

American Contract Bridge League District 16

SCORECARD

Bridge News Bulletin for The Texas Regional Conference

San Antonio, Texas

Volume 41, No 2

March/April 2009

On to Houston

11 pairs qualify for North American Pairs

107 pairs showed up in Austin early in January to determine District 16's representatives to the National finals in Houston in March. All flights played 4 sessions, 2 qualifying and 2 finals. After the final results were tallied, the eleven qualifiers were:

Flight A

- 1st - Ira & Ellen Hessel, San Antonio
- 2nd - Mark Bumgardner, Carrollton and Charles Price, Sherman
- 3rd - Hugh Hillaker, Grand Prairie and Kimmel Jones, Euless

Flight B

- 1st - Daniel Jackson, Spring and Bill Gervais, Cypress
- 2nd - James Breihan, Houston and Eddie Bass, Austin
- 3rd - Melody Euler, Temple and Guss Ginsburg, Houston
- 4th Janice Henderson and Donna Sparks, Houston

Flight C

- 1st - Herbert Kalman, Bellaire and Robert Reichek, Houston
- 2nd - Pawel Hanus, Carrollton and Andrzej Kudlicki, Dallas
- 3rd - Paul Cuneo, Spring and Steve Varner, Houston
- 4th Brian Stevens and Melanie Dunn, Montgomery

The host city will be well represented, as half of D16's 22 representatives are from Houston. First place winners in A and first and second in B and C receive \$700 per player

from the ACBL. Second in A and second and third in B and C will get \$300. Third in A and fourth in B and C don't receive any compensation from the ACBL, but many units have supplemented them in years past. Unit 172 currently takes care of members' entry fees at the unit and district qualifying events.

Although the turnout was slightly below recent years, it was much higher than the all-time low of 74 total entrants in 2000 and 2002. District 16, though, continues to be among the leaders in participation at the district level. The event starts by qualifying at the club level and then qualifying at a two session unit final. The survivors meet at the district level to play 4 sessions to qualify at the national level. District 16 has provided the only 3 time national champions in this event, Ken Schutze and Jim Griffin. Indeed, this is the only time in recent years that Jim has failed to make this event but, alas, he has migrated to California. Ken played this year with multiple national champion Hemant Lall. Twelve players in this year's Flight A hold one or more national championships, just to indicate the strength of our district.

Best of luck to all of the qualifiers participating at the national level event later this month in Houston.



Flight A
Ellen & Ira Hessel



Flight B
Daniel Jackson-Bill Gervais



Flight C
Herbert Kalman-Robert Reichek

President's Message

Ira Hessel
District 16
President



When elected President of D16 I feared it might be time to leave the district, as I couldn't possibly be a member of an organization that would have me as president. Having thought it through, I realized I can just wear another hat.

I plan to be at all of the District regionals and many sectionals and encourage all of you to chat with me about all bridge related things. I will likely be actually wearing a hat, but please don't ask me where my badge is. (I do so love straight lines!) I'd like to have informal gatherings at the coming regionals, so please try to make it and express anything you feel could be done to help this wonderful game continue to thrive.

Volunteers: I have always been impressed and thankful to those who work to put on our tournaments. Regionals and sectionals just don't happen. I have attended regionals all over the US and I am really proud of the ones we hold in Texas. The bulletins, hospitality, pictures and really friendly folks are always exemplary. An article highlights those that won the Texas Star awards for 2008. Don't forget to thank these great folks and everyone who puts their time and efforts to really create these great tournaments and other functions. All units please get your nominations in for the Jacoby award.

District Growth: Reversing a long trend, District 16 has increased its membership 5.5% from 2004 and 2.9% from July 2007. All of the

ACBL has increased 1.9% from July 2007. Units doing the best include Fort Worth, Dallas, Houston and Austin. Austin membership has increased 31% since 2004 ! Actions that seem to work best are ones that focus on new member retention especially in the 2nd year. This includes games at clubs for newcomers, Pro-Am games and direct contact with the Intermediate-Newcomer staff of the unit.

Charity: District 16 will be receiving \$20,000 for charity distribution in 2009 from the ACBL Charity Foundation. The four charities selected to each receive \$5,000 grants are: Lubbock Family Outreach Center, Inc, Lubbock; Meals on Wheels Plus, Inc., Abilene; Texas Hearing and Service Dogs, Inc., and The Blue Bird Circle, both of Houston. Each of these charities will be presented their grants at the National Goodwill Reception on Monday, March 16, 2009 in Houston at the Spring Nationals.

Thanks to all the Board members and other key personal who have been so instrumental to District 16's current success, and a special thanks to outgoing president Larry Davis who has done an outstanding job as president and as a board member.

Onward to Houston: The Houston Unit has worked amazingly hard preparing for the 2009 Spring NABC. Please encourage all players, particularly newer ones, to come and see how exciting the nationals can be. Even if they don't want to play themselves, let them know that just kibitzing the champions is really fun as well as enlightening!

2008 Texas Star Winners

District 16 Awards Chairman, Eric Snow, presented the Texas Star Pins to 12 recipients at the Houston Regional in February. The Texas Star Awards are given to worthy volunteers at the unit level for service performed in their own unit. The District Board encourages you to submit a bio and picture to your unit board for consideration. It is not too early for the unit boards to consider their generous volunteers for 2009

**Steve Simpson Unit 172
San Antonio**



Steve Simpson, a native of England, has done much to make Unit 172 a better unit. He volunteers as the Unit Webmaster and helps both of the commercial clubs with their websites, spending much time to make sure the websites are attractive and accurate. At the bridge table, Steve is very pleasant to play with or against. He acts as a standby at 199er games to ensure that all the newer players have someone to play with instead of being turned away. Steve always sticks around after unit or club games or tournament games

to help clean up or move supplies as needed. He never fails to ask if there is anything he can do to help. A glutton for punishment, one of Steve's goals is to become a director.

**Natalie Greene/Dale Crumbaugh
Unit 174 Houston**



I have been asked to say a few words about a couple I have known for years, this year's recipients of the Unit 174 Texas Star Award. I cannot put in a few words all that this couple has done for the game of bridge. There is not a job they would not try to do to help this unit or bridge. We are lucky to have them in our unit and at our club.

They were among the original founders of Bridge Club of Houston; they have been supply coordinators for BCOH since its inception,

Natalie has taught bridge classes at the Club and both have directed games. They have consistently supported the Club by playing there; they are model competitors; nobody ever hears a cross word from either of them.

They have served Unit 174 as election judges for more years than I can

count. They have greatly improved election procedures and have reliably and accurately counted the votes at the end of each Election Sectional; this has greatly contributed to the fact that the Unit has had no election controversies in recent memory.

They are awesome bridge players and are willing to help anyone who asks. I consider it a great honor to be able to call Natalie Greene and Dale Crumbaugh my friends

By Sherry Gerdes, Manager BCH

Marvin Migdol Unit 176 Dallas



Marv Migdol has been a very active member of the Dallas Unit since he joined the Unit and ACBL in 1971. Shortly after joining, the word got out that Marvin had a Master's degree in public relations from Boston University and already had lots of experience in writing. He was appointed Publicity Chairman and editor of the Unit's newsletter. Marv's five years of editing that

(Continued on page 2) STARS

2009 District 16 Officers



President
Ira Hessel



First Vice-President
Charlie Price



Second Vice-President
Dewitt Hudson



Executive Secretary
Bob Butterfield



Executive Treasurer
Lew Levy

AMERICAN CONTRACT BRIDGE LEAGUE

DISTRICT 16 SCORECARD

Bridge News Bulletin for
The Texas Regional Conference
2826 Barrel Oak
San Antonio, TX 78231

Starting this issue there is additional content for the online edition.
Please see page 16 for this issue.

OSWALD AND JAMES JACOBY SERVICE AWARD

TO: PRESIDENTS AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF ALL UNITS IN DISTRICT 16 RE: NOMINATIONS FOR THE OSWALD AND JAMES SERVICE AWARD FOR 2009

Each year District 16 selects one member, from the many dedicated volunteers whose hard work supports the District, to receive the Oswald and James Jacoby Service Award. The complete guidelines are found on the District's internet page. Every Unit is encouraged to nominate a special person in District 16 who has served diligently at the Unit level and who has risen to recognition at the District level for their outstanding service. Please send your nomination to the Jacoby Award Committee. Include a brief personal sketch and a description of the way the nominee has served his/her Unit and District 16. Nominations must be received by the Committee by July 1, 2009. This year's award will be presented at the Fort Worth Regional on Sunday, September 6, before the evening session. Please keep your nomination a secret, as surprise is an important part of the Award presentation. Feel free to call the Committee if you have any questions. **OSWALD AND JAMES JACOBY SERVICE AWARD COMMITTEE** Cissie Horton, Judy Jacoby, Jacque Tucker Arlene Weingarten, Howard Wilkins, Eric Snow, Chairman 10341 Huntington Place Drive, Houston, Texas 77099 Tel. 281.933.8924 Email: EricSnow@excite.com

Description of the Award Guidelines for Nominations, Selection Committee and Presentation Ceremony Concise Version

1. The Oswald & James Jacoby Service Award ("the Award") shall be presented once annually at the Dallas-Fort Worth Regional Tournament held in the fall.
2. Each Unit within District 16 may, but need not, nominate a person whom it considers to be a suitable recipient of the Award. Only persons nominated by a Unit may be considered by the Committee. A Unit may nominate only one person, who need not be member of that of that Unit, and who shall be a member in good standing of the ACBL, resident within District 16. A Unit may nominate a person for more than one year. A person who has received the Award in a prior year is not eligible for nomination. No member of the Committee shall participate in the nomination process at the Unit level; one who inadvertently does so shall be disqualified to participate in the screening and selection process of the Committee.
3. A recipient of the Award shall be a volunteer who has worked diligently at the Unit level and has risen to recognition at the District level after many years of outstanding service. Receipt of nominal compensation for burdensome tasks does not classify a person as a non-volunteer. The Committee shall determine the volunteer status of each nominee during its screening process.
4. The Committee shall maintain a record of all recipients of the Award.

DISTRICT 16 TOURNAMENTS

| MARCH | |
|-----------------------------|------------------|
| IXTAPAN MX. REGIONAL | 2-8 |
| Dallas (0-200) | 2-8 |
| Austin (0-100) | 7-8 |
| McAllen | 7-8 |
| HOUSTON NATIONALS | 12-22 |
| Kerrville (5) | 26-29 |
| APRIL | |
| Austin NLM (9) | 4-5 |
| Dallas (0-NLM) | 3-5 |
| D-16 STaC | 13-19 |
| San Miguel Allende | 17-19 |
| Houston (0-100) | 25-26 |
| San Antonio (6) | 23-26 |
| Athens (14) | 23-25 |
| MAY | |
| Richardson NLM | 1-2 |
| Houston (4) | 1-3 |
| Austin (13) | 7-10 |
| Houston (0-300) | 15-17 |
| Richardson w/GNT (9) | 21-25 |
| JUNE | |
| Fort Worth (11) | 5-7 |
| San Antonio | 5-7 |
| Dallas NLM | 11-14 |
| Midland | 12-14 |
| Houston | 12-14 |
| Austin | 18-21 |
| JULY | |
| SAN ANTONIO REGIONAL | 6/29-7/05 |
| Austin | 18-19 |
| Tyler (15) | 10-12 |

INDEX

| Unit | Column | Announcement | Results | Pictures |
|--------------------|--------|---------------|----------|------------|
| 172 San Antonio | 5 | 5, 6 | 5 | 5, 6 |
| 174 Houston | 6 | 4 election 10 | 6,7,9,10 | 8 |
| 176 Dallas | 10 | 9 | 10 | 11 |
| 183 Fort Worth | 11 | 11 | 11,12 | Next issue |
| 187 Corpus Christi | 12 | | | |
| 197 Lubbock | | | | |
| 201 Beaumont | 12 | | | |
| 204 San Angelo | 12 | | | |
| 207 Austin | 12 | 9, 13 | 13 | 13 |
| 209 Permian Basin | 14 | | | |
| 224 Abilene | 14 | | | |
| 225 East Texas | 14 | 14, 15 | | |
| 233 Waco | 15 | | | |
| 237 Magic Valley | 15 | | | |
| 353 Wichita Falls | 15 | | | |

STARS

newsletter set a new standard for excellence. The newsletter was selected as "Best in the Country" by ACBL and both Marv and the Unit received certificates of accomplishments. The newsletter at that time was often 12 pages long and contained many ads, entirely sold by Marv, and was widely used for promoting tournaments. He co-edited major Dallas Regional daily newsletters as well, requiring him to stay up writing into the wee hours of the morning and then distributing it the following day.

No one else has ever served as many terms as a publicity/PR person. He has succeeded in getting substantial media publicity. He was widely lauded for getting media publicity for the past two Dallas Nationals, including TV coverage. He's even landed publicity for local players in The New York Times.

He has long been a strong supporter of bringing new players to bridge and was twice elected to the Unit's Board of Directors. In recent years Marv has written the Dallas column for the Scorecard. He has also written numerous other articles for the Scorecard, such as pieces for our Nationals and reminisces of great players like Oswald Jacoby and Bobby Goldman.

For over 36 years of devoted and congenial service to Unit 176, we are proud to recognize Marvin Migdol for the Texas Star Award.

**Ann Crumpler, Unit 187
Corpus Christi**



Ann started playing "serious" duplicate about 18 years ago, is not only a wonderful player but has a great table presence. You never know that she has just discovered a 5/0 trump split or her partner has put her in an impossible contract - no grimace, heavy sigh or even rolled eyes. Ann has served on the Unit 187 Board, been Assistant Regional Chairman, Tournament Chairman, Hospitality Chair and Partnership chair, giving her all for each job. At sectionals she has been Martha De-Cou's silent partner doing whatever job needed to be done to assist Martha as Chairman - an unsung hero as far as we are concerned. The only fault we can find is that she has let her family and work come before bridge!! Ann is very deserving of

the Texas Star Award.

**Betty Poindexter Unit 201
Beaumont**



It is Unit 201's pleasure to honor Betty Poindexter this year as our Texas Star Honoree. Betty is a Silver Life Master and past president of our club for 4 terms. She has served in all official capacities for our unit: Officer, Board Member, Tournament Chair, Director and Committee Chair. Betty is a "Can Do" kind of person. She gives special luncheons to stimulate attendance, never meets a stranger that doesn't leave a friend, and makes everyone feel welcome. Best of all is Betty's positive attitude, always seeing the glass half full. She has away of encouraging all members and helping them get involved with the activities of our unit. Betty always has a smile and kind words for everyone. Congratulations Betty - never has a person been more deserving.

**Mary Payne Unit 205
Guadalajara**

Mary has been Vice-President of Unit 205 for six years. During this time she has been in charge of prizes for our sectional tournament, hospitality chair for the Puerto Vallarta Regional, chef for our annual Christmas dinner, and sole margarita maker for one of our parties at the Ajijic sectional.

Flora Pettit Unit 207, Austin



Even before her retirement from University of Texas in 2004, Dr. Flora Pettit (biochemist and medical researcher) worked tirelessly to help bridge and bridge players in Austin. She was elected to the Unit Board of Directors and served as treasurer.

Subsequent to her retirement from UT, Flora has done even more to promote the growth and enjoyment of bridge in Austin. As an example of her "going the extra mile," she created special tablecloths for the tables of both the Bridge Center of

Austin (where she serves as treasurer) and the Buda Bridge Club. She bought and cut the material, and punched individual holes in the edges of the tablecloths so that she could crochet each edge, a project that took many hours of detailed work.

Another example of "going the extra mile" is Flora's offering of her house for duplicate games when the Bridge Center is occupied by another event such as a non-life-master sectional.

Flora is a wonderful cook and has spent many hours preparing meals and desserts which she then brings to certain special games, greatly adding to the enjoyment of the events.

Flora is a quiet person who never brags or otherwise tries to attract attention to herself, but she is always there when needed.

**Ann Servatius Unit 209
Midland Odessa**



Unit 209 is happy to present Ann Servatius as recipient of the Texas Star Award. Ann and Jim have been married fifty-one (51) years - proud parents of four (4) great sons. In 1978 they came to Midland from Plainview. When Hearst Corp. purchased the Midland Reporter Telegram, Jim later became Editor.

Ann's spirits became lackluster - until she discovered the Allison Bridge Center which became a big part of her life. While working in Midland Independent School District with Special Ed students (as she had done previously in Plainview) she attained the rank of Life Master in 1996.

Ann is an outstanding cook - being known in Unit 209 for her excellent desserts; cakes for monthly birthday nights, Life Master parties and just any occasion we enjoy and have come to expect. Ann states that baking "sweets" for bridge is a favorite thing to do - keeping at least three (3) cakes in the freezer, ready to go, with electric knife to help them thaw on short notice!

Ann promotes the theory - if you want to have a friend - first you must become one! She is one of our most loyal members. According to Jim "I swear she plays bridge eight (8) days a week" - according to Beatles

(continued on page 3) Stars

**DEADLINE for
May/June Issue**

Announcements: April 1st
Articles, Columns: April 6th
Copy must be typed.
E-mail to ihessel@satx.rr.com
Pictures should be digital.



SCORECARD

ISSN 10560920 Published bi-monthly on the first day of January, March, May, July, September and November by District 16 of the American Contract Bridge League, 2826 Barrel Oak San Antonio tx. 78231. Yearly subscription to members, \$ 3.00 paid with annual dues. Periodical Postage paid at Memphis, TN and at additional mailing offices.

All advertising and copy should be submitted to the editor by the first and sixth days of the month, respectively, preceding publication. Advertising rates available from the editor upon request. Pictures should be in digital format. For replies, include a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

Editors

Executive: Ira & Ellen Hessel
Managing: Ellen Hessel
GNT/NAP Reporter: Ira Hessel
National Reporter: David Sokolow

The Scorecard Committee

Toni Snow, Chair
Scott Humphrey
Annette McCarty
Donna Compton

Moving? Subscribers:

Send address changes to:
ACBL Data Processing Dept.
2990 Airways Blvd.
Memphis, TN 38116-3847

Send copy photos & announcements to: Email: ihessel@satx.rr.com