde Kruskal's former students, he joined a board gaming group with Clyde and other long-time bridge players. A few years of interesting-sounding bridge discussions at the gaming table led Alex to the ACBL's excellent online resources, with which he taught himself the game. As a result, he has the somewhat unique experience of having played dozens of hands on Bridge Base Online before ever playing in person.

Today, Alex has served on the Board for seven years. If re-elected, he will continue to work to expand the game's popularity with younger generations through social media and online presence. He would be honored to give the Board his unique perspective on how to grow the WBL and the game generally for years to come.

By day, Alex works as a government contractor, specializing in data mining, software development, and database administration. He lives in Fort Washington