

Northern Indiana Unit 154

JUNE 2018 Newsletter
Editor: Kim Grant

ANNUAL MEETING
will be held at the
South Bend Summer Sectional
Sunday, AUGUST 5, 9:15AM

President's Corner



Gary Chaney

Hello, Everyone. With June upon us, it is time to start qualifying for the North American Open Pairs. Each Unit 154 club is permitted to hold two qualifying dates per session for each month of June, July, and August. Those players who qualify at the club level have the opportunity to play in the District 12 qualifying session that will be held on September 16 in Lansing MI. The top three pairs in each of the four flights will then be eligible to compete in the 2019 Spring NABC in Memphis in March. So, grab your best partner and start qualifying.

At the May Board meeting in Fort Wayne, the Board authorized Webmaster Kim Grant to build a new website with modern software and features. She will work to get a new site done by the end of July. If you have a suggestion for this new website, please contact Kim at: kimfwi@aol.com

The website address is: www.unit154.org

The Unit 154 Board says “thank you” to its departing members: Barbara Walczak, Julie Kupersmith, Lynn Miller, Max Banan, and Kim Grant. These departing Board members played pivotal roles in our successful campaign to move to District 12. Each of them deserves our thanks for their contributions to the betterment of Unit 154.

With the departure of the above, the Board welcomes our ‘newbies’: Terry Bauer, Stan Davis, Bud Hinckley and Suzy Wright. Your Unit 154 Board now consists of the following members:

Ken Bisson – Angola
Alan Yngve & Terry Bauer – Gary
Steve Watson – Highland
Marcy Meyer & Tom O’Connell – Michigan City/Long Beach
Barbara Stroud – Portage/Chesterton/Valparaiso
John Hamilton & Bud Hinckley – South Bend/Mishawaka
Suzy Wright – Kokomo
Stan Davis & Gary Chaney – Fort Wayne

Silver Points! Silver Points! Silver Points! Don’t forget STaC week June 25-July 1. The South Bend Sectional is August 3-5 and the Highland Sectional is October 19-21. Arrange your partners and grab the silver. District 12 uses the same hands for STaC week across the district!

And finally, I thank all of you, the members of Northern Indiana Unit 154, for your support at the bridge table and at the petition table. You have made a difference and our Unit is the better for it. Those who come after us will benefit from your efforts. Now, let’s play some bridge!

SNOWBIRDS: PLEASE STAY IN UNIT 154!



The northern bridge districts have a significant number of snowbirds who go to fairer climes during the harsh winter months. When doing so, there are two ways to do so. The first is to change your address without changing your unit affiliation. You will still receive the ACBL Bulletin publication at your winter address and doing it this way benefits the home unit because it will still receive the portion of your ACBL dues which get paid to the units.

The ACBL pays a portion of your dues twice annually six months apart; they are paid to the unit of your address at the time the payment is made. The alternative when you change to your winter address, is to also change your unit affiliation; that is the default treatment by the ACBL when you make an address change to a location outside of your home unit. This benefits the unit in which you reside in the winter as they may receive that portion of your ACBL dues based on where you reside at the time of the payment.

In order to keep your unit affiliation unchanged when you move to your winter address, you should contact Cindy Wages (cindy.wages@acbl.org) or Linda Aldridge (linda.aldrige@acbl.org) in the Member Services Department of the ACBL. If you are internet phobic, the telephone number is 662-253-3100, extension 3132. The Florida units are among the largest in the country and hardly need the added income, so help out your home unit by keeping your unit affiliation unchanged.



South Bend's Creative Genius Strikes Again!

He's baaack! South Bend's resident woodworking genius is at it again! Pictured on the left is the latest creation by Tom Hebron. This "gadget" holds extra bidding cards for those times when you can't find the 2 of hearts bid card, the 6 of diamonds card or a decent looking pass card. Tom had the help of his son, Andy, who created the letters using a 3-D printer. The bid card holder is a wonderful idea & another in a long list of Tom's beautiful creations. Thanks, again, Tom!

South Bend's Pro-Am Winners

South Bend's semi-annual Pro-Am Swiss Team Event, held on Saturday afternoon, May 5th, was a great success! There were 12 teams of life masters or players with more than 500 points partnering with non-life master players with fewer than 500 points. The winners were (pictured l to r): Lee Boser, Ren Singleton, Kathy Peterson and Dave Barkmeier. We send our congratulations! In addition, a hearty thank you to Director Bill Searcy (the hot dog chef) for running the event so smoothly & to Joan Tobler's committee, Marty Martin & Tricia Killeen for the festivities and the tasty spread. Look for the next Pro-Am in August!



70% + GAMES

John & Tricia Killeen, Mishawaka: **71.43%** 3/27
Elaine DeLaney, South Bend & Rich Mao, Mishawaka: **70.37%** 3/28
Wayne Carpenter, Chesterton & Laverne Niksch, Portage: **71.13%** 4/9
Rich Mao, Mishawaka & Bud Hinckley, South Bend: **72.32%** 5/14
Steve Watson, Schererville & Joe Chin, Highland: **71.28%** 5/14
Lou Nimnicht, Crown Point & Steve Watson, Schererville: **71.48%** 5/18
Rich Mao, Mishawaka & Bud Hinckley, South Bend: **70.83** 5/31



RISE IN THE RANKS

JUNIOR MASTER

Ronald Blue, Fort Wayne
Scott Fenton, Wolcottville
Becky Fenton, Wolcottville
Marland Myers, New Haven
Franklin Olive, Fort Wayne
Rajalakshmy Sundara, Granger

CLUB MASTER

Darrell Culley, Auburn
Sharon Massey, Portage
Gerry Wardzinski, South Bend

REGIONAL MASTER

John Mowry, Fremont

NABC MASTER

Laurence Dunford, Dyer

BRONZE LIFE MASTER

OVUNC YILMAZ, South Bend

GOLD LIFE MASTER

DONALD FERGUSON, Fort Wayne



While in college at age 19, I began playing bridge. I used a Sheinwold bidding summary as a help during play. It also contained the 4-3-2-1 Point Count Summary. During my first year of playing, I achieved possibly my first individual accomplishment. Now, 60 years later, I presented this perceived accomplishment as a challenge to my fellow duplicate players. It consisted of a hand where I had to reduce my seven-card spade suit to five cards, under my right-hand opponent's 5-card spade suit, in order to make my 6-spade contract.

After my stint in the Army and graduating college, I got my first career job at age 26. I finally had time for a new activity following my hiatus from bridge. A co-worker suggested the Duplicate Bridge Club in Fort Wayne. Thus, I began playing bridge again.

It was there, I met my favorite bridge partner, Rosie, who I married at age 35. One of the first major events that she and I attended was an Indianapolis Regional and we played in the Saturday Open Pairs. We played well and came in 6th overall. The following day, Sunday, while at home and reviewing our scores and results, I questioned several scores. For starters, was the score of zero for bidding and making 7 Diamonds. There were at least 4 other scores in question. Rosie called and spoke to Sid Kilshimer, the Tournament Director, and relayed our questioning the accuracy of our scores. Sid expressed doubt of any errors but promised to look into it. Within the hour, we received a return call from Director Kilshimer and were told that all five questionable scores had been reversed and indeed, were wrong. As a result, all scores were corrected; we went from 6th to 2nd and acquired all the Gold Points that we needed to make Life Master.

My wife and I had many successful team partnerships with Bob Swindell and Wilson Jarjour. We won 4 or 5 Sunday Regional Swiss Team events in Fort Wayne. After Wilson's passing, our new teammate was Eleanor Munson and we continued a winning partnership.

Bridge has provided numerous of hours of entertainment and mental challenges as well as lasting friendships!

GOLD LIFE MASTER

ROSE FERGUSON, Fort Wayne



It has been a long long journey! Who would have thought that back in the Fifties, when three of my high school friends literally forced me to learn Bridge because they needed a 4th, that I would later become a Bridge addict. Initially, I did not like the game because I had many questions that my friends were unable to answer to my satisfaction. I resorted to taking some formal Bridge Lessons. That did it. I was hooked. I found a good partner. We entered our first Bridge tournament and won 1st place in the "Under 20" event.

Through the encouragement and partnership of some better players in our local club, I advanced through the ranks. When approached by a fellow church member to teach Bridge to some of his neighbors, I jumped at the opportunity. Before long, I was asked to teach at our YWCA, IPFW, local Country Clubs and neighborhood clubs. At one time, I was teaching five classes per week. My motivation was to instill a love and appreciation of this game to as many people as possible.

With the help of my favorite partner who I eventually married, we together, achieved the rank of Life Master at a Regional Tournament in Indianapolis. Traveling to out-of-town tournaments became difficult because of our young daughter so we primarily played in local and area game which limited our ability to earn red and gold points.

After many years of playing as well as having great partners, our patience has paid off! We reach this new plateau, Gold Life Master! What a remarkable journey it has been and what wonderful friends we have met along the way.

SAPPHIRE LIFE MASTER
VIRGINIA STIPP, South Bend



The South Bend Bridge Club is proud to announce the latest achievement by one of our members, Gini Stipp. She just recently became a Sapphire Life Master, which means she has amassed 3500 masterpoints and will be honored next spring at the South Bend Bridge Club. Congratulations, Gini!

DIAMOND LIFE MASTER
LENA HOWARD, Elkhart



The South Bend Bridge club is proud to announce the latest achievement by one of our members, Lena Howard. She has earned 5000 points to become a Diamond Life Master. Lena works very hard to constantly improve her bridge by playing at the club and online. There are very few days that we don't find her smiling face, a flower in her hair, with an eagerness to figure out this tough game. Sounds like she has conquered most of it! Well done, Lena. She will be honored next spring at the South Bend annual Recognition Lunch.