

## To: Members of Bridge Unit 191

Since the *ALERT* will not be published in December this year, I want to take this opportunity to update you on the results of our November Sectional and to preview upcoming events.

So, let me begin with the Sectional.

Preparing for our first live bridge tournament in over a year was a discomfoting task. Our uncertainty about how many players would show up made it difficult to do the budgeting and site arrangements that had become routine over the years. Our last meeting of the unit's Board of Directors took place just a couple of days before the event. We discussed details and agreed that we'd be happy if a total of 85 tables were in play during the seven sessions scheduled for the weekend. The possibility of 100 tables was raised and we all agreed, if that were to happen, we would be delighted. I'm happy to report that the actual results were a very pleasant surprise --- a total of 167 tables! Two hundred enthusiastic fully vaccinated and masked players participated in an event that seemed to be as much a reunion as an opportunity to actually play face-to-face duplicate bridge. It was a joy to greet so many friends whom we hadn't seen in nearly a year. In addition to members of our Unit, we welcomed players from Raleigh, Wilmington, Greensboro and even some from out of state. One pair came from Virginia to assess how we organized the event as they anticipate their own sectional in January 2022. Overall, everyone seemed to agree that it was wonderful to be playing live bridge again and we all quickly remembered to alert our partner's conventional bids!

I want to thank everyone who attended the event and those who worked to make it such a success. Special thanks go to Chris Moll and Henry Meguid for providing a perfect venue and to Marie Killoran who did an outstanding job of directing every session. Also, thanks to Robin, Audrey, and Diane and the rest of the Board for all of their efforts that week.

And there's more bridge activity to look forward to in the future too. Our regularly scheduled games at the clubs will, of course, continue. We are planning special games in December:

- The week of December 6<sup>th</sup> – December 10<sup>th</sup> is a STAC week so come and earn **SILVER POINTS** that week at Triangle Bridge Academy.

- On **December 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>** at noon at Triangle Bridge Academy, we will celebrate being together again with small **HOLIDAY PARTIES**. The party will begin at noon followed by the 12:30 game. We will honor our Unit's winners in 2020's Mini-McKenney and Ace of Clubs races. We will celebrate the holidays and a successful tournament. These games and all others that week will award extra points to winners as Unit Championship events.
- We anticipate more special games during December as we round out 2021 so stay tuned and come play face-to-face!

Finally, I would like to welcome four new members to the Board of Directors. Mary Newman, Barbara Bute, Gail King and Karen Popovich were elected last month as the class of 2022. We thank them for their service in advance. Thanks to candidates who ran for these positions and thanks to the Nominating committee, Chris Moll, Phylliss Woody, Maggie Lindquist, Donna Walter and Joyce Jenzano for their work in setting up the election including Ed Fuller, Marc Goldberg and others who helped make this possible.

The *ALERT* will be return in January and be sure to mark your calendars for our next Sectional which will be held on March 3-6, 2022.

I hope everyone enjoyed the Thanksgiving holiday and that your Christmas and New Year's celebrations will be extra special this year.

**Deanna Larus – Unit 191 President**