

## BRIGHT LEAF ALERT – SEPTEMBER 2022



### **President's Corner:**

Want to sharpen your bridge skills? Our 2022-2023 Mentoring program is set to begin in September. Thanks to Ed Fuller, Beverly Craig, Barbara Bute, Maggie Lindquist and Donna Walther for their guidance. New mentor/mentee pairings are being established and the games begin in early September. I encourage all future life masters to join this program. It is an easy way to learn from more experience players and have fun doing so. To make this program work, we need intermediate and advanced level players to serve as mentors for the year. Not a huge commitment and newer players appreciate learning from others who have more experience. Please volunteer to be a mentor! Details on the program are outlined later in this Alert issue.

Many thanks are extended to Ray McEntee who filled in for Henry Meguid and Chris Moll as director while they were away this summer!

Hope to see you at a bridge table soon!

Deanna Larus,  
President Unit 191

“Bridge is  
a great  
comfort in  
your old  
age. It also  
helps you  
get there  
faster.”

General  
Douglas  
MacArthur

### **Game Schedule**

#### **Triangle Bridge Academy:**

#### **September Face-to-face schedule of events:**

##### Open games:

Monday – Friday @ 12:30pm

Saturday @ 9:45am

##### Limited (under 300mps)

Friday @ 9:30am [Click here to RSVP](#)

##### Supervised play (beginners only)

Tuesday @ 10:00am [Click here to RSVP](#)

## Special games this month:

International Fund all in person games this month

## Unit 191 Mentor/Mentee game:

Tuesday, September 6, 12 noon @ TBA

Wednesday, September 21, 7:00pm @ BBO

## Upcoming District 7 Bridge Events:

September 9-11 [Pinehurst Sectional](#)

September 16-18 [Wilmington Sectional](#)

September 16-18 [Greensboro Sectional](#)

September 29-October 2 [Raleigh Sectional](#)

October 24-30 [Charlotte Regional](#)

November 10-13 Durham Sectional

[NAP District Finals](#)

## Unit 191 Elections

**Elections for the Unit 191 Board of Directors are coming up.** Each year, four of the board member's positions are up for election. Please consider stepping into this leadership role. The Board welcomes new members who want to bring their energy, effort, and enthusiasm to the Board! If you would like to be considered as a candidate, **please contact Gail King** ([Kinggail2008@yahoo.com](mailto:Kinggail2008@yahoo.com)), the Chair of the Nominating Committee, and your name will be added to the list. The Board meets monthly and helps guide the Unit in providing bridge opportunities for players, growing membership, and promoting the game of bridge.

## Mentoring Program News

♠ **Unit 191's Mentoring Program** ♣

♥ **starts this month!** ♦



**Welcome to our mentees and mentors.**

**Not a mentee or mentor yet? Consider joining us.**

**We are glad to have new mentees! \* We need mentors! \***

**Two mentee-mentor games each month:**

**one in-person game and one online game.**

**For in-person games:**

- **1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday afternoon each month**
- **at Triangle Bridge Academy**
- **12:00 p.m. 20-minute lesson**
- **12:30 p.m. game starts**

**For online games:**

- **3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday evening each month**
- **on Bridge Base Online (BBO)**
- **listed: Mentor Mentee Triangle Bridge with VACB252858 as host**
- **6:45 p.m. register for game, mentee invites mentors**
- **7:00 p.m. game starts**

The first in-person game is **NEXT TUESDAY, September 6<sup>th</sup>**.

**KICKOFF GAME & PARTY** are planned for the first week in October [exact date to be determined].

**\* Not signed up yet and want to join us?**

- **To be a mentee you must be a non-Life Master with under 500 masterpoints as of September 1, 2022.**
- **To be a mentor should be a player who wants to give back for those that have helped you.**
- **Click Here: [for general information](#)**
- **Click Here: [for mentee PDF format](#) or [for mentee RTF format](#) or [for mentee Word format](#)**
- **Click Here: [for mentor PDF format](#) or [for mentor RTF format](#) or [for mentor Word format](#).**

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## ♠ ♥ Mentee-Mentor Games **this Summer!** ♦ ♣

The Unit 191 Mentee-Mentor games continued **through the summer** as **online BBO game** hosted by **Triangle Bridge**. Leaderboards are below. We gave back **\$3** of each player's online game fee to the **Food Bank of Central & Eastern North Carolina: \$189 in total** was donated from the summer games.

Please join us for next year's mentoring program which starts in September. An **in-person game** is scheduled for **Tuesday afternoon, September 6<sup>th</sup>**. An **online game** is scheduled for **Wednesday evening, September 21<sup>st</sup>**.

On **Friday evening, June 17<sup>th</sup>** we had six tables. A **hearty congratulations** to the **leaderboard**.

Larry Stanczyk & Nancy Sparks, 1<sup>st</sup> overall with an outstanding 66.82%  
 Beverly Craig & Ed Fuller, 2<sup>nd</sup> overall with 60.91%  
 Karen Popovich & Leslie Blair, 3<sup>rd</sup> overall with 57.27%  
 Brian Fuchs & Becky Fuchs, 4<sup>th</sup> overall with 53.64%  
 Gerri Stanczyk & Mariée Walton, 5<sup>th</sup> overall with 48.64%

On **Monday evening, July 11<sup>th</sup>** we had six tables. A **hearty congratulations** to the **leaderboard**.

Two robots took top honors with an outstanding 70.45%  
Beverly Craig & Ed Fuller, 2<sup>nd</sup> overall with 58.18%  
Mike Sauter & Kathy Newman, 3<sup>rd</sup> overall with 53.18%  
Barbara Bute & Maggie Lindquist, 4<sup>th</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> overall with 52.73%  
Larry Stanczyk & Nancy Sparks, 4<sup>th</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> overall with 52.73%  
Anna Stachon & Ian Cloudsdale, 6<sup>th</sup> overall with 51.82%

On **Friday evening, August 19<sup>th</sup>** we had five tables. A **hearty congratulations** to the **leaderboard**.

Mike Sauter & Kathy Newman, 1st overall with an outstanding 65.28%  
Phylliss Woody & Eric Hamilton, 2<sup>nd</sup> /3<sup>rd</sup> overall with 54.17%  
Barbara Bute & Maggie Lindquist, 2<sup>nd</sup> /3<sup>rd</sup> overall with 54.17%  
Larry Stanczyk & Nancy Sparks, 4<sup>th</sup> overall with 52.78%

Play every card well,  
Ed Fuller, Beverly Craig, Barbara Bute, and Maggie Lindquist  
Unit 191 Mentoring Program Committee  
Donna Walther (Board Liaison)

### **Member Spotlight – Donna Walther**



Donna Walther grew up in Seattle, Washington in a family that enjoyed playing a range of games. Her interest in bridge was sparked as a teenager when her parents decided to learn bridge and she watched their social bridge games. She taught herself by watching, reading, and dealing hands (playing all 4 hands). In college she was able to put her knowledge into practice with fellow bridge players. After moving to Durham, she found other bridge players and a bridge club. Nancy Young talked her into joining

ACBL and she was “hooked”.

Enter her 15-year-old grandson, Bryce Walther, who a number of players at Triangle Bridge Club had the pleasure of meeting recently. He used his vacation time this year to come to Durham from his home in California, to play bridge with Donna almost daily for 10 days.

A bit of history: When Bryce was about 7 his family came to Durham every summer, to have the children go to various summer camps. By the time Bryce was 13, he expressed interest in attending the Bridge Summer Camp that was organized by Maggie Lindquist. Unfortunately, that was 2020, and

the COVID epidemic shut everything down. So, Donna sent Bryce some bridge books and hoped he would continue his interest in the game.

In the fall of 2021, ACBL announced the formation of BridgeWhiz, to attract young teenagers to the game. Suzanne Goldberg made sure Donna found that information who passed it on to Bryce. He enrolled and graduated from the program in July 2022. In August, he came to Durham to play bridge with her. He worked hard to learn the ins and outs of live bridge games, loving every minute of them. During that time frame, he earned 3.05 points, 1.60 black and 1.45 red and is on his way to lots of points in the future.

Rightly, she is very proud of Bryce and pleased that he has developed an interest in playing bridge. She wants to help him so he can enjoy it for many, many more years.

Not only did Bryce do well, he played with composure in open games against a range of players most of whom were Life Masters including Chris Moll, a Grand Life Master. Wonder if his classmates had that kind of opportunity and results?

## **ACBL Unit 191 Membership Report**

Includes all transactions processed 6/30/22 through 8/01/22  
Total Members - 547

### **Welcome**

#### **New Member**

Shelley Hedtke

#### **And Transfer into the unit**

Marian F Corey from Unit # 218 - Northern Virginia

Phylliss Woody,  
Membership Chair

## **Could have been A Well-Bid hand**

I recently saw a hand that could have been bid to a terrific contract. Unfortunately, no one in the room was capable.

	<u>North</u> <b>S</b> KJT <sub>x</sub> <b>H</b> KQ <sub>x</sub> <b>D</b> <sub>xx</sub> <b>C</b> AK <sub>xx</sub>	
<u>West</u>		<u>East</u>
	<u>South</u> <b>S</b> Axxxxxx <b>H</b> A <b>D</b> AK <sub>x</sub> <b>C</b> J <sub>x</sub>	

South, the Dealer, opened 1 Spade. Her partner should have bid Jacoby 2NT announcing 4+ Spades and enough to bid a game. The correct response would be 3 Hearts showing a singleton or void. Partner wouldn't be thrilled with this, but she did hold a strong NT and could not just sign off in game which would show a misfitting minimum.

Three Spades by partner announces that there might be more than just a game and that she was willing to continue investigating. As partner was missing 3 Aces, the long Spade hand could be very confident that her partner held a Club control. It's the same principle as 2/1. The less you bid, the more you have.

After this start, KC Blackwood would probably tell you what you needed to know. Partner would answer 5 Hearts, 2 Key cards without the Q of trumps. Declarer wouldn't be interested in the Q since she knew that her partnership held at least 11 trumps (remember Jacoby 2NT promises at least 4 trumps), and that the Queen would fall.

What would be the next move after the 5 Heart response? Bid 5NT asking for specific King's. It didn't matter on this hand, but it is a better mousetrap than asking for number of Kings. Partner would show the Club K by bidding 6 Clubs, her lowest K. Now declarer could count 12 tricks and just needed to ask for 1 more thing. Bid 6 Hearts: ASKING for the Heart King.

A key tenant of asking for specific Kings is that "Asker always asks and teller always tells." You never switch horses in the middle of an auction. Six Spades would deny the Heart K. How does responder show it? Well, in this auction partner has to jump to 7 Spades. Gulp!!

This has been a very good auction, but don't take your eye off the ball as you are about to cross the finish line. Count your tricks! 7 Spades, 2 Hearts, 2 Diamonds, and 2 Clubs. 13 top tricks!!! Bid 7NT! It was an average size field and 0!!! pairs reached 7 NT or 7Spades. 1 pair languished in 4 Spades!!!!

*PrePandemic, when I used to teach a little bridge, I would issue my most stern "Bad Dawg" to the room.*

*By Randy Joyce*