

## Unit 191 Hall of Fame Award

### Deanna Laurus

*The Unit 191 Hall of Fame recognizes a unit member who has had a significant impact on the success and growth of the unit. This year we are happy to award this to Deanna Laurus.*



In 1999, I was introduced to the game of bridge by Jan McCallum and Helen Moon and my life changed. At first, it was social bridge with some dear Durham friends, Dana Lange, Debbie Blaylock, Jill Cunningham and Ruth Buchanan. Who knew what was to come?

A few years later, on the advice of my mother, I soon dove into the deep end and tried duplicate style bridge. I was hooked! Now 25 years later, you will still find me at a bridge table several days a week. My mother, my first tournament partner, and I would take bridge vacations and travel to play at regional tournaments – 7 days 3 sessions a day! So much fun! We worked together to become Life Masters, partnering at 2-3 regionals yearly until 2019.

Locally, my first duplicate partner was Sharon Crane. We played around my teaching schedule at UNC often finding a game 2-3 times a week. Then I began taking classes from Chris Moll, Henry Meguid and others working to develop my bridge skills and improve my game. I have had the pleasure of learning this game while playing with some fabulous partners.

In December 2015 when the Hall of Fame Award was first created, I was playing regularly with Peggy Barbee. Peggy was one of the first honored with this award that year for her lifelong contributions to our unit, having served as one of the founders of duplicate bridge in Durham and Chapel Hill, serving on the board as club manager and director of the Durham Bridge Club since the early 1960s. A true icon in the Durham bridge scene. Me? I was just beginning my journey – not yet a Life Master.

Soon, I began attending more travel tournaments teaming mostly with Paul Morrissette, Kathy Newman, Gail Meyer, Grada Arble and Ian Cloudsdale. I

love the social aspect of these tournaments and the challenge of the game. Oh, how things changed!

In March 2017, I was asked to fill a vacant position on the Unit 191 Board of Directors and my volunteer work for Unit 191 began. I have served on the Unit Board for 8 years since, serving as membership chair, Holiday gala chair, Vice President, then President for three years and more recently as sectional tournament chair. I became a club director and fill in when available to help our clubs run. I am still happy to help when I can!

I have learned so much about the ACBL and the game of bridge from others. Henry Meguid, Darleen Boone, Jay Bates, Peggy Barbee, John Torrey, Ed Fuller and Chris Moll all contribute to my understanding of the game as a player, director, and unit board member. I am grateful for their guidance. I am thankful for all my patient partners, Diane Bastian, Carol Grizzard, Bill Ingram, Suzie Goldberg, Barbara Martin and Ed Fuller and many others who are willing to play with me. Special thanks go to Ian Cloudsdale, my primary bridge partner these days, who challenges me to continue to develop my bridge skills while keeping me laughing at the table!

I never imagined in December 2015 when we honored my then partner, Peggy Barbee, that I would follow in her footsteps and be inducted into the Unit 191 Hall of Fame. What a journey it has been! I am so thankful for all my bridge friends and the opportunity to play the game that I love! I look forward to more bridge games with you all in the days and years to come.

Thank you for this recognition!  
Deanna Larus