

BRIGHT LEAF ALERT

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF UNIT 191

FEBRUARY, 2026

Unit 191 Officers and Board Members- 2026



(left to right) Ian Cloudsdale, Michael Lavine, Deanna Larus, Phylliss Woody, Mary Newman, Morris Weinberger, Ray Boylan, Ann Fisher



Ira Mueller

Eric Hamilton

From the Presidents.....

As befits the New Year, change is afoot for the Unit 191 Brightleaf Board of Directors. Most importantly, **Deanna Larus** is completing her 3rd term as President of our Unit and 10 years of service on the Unit 191 Board of Directors. She promises to continue playing an active role, particularly as our Sectional Tournaments Director. We can all acknowledge hers are some big shoes to fill! So big, in fact, that it will take two of us to carry on all the work she has done to serve Unit 191. **Morris Weinberger and Ray Boylan** will be serving as Co-Presidents going forward. Thankfully, Deanna has graciously been sharing her wisdom, experience and resources with us, helping to smooth the transition and tee us up for success. We want to share our thanks to Deanna with the entire Unit.

In addition to Deanna, huge thanks are due to outgoing Treasurer **Ian Cloudsdale**, who is likewise transitioning his heavy burden to **Mary Newman**. **Marc Goldberg** has graciously agreed to continue as Web Master, and **Barbara Martin** likewise will continue to be our excellent editor of the Alert. **Ann Fisher**, who has served the Unit in so many ways including as Board President, will continue the crucial weekly emails that keep us informed of what's happening. **Michael Lavine** will continue to lead our successful Mentor-Mentee program.

(continued)

Carrying out the work of the Unit is truly a Team Sport! Other Board transitions of note:

Due to declining Unit membership, the Board through your vote re-structured in 2025 and will ultimately downsize from 12 to 9 Board members. We want to acknowledge the service of two members who completed their terms of service in December, **Joanna Karwowska** and **Bill Ingram**, outgoing chair of the Nominating Committee. Thanks to all of you for your humor and hard work!

Finally, returning to the Team Sport concept—As we learned from the difficult decision to cancel the Summer 2025 Unit Sectional last July, the Board cannot do everything that's needed to support the activities of a healthy Unit all by itself. We will be communicating more to you in the future about the needs of the Unit, and how individual members Like You can chip in and participate in creating the successful bridge community we have come to expect and enjoy.

Ray and Morris, your new Co-Presidents, are at your service: you can reach out to us (emails below) with your suggestions, comments and concerns.

More to come in future alerts! Again, please join us in appreciating our departing Board Leaders.

Ray Boylan

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Monday night social bridge group at TBA



Unit 191's rising stars! Mentor mentee participants

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Activity from January 1—January 31, 2026

458 active members in Unit 191

Members who achieved a new rank:

Junior Master - **Penghao Wang**

Club Master - **Gerry Quinnan, Jr.**

Life Master - **Barbara Bute**

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL!

Dear Bridge Players,

Unit 191's bridge mentoring program continued in January. The program sponsors games in person, at Triangle Bridge Academy, and online, on BBO. The in-person games have two tiers. Tier I is for mentees with fewer than 250 masterpoints playing with mentors who have fewer than 500 masterpoints. Tier II is for mentees with fewer than 500 masterpoints; mentors are unlimited.

Refreshments are provided by a crew of volunteers — **Ray Boylan, Ann Fisher, Martha Schulwitz, and Maggie Smith** — to whom we offer our appreciation. They are always looking for more volunteers. Please email one of them if you can help.

Tier I plays on the 4th Tuesday of each month at 10 AM, preceded by an optional lesson from **Henry Meguid** at 9:15. Unfortunately, the January game was cancelled due to icy roads. We hope to be back in February.

Tier II plays on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 10 AM, preceded by an optional lesson at 9:15 given by a rotating set of advanced players. The game on January 13 was preceded by a quiz on second hand play — when to cover an honor with an honor. There were seven full tables. Congratulations to **Barbara Bute and Hugon Karwowski** who had a remarkable score of 75%.

The online game is new this year and is for mentees with fewer than 500 masterpoints. The mentees play together in pairs at 7PM on the third Wednesday of each month. After the game, a panel of advanced players write comments on all the boards, which are then circulated to the mentees. Many thanks to the panel members for volunteering their time and expertise: **Glen Anderson, John Cobb, Mary Jo Dunnebacke, Renee Getz, Eric Hamilton, and Michael Lavine**. The January game was on the 21st and had four tables. **Margaret Smith and Anna Stachon** had a very high score of 69%.

Some of the games also have post-game analyses by a panel of experienced players. You can find them under the Mentoring Program tab on the Unit 191 website. You can find the hands by going to the ACBL website and following the links ACBL —> Results —> Live for Clubs and then searching for either Triangle Bridge Academy (Tuesday F2F games) or Triangle Bridge Club (Wednesday BBO games).

If you would like to join any of these groups, please email **Michael Lavine**.

FEBRUARY 2026

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1	No Events at TBA today	No Events at TBA today	12:30 PM Education Founda- tion Game (\$13)	12 PM Private ABA Game	12:30 PM Education Founda- tion Game (\$13)	
8	9-11 Play and Learn Online 12:30 PM Education Founda- tion Game 6:30 – 8:30 Social Bridge	9 9:15 AM MM Tier II Lesson 10 AM MM Tier II Game 1-4 PM Barometer Game	10 12:30 PM Education Founda- tion Game	11 12 PM Private ABA Game	12 9 – 11:30 AM Intro to Bridge 12:30 PM Education Founda- tion Game (\$13)	14
15	9-11 Play and Learn Online 12:30 PM Education Founda- tion Game 6:30 – 8:30 Social Bridge	16 1-4 PM Barometer Game	17 9:30 AM Nuplicate Barome- ter 2:30 PM Education Founda- tion Game (\$13) 7 PM Online BBO MM Game	18 9 AM Limited Game (<750mps) 12 PM Private ABA Game	19 9 – 11:30 AM Intro to Bridge 12:30 PM Unit Champion- ship Game (\$12)	21 10 AM Eight is Enough Swiss Team Game
22	9-11 Play and Learn Online 12:30 PM Education Founda- tion Game 6:30 – 8:30 Social Bridge	23 9:15 AM MM Tier I Lesson 10 AM MM Tier I Game 1-4 PM Barometer Game	24 9:30 AM Nuplicate Barome- ter 12:30 PM Education Founda- tion	25 12 PM Private ABA Game	26 9 – 11:30 AM Intro to Bridge 12:30 PM Education Founda- tion Game	28 10 AM Grand Na- tional Swiss Team Game

Established Revokes

Revokes are one of the most common problems we face when we play bridge. Someone fails to follow suit on a trick. Usually that person has mis-sorted their hand or pulled the wrong card. It is easy to make this mistake, and it should be corrected. All players should be aware of the law pertaining to such revokes, but you should not make any correction yourselves – Call the director immediately! The process to restore equity is sometimes quite straightforward and easy. Other times it requires some evaluation. Only a director can do this.

When someone revokes, a director asks these questions:

Question #1: Was there a revoke? A player failed to follow suit on a trick as required.

Questions #2: Was the revoke “established?” The answer is YES if the offender (the person who failed to follow suit or their partner plays to a subsequent trick. Regardless, call the director! Once a revoke has been established you might as well wait until the end of the play of that hand to call. If not established, the director can quickly restore equity before play continues. More on this next month! If established, the evaluation process continues to Question #3.

Questions #3: Did the player who didn’t follow suit win that trick (the revoke trick)? Yes or No.

Question #4: Did the offending side (either player) take a single subsequent trick? Yes or no.

To restore equity:

*If the answers to Questions #3 and #4 are both no. That is, if the revoke trick and all subsequent tricks are taken by the non-offenders, end of story. No penalty. Tricks taken before the error are not subject to adjustment.

* If the answers to Question #3 OR #4 is yes – there is a one trick penalty.

* If the answer to Question #3 and #4 is yes – then there is a two trick penalty.

Is this penalty enough? Usually yes but it can be tricky. How so? Sometimes a revoke messes everything up and affects further play. This is especially true in a notrump contract. The director must evaluate how each subsequent card is played to restore equity. It is important that no one (except the director) moves cards. They must remain on the table in the order as played. The director will evaluate if the penalty restores equity by looking at the hand from the revoke on and in essence “play out” the hand as if everyone has followed suit. Sometimes the penalty is not enough. The non offenders get the better of penalty or equity. Not both. The Non-offending player may need to discuss with the director how he/she changed the line of play when the revoking hand showed out of that suit.

If someone revokes more than once in the same suit, the first revoke is penalized, not subsequent revokes. Don;t forget equity!! If it is two different suits, look at each in order. If NS and EW both revoke, they can get offsetting penalties and equity is addressed. (The Law waves both penalties.)

There is one time that a revoke is corrected without penalty. IF a revoke occurs on the 12th trick of the hand and is discovered before all four hands are returned to the board, it must be corrected. Always call the director immediately. The play should be corrected, and no penalty tricks are awarded.

Revoke law has evolved over time, as much of The Laws of Duplicate Bridge has, so although this is the current process, there is no guarantee that it will be this way forever.

Next month we will discuss what happens when a revoke occurs but is not established.

Enjoy your game!!!

- Contributed by **Jay Bates and Deanna Larus**

VALENTINE'S DAY ADVICE FOR BRIDGE PLAYERS

Valentine's Day advice for bridge players centers on fostering partnership harmony: be encouraging, treat your partner the same regardless of wins/losses, and own your own errors. Maintain a positive, calm demeanor, even after disasters, to keep your partner relaxed and focused. Focus on mutual enjoyment, and communication.

- **ENCOURAGEMENT IS KEY:** Offer support after a difficult hand, and remember that, like you, your partner likely knows they made a mistake.
- **STAY CALM:** Avoid showing negative body language or frustration, regardless of the score, to prevent your partner from losing concentration.
- **BETTER TOGETHER:** Treat your partner as a teammate, not an adversary. Communicate clearly, and avoid using secret or illegal signals.
- **SIMPLE BIDDING:** Use minimal words for bidding and maintain a consistent tone to avoid giving away extra information.
- **FOCUS ON FUN:** Take breaks if necessary to keep the game enjoyable and prevent burnout.

