

## Bright Leaf Unit 191



ACBL  
Bright Leaf Unit 191



American Contract  
Bridge League

*Dear Friends,*

March 26, 2020

I hope this finds you healthy and safe. I'd like to give you an update of goings-on in our Unit and in our clubs.

Obviously, all our bridge clubs are closed- likely through the end of May or beyond. The economic effects of the pandemic for small businesses have been severe and we are not immune. We have seven clubs in our unit; however, only The Bridge Academy and Triangle Bridge Club rent commercial space and have long-term leases. Their combined rent is in excess of \$12,000 a month, and with additional fixed costs and no revenue, the outlook for them of being closed several months or more with no income is dire.

All our clubs provide communities of friends and supportive environments to gather, and we want these clubs to be open when we can all return to the game we love. We are not assured that this will happen without our collective help.

Like families who save for a rainy day, our Unit has a rainy-day fund. Our Board has met and unanimously agreed to help our clubs to the extent we can with the understanding that our fiduciary responsibility is to ensure our Unit's long-term health and success. We cannot do it alone, however, as you can see from the numbers above. We ask for your contributions in whatever amounts you can afford, recognizing, respecting and valuing every individual's unique circumstances. Beginning April 1<sup>st</sup>, The Unit will donate \$1000 a month and we will match 100% of your donations up to another \$1000. All funds raised will be split equally between the Bridge Academy and Triangle Bridge Club.

The Board decided to take this month by month basis due to the uncertain timeframe of the pandemic effects. We don't know how long this will continue. We have to expect several months of this and may reach out again. Here's how we look at it:

Approximate Combined monthly rent for April:	\$12,000
Unit 191 contributions with matching:	- <u>\$ 2,000</u>
Goal for individual contributions	\$10,000

While \$10,000 seems like a large goal, think about it this way. On a typical week I personally play bridge four times a week. At my usual weekly rate, I spend about \$200 a month. Monthly math:

- 1 game a week – about \$50 per month
- 2 games a week – about \$100 per month
- 3 games a week – about \$150 per month and so on....

Won't you please give what you are able? We have over 600 members in our Unit. If everyone gave \$17 we could easily meet our goal this month. If the people who played regularly each week gave a portion or all of game fees that would go a long way... Together we can do this.

We have arranged for two ways to contribute:

1. We have set up an online site called GoFundMe, <https://www.gofundme.com/f/brightleaf-unit-191>, where you can make your contribution with a credit card.

or

2. You can mail a check **payable to Unit 191** to:  
Deanna Larus  
106 Cedar Hills Drive  
Chapel Hill, North Carolina 27514

I personally pledge to give \$250 for the month of April. Please join me if you can.

For more information please contact me – [deanna@elarus.com](mailto:deanna@elarus.com) or Paul Morrissette – [paul@morrissette.com](mailto:paul@morrissette.com).

Thank you for your consideration, your donation if you are able, and we look forward to seeing you as soon as we can.

Deanna Larus  
Unit 191 President