

June, 2017

## Kansas City, Missouri Report for District 12 Unit Board Members

From: Dennis Carman, District 12 Director

### District News

District 12 was well represented in Kansas City for the 2017 Spring Nationals. Finishing in the top 25 in national events were Owen Lien, 23<sup>rd</sup> in the Kay Platinum Pairs; Owen Lien & Zachary Wasserman, 13<sup>th</sup> in the North American Pairs, Flight A; Jagjit Singh & Robert Christensen, 23<sup>rd</sup> in the NAPs, Flight B; Renee Shunta & Cameron Shunta, 25<sup>th</sup> in the NAPs, Flight B; Henry Zhang & Yanping Zhang, 1<sup>st</sup> in the NAPs, Flight C; Gary Theis & Chuck Theis, 14<sup>th</sup> in the NAPs, Flight C. Jane Roeser & Nancy Spence represented the District in Flight C of the NAPs, and after failing to make the finals, played in another event the next day and earned enough gold points to become Life Masters. In the Rockwell Mixed Pairs Lynne Schaeffer & Marty Hirschman finished 8<sup>th</sup> overall. In the Silver Ribbon Pairs Robert Katz & Robert Bitterman were 7<sup>th</sup> overall.

Not from our District, but worth the mention, was Bill Gates (former Microsoft CEO), winning the Zero to 10,000 Swiss Team event playing on a 4 person team.

Here is a list of D12 players who won masterpoints in Kansas City:

|        |                      |                 |       |                    |                |
|--------|----------------------|-----------------|-------|--------------------|----------------|
| 130.12 | Owen Lien            | Oak Park        | 11.12 | Susan Yester       | Birmingham     |
| 60.34  | Henry Zhang          | Novi            | 10.84 | Sheldon Kirsch     | W. Bloomfield  |
| 60.34  | Yanping Zhang        | Livonia         | 9.68  | Sondra Schubiner   | Franklin       |
| 52.56  | Allan Falk           | Okemos          | 8.53  | Jane Roeser        | Birmingham     |
| 44.56  | Edward White         | Grand Blanc     | 8.53  | Nancy Spence       | Birmingham     |
| 43.41  | Cameron Shunta       | Grand Haven     | 7.84  | Lori Strager       | Farmington Hls |
| 43.41  | Renee Shunta         | Grand Haven     | 7.74  | Frank Treiber III  | Toledo         |
| 41.38  | Michael D Alioto     | Birmingham      | 7.36  | Barbara McQuigg    | Grand Rapids   |
| 40.52  | Jerrold Grossman     | Rochester Hills | 7.36  | Richard McQuigg    | Grand Rapids   |
| 38.85  | Robert Christensen   | Dewitt          | 6.82  | Deepak Dighe       | W. Bloomfield  |
| 38.85  | Jagjit Singh         | East Lansing    | 6.46  | Joyce Jonik        | Ypsilanti      |
| 36.10  | Robert Katz          | Ann Arbor       | 6.42  | Chelane Priller    | Mason          |
| 34.59  | Martin Hirschman     | Southfield      | 6.18  | Jacqueline DeRouin | Okemos         |
| 34.59  | Lynne Schaeffer      | W. Bloomfield   | 6.00  | Eugene Kales       | East Lansing   |
| 33.04  | Jack Shartsis        | Huntington Wds  | 5.88  | Bob Rasmussen      | Ann Arbor      |
| 32.59  | William Arlinghaus   | Ann Arbor       | 5.82  | Kenneth Van Cleve  | Traverse City  |
| 30.67  | Kurt Dasher          | Petersburg      | 5.77  | Barbara Dursum     | Royal Oak      |
| 28.95  | Arlene Geisler       | Clarkston       | 5.77  | David Dursum       | Royal Oak      |
| 28.95  | Kenneth Geisler      | Clarkston       | 5.17  | Latika Mangrulkar  | Farmington Hls |
| 28.11  | Michael Crane        | Canton          | 4.84  | Richard Temkin     | Farmington     |
| 27.59  | Jonathan Fleischmann | Bloomfield      | 4.82  | Arthur Wasserman   | Ann Arbor      |
| 22.22  | Zachary Wasserman    | Farmington Hls  | 3.75  | Maria Conti        | Dearborn Hgts  |
| 21.01  | John Koschik         | Livonia         | 3.75  | Carrie Osborne     | Livonia        |
| 21.01  | David Whitehouse     | Grand Rapids    | 3.65  | Jo Anne Vatter     | Cadillac       |
| 19.03  | Donald Rumelhart     | Ann Arbor       | 3.65  | Richard Vatter     | Cadillac       |
| 18.87  | Chuck Theis          | East Lansing    | 3.21  | Suzanne McIlhiny   | Dearborn       |
| 18.87  | Gary Theis           | Williamston     | 3.07  | Renata Wasserman   | Ann Arbor      |
| 18.02  | Jordan Kaye          | W. Bloomfield   | 2.53  | Susan Parnes       | Flint          |
| 17.07  | Brian Schroeder      | Holt            | 2.07  | Debra Eaves        | Northville     |
| 14.06  | Ben Bomber           | East Lansing    | 2.02  | Catherine Gay      | Kalamazoo      |
| 13.39  | Susan Bailey-Carman  | Plainwell       | 2.02  | William Northrop   | Schoolcraft    |
| 13.39  | Dennis Carman        | Plainwell       | 1.75  | Terran Leemis      | Bloomfield Hls |
| 11.94  | Kerwood Crutchfield  | Caro            | 1.04  | Roger Leemis       | Bloomfield Hls |
| 11.94  | William Dupuis Jr    | Caro            | 0.49  | Carol Resnick      | Bloomfield Hls |
| 11.17  | Kiran Gulati         | Bloomfield      |       |                    |                |
| 11.17  | Subhash Gulati       | Bloomfield      |       |                    |                |
| 11.12  | Richard Muntz        | Brownstown Tw   |       |                    |                |

## Board of Director and Committee Actions in Kansas City

I was a member of the ACBL Education Foundation for the last 2 years and am happy to report that we successfully reorganized this group, and a new slate of trustee's are now in place. See article, page 24 of the May Bulletin;

[http://www.nxtbook.com/acbl/bridgebulletin/2017\\_05/index.php#/24](http://www.nxtbook.com/acbl/bridgebulletin/2017_05/index.php#/24)

Prior to this change, the Foundation was limited by not being a fundraising organization, independent of the ACBL. This new group should not have such constraints.

Two master point changes that players should welcome are:

- Club games with more than one section may issue overall masterpoint awards comparing all the sections. Club games with a single section exceeding 15 tables also issue overall awards. Awards may not exceed 4.00 for open clubs, 3.20 for invitational clubs, and 3.00 for newcomers clubs. Second place is 75% of first, 3<sup>rd</sup> place is 75% of second, etc., through a maximum of 6 places. I voted "yes" on this motion, and it passed with 1 against and 1 abstention.
- Masterpoint awards for Regional events at the NABC's will be increased by changing the R (masterpoint) factor to 1.6 from 1.4. I voted against this motion, and it passed; 14 for, 9 against, and 2 abstentions. This devalues District Regionals, in my opinion.

The Stop Card motion to eliminate its use was deferred to the summer nationals in Toronto. I voted against the deferral, as I feel strongly that we need not have a card that is widely misused. I suspect the Stop Card will be voted out in Toronto.

We have a new ACBL CEO! After a five month search process, we hired Bahar Gidwani. I was a member of the Search Committee and read all of the resumes. I was involved in many of the screening interviews before we whittled the field down to four candidates. The Search Committee met with these four in Chicago at the end of April. One candidate unanimously impressed the Search Committee and was presented to twenty Board members in mid-May, also in Chicago. The Board of Directors unanimously voted to hire Mr. Gidwani. After negotiating his conditions of employment, his hiring was announced on Tuesday, June 6. His resume can be found on the ACBL web site under the News link: <http://www.acbl.org/gidwani-accepts-position-as-acbls-top-executive/>

Chair and Co-Chair of the Search Committee were Jay Whipple, District Director from Florida, and Bob Blanchard, New York City businessman and member of the ACBL. These men spent many hours, beyond the hours put in by other members of the Search Committee, in making sure the process to select our new CEO was professional and thorough.

I felt honored to be asked to serve on the Search Committee and found the process illuminating. The Committee has provided the League and players with a talented new CEO. I look forward to working with Mr. Gidwani, and wish him a successful career in the ACBL.

### The Longest Day

( [http://www.acbl.org/clubs\\_page/special-events/the-longest-day/](http://www.acbl.org/clubs_page/special-events/the-longest-day/) )

Clubs in Bloomfield Hills, Holland, East Lansing, Southfield, and Kalamazoo are participating in the 5<sup>th</sup> annual Longest Day bridge event with proceeds going to the Alzheimer's Association to support research to eliminate this disease. The Bridge Connection in Southfield and the Kalamazoo Bridge Club both finished in the top 24 in the nation with donations raised last year. Bidding to play with experts and silent auctions are featured at these two clubs.

## Toronto Nationals, July 20 – 30, 2017

The summer nationals are in Toronto this year and the monetary exchange rate is favorable for U. S. players. U. S. currency can be used to purchase entries with change given in Canadian funds. As of June 9, 2017, \$1 US will fetch \$1.35 Canadian. (I am off to the bank today to purchase Canadian dollars.) Using Canadian dollars to buy entries will save you a small amount, as all entry fees are in even dollar amounts.

A PASSPORT is required for travel to Canada.

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/American\\_entry\\_into\\_Canada\\_by\\_land](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/American_entry_into_Canada_by_land)

<https://www.cbp.gov/travel/us-citizens/whti-program-background/docs-air-travel>

### Personal Accomplishments and Stories

As your District Director, I have had the pleasure of receiving notification when members of District 12 reach masterpoint milestones. I've been able to congratulate these people and ask them for a story or for suggestions on how the ACBL can improve their bridge experience.

**Bruce Sokol** attained the rank of Gold Life Master last year and wrote the following account:

#### 56 Years to 2500/Gold

I suspect my journey is somewhat different than others on this "trip", however there may be a few others who can relate to it. I started playing bridge late in 1960, along with four other collage classmates, who were spending substantial time in the game room of our student union. We noticed some tables playing bridge, were dutifully impressed by the game, the players, their mannerisms, and table chatter. One of us bought a Goren book, and another person bought a recent book by Kaplan-Sheinwold. It was certainly different than the Goren book! The school held a duplicate game for students and some of us entered, not knowing much about the game, but we won and were hooked on duplicate bridge. We all bought the K-S book, read it front to back, and started playing it. We started playing local duplicate games, and nearby sectionals. Most of us have never played in a serious rubber bridge game, to this day, for just that reason.

We had a lot of early success. Here we were, four young, brash, men, playing a system foreign to the older, established players. Hey, weak No Trumps, weak two bids, negative doubles, forcing NT, sound 2/1 bids, limit raises, and inverted minors were all being introduced at that time, and most players hadn't seen them before. We all were reading everything we could find, and worked hard to improve, but we had an edge over most local and sectional players at that time, youth and a better system. As an aside, we didn't know it at the time, but many of our K-S bids morphed into the current "2/1 System". We were playing "2/1 with weak NT's" 56 years ago!

Here is how it takes 56 years to get to 2500. Dating, marriage, children, and career, all interfered at times on this journey. I nearly stopped playing after a couple of years, but had accumulated about 125 master points in that time.

For those of you who have started playing more recently, the inflation in master point awards over the years has been immense. Local games were restricted to holding one "master point game" a month, in which winners got one whole master point for their efforts. All other games that month paid fractional master point awards to winners. Directors gave out "master-point slips", and when you accumulated some number, you packed them up, and sent them to the ACBL to have them recorded.

I returned to my hometown, Cleveland, in the mid 70's and resumed playing often, then went to Chicago, and again played lots of bridge, including sectionals, and an

occasional Regional. I became a Life Master in 1977, getting the required 300 points. So, it took me 17 years to get to 300! Again marriage and career got in the way, and over the next 22 years I attained another 300. 600 MP's in 39 years!

I moved back to St. Joseph, MI in 1998, and re-connected with my brother, Roger, who lives near Joliet, IL. We started playing again, and in 1999, started playing Regionals with my "homeboys" back in Cleveland. Each year we played the two Cleveland Regionals, as well as Ft. Wayne, and occasionally, some others. All of us were winding down careers, or were retired, and now had time to get serious about the game.

We found out about Bracketed Knockout events. Starting in '99 our team likely averaged 550 points each. That put us in the second or third flight in those events at that time. We were pretty dominant playing in those lower flights because of our low master point totals. Of course, as you win the team average is increased, and we moved into the second, and on occasion, the first flight. We finished overall and won with some regularity in the second flight, but were not as successful in flight one. We finally "got over the hump" and won a KO in the first flight 3-4 years ago.

And we discovered the Gatlinburg Regional and their bracketed KO's! Wow, with 16 to 20 brackets in all the two day events, we were always playing teams with master point averages very close to ours. A lot of fun going there as a group, renting either two apartments or, a big house for our 5-6 day stays. We enjoy buying our food locally, cooking in, and in addition sharing the costs is very economical. Partying late at night is a side benefit! The old time stories are dutifully repeated every year! And if you lose today, there is always another event starting tomorrow.

Our best run was a couple of years ago when we won the first event we entered, then won the next three matches in the next event, finishing second. After we lost in the second event finals, we packed up and went home, not pressing our luck any further.

So, starting in 1960 and finishing late 2015/early 2016 is how it takes 56 years to get to 2500.

Many thanks to my team-mates, the "Cleveland homeboys"; Wayne Heritage, Jim Breckel, Bob Dykes, brother Roger Sokol, and our most recent addition, and my favorite local partner, John Bodish. It's been a great ride. Thanks again, guys.

From **James R. Walter:**

I became a Life Master in 1978 and quit playing bridge in 1986. After my wife of 51 years passed away in 2014, I decided to see if I could still play the game.

With the help of many kind and patient bridge players here in Ann Arbor, I am (slowly) bringing my bidding into the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

Bridge has been a real lifesaver for me, and I am grateful for the friendly people I have met. I hope I will be able to play bridge at a non-embarrassing level for many years to come.



**Cynthia Luce** has written:

I started playing rubber bridge at age 19 and did not enter into duplicate bridge until age 59. I joined ACBL in 2006 and it took me from then until now to achieve the Bronze Master status I am enjoying today. I attended many tournaments in the US and Canada during that time and was thrilled when I became a Life Master. I stopped the tournament route and just play duplicate twice a week in the Grosse Pointe, Michigan area. I am also teaching a beginner bridge class at our Services for Older Citizens organization. I love the game and the challenges it presents and look forward to many more years of fun and friendship.



**Linda Roberts** attained the rank of Ruby Life Master:

Thanks for sending your congratulations.

I never imagined how important duplicate bridge would become in my life when my golf club started duplicate games with mini lessons. The most important part of the game to me is the bridge partnerships/friendships that have formed. We all have studied and played together for years and we still look at it the same: Acceptance of mistakes, happy when "good stuff" happens, and a joy of being together playing this fabulous game with my partners: Pam, Pandi, Marcy, Levonne, and Eileen. I have special thanks for Wilbur Argersinger who encouraged all of us to be better. And hugs to Joe, the gentleman who, when ten years ago I passed his 2 spade Michaels cue bid: Pass, 1 spade, 2 spades, Pass, Pass.

A great Quote:

Bridge is a game without barriers. People of all ages, races, nationalities and levels of skill enjoy the excitement of the world's greatest game. Bridge not only stimulates the brain and provides the joy of competition, but it is also an ideal setting for socializing with interesting people and making new friends.

... Jared Johnson



One thing a few Board of Director members do early each morning, before our Board meetings, is to go on a fast walk of a couple of miles. We have walked the city streets of New Orleans, Washington, D.C., Reno, Denver, Chicago, etc. In Kansas City we walked to the World War I Monument near our hotel one morning and saw these immortal words on the header of the monument. "They Shall Not Pass." It came from a military battle in Verdun, and the French used this as a battle cry as they held their positions.

How appropriate!



Left to right: Dennis Carman, D12 Director; Mark Aquino, D25 Director; Kevin Lane, D23 Director; and Marv Norden, D19 Director. Photographed by Jay Whipple, D9 Director

Susan and I are off to the Bay City Regional on Sunday. We hope to see many of you there and also in Toronto this summer.



Dennis Carman, District 12 Director