



President's Update

Happy New Year!!!

2020 was a year that threw the familiar upside down! It was anything but normal! My sincere hope is that all of you and your loved ones have stayed well during these challenging times.

This past year was hard for many of us, but there is a lot for which to be thankful, especially our volunteers! Great strides were made in Membership Growth and Retention initiatives thanks to the following individuals: Sandy Potts, Buck Buchanan, Rachell Jackson, Laurie Levin, Sally Sassen and Betty Starzec.

Our volunteers continued to work harder than ever this past year, in spite of the pandemic. Special thanks to the Executive Committee, Betty Starzec, Jim Bauer, Tomi Storey and Tom Trudeau as well as the Board of Directors, Standing Positions and Committee Chairs. My sincere thanks to all of you!!!

Education - Sally Sassen

New! Online Teaching Lite Workshop

**Are you ready to be done with 2020?
Is learning a new skill one of your resolutions for 2021?
Then how about teaching bridge online!
If this interests you, try Buck Buchanan's new Online Teaching Lite Workshop!**

Online Teaching Lite gets you up and running using simple and reliable online tools to teach small informal classes. Consider this an inexpensive starter kit that you can use to teach bridge almost immediately.

Join Buck on Tuesday, January 19, 7pm - 8:30pm.
All you need to enroll is a familiarity with BBO and Zoom.
District 16 sponsors this workshop for any member.

To register, drop Buck a note at rcb722322@gmail.com. (In the

meantime, Buck welcomes your questions about online teaching tools and methods.)

Note: This workshop does not replace the ACBL Online Teaching Certification Workshop.

New! District 16 Lecture Series

District 16 will host free one-hour Zoom lectures for intermediate bridge players. We want to encourage members to improve their bridge game and to sharpen the skills of players who are beyond beginner classes.

The lectures are tentatively planned for the second Saturday of each month at 12:30pm. Watch for an invitation titled **D16 Zoom Lecture series**.

Handouts and recorded Zoom sessions will be available on the district website, d16acbl.org.

First Lecture scheduled for January 9, 12:30pm - 1:30pm

Sharpening Your Defense: Learning to Think Like Declarer Thinks, Buck Buchanan

In our dreams, we stay one step ahead of declarer: removing dummy's trumps when declarer wants to ruff, cashing our own winners when declarer has a suit to run, or hunkering down when declarer has to work to develop tricks.

Sometimes, we can gather enough information to turn our defensive fantasies into reality. The bidding, the dummy, and declarer's early play sometimes provide the clues we need to defend accurately.

In this lecture, you'll learn how to anticipate declarer's plan in time to be your disruptive best.

Buck Buchanan is a successful bridge tournament player in the Dallas/Fort Worth area, and he's also well known as one of our most effective bridge instructors. Currently, Buck teaches bridge classes online, and he holds workshops that focus on using online tools and methods to optimize learning more about bridge.

In 2019, District 16 recognized Buck with the Teacher of the Year Award. The American Bridge Teachers Association Quarterly Magazine has published several of Buck's articles. Buck offers classes and coaching for anyone thinking about teaching bridge online (rcb722322@gmail.com).

Facebook - Rachell Jackson

Don't miss out on the fun! Here's how to join and post on the D16 Facebook page...

First, join Facebook:

Go to [facebook.com](https://www.facebook.com) and click Create New Account. Enter your name, email or mobile phone number, password, date of birth and gender. Click Sign Up. To finish setting up your account, confirm your email or mobile phone number.

Then, join the D16 group:

Go to the ACBL District 16 Facebook page: Either search on "ACBL District 16" (look for the magnifying glass), or [CLICK HERE](#).

Click + Join Group. It's just below the cover photo.

Tell the group what's on your mind:

Type over the text, "What's on your mind, your name?" Or paste in that field. You can enter text, paste text, graphics, or video.

GNT - Scott Nason

ACBL has forwarded information to the District about the 2021 Grand National Teams (GNT) competition. The 2021 GNT Finals will be held this year, though it is not clear yet whether the competition will be conducted at the Summer NABC in Providence or online in a virtual competition. As you will recall, we were about to conduct the 2020 District Finals when the pandemic struck and the competitions canceled, along with the 2020 National Finals.

Scott Nason, our District GNT Coordinator, put together the following proposal, which the District Board of Directors approved.

The 2021 District Finals will be an online event, under the same conditions of contest used in the past, except as necessary, to account for the virtual nature of the event. The competitions will proceed with the same elimination formats as before for each of the four flights.

Anyone who meets the masterpoint and residency requirements, as of September 1, 2019, is qualified to participate. That is, if you had fewer masterpoints than the flight cap as of September 1, 2019, then you are eligible to compete in the District Finals in that flight, even if you did not participate in the club qualifying competitions.

Scott Nason has begun coordinating with Scott Humphrey to determine how and when we can get this set up.

Membership - Sandy Potts

Our Membership Task Force, comprised of **Buck Buchanan**, **Rachell Jackson**, **Laurie Levin**, **Sally Sassen**, **Betty Starzec**, **Nancy Strohmer** and **Sandy Potts** (Chair) has been working hard to grow and retain our membership!

We had two initiatives that focused on our goals:

D16 paid for members to become **certified to teach on-line**

bridge classes. The ACBL has worked hard to listen to our teachers and to modify the course to meet the needs of teaching with technology.

D16 sponsored a **Bridge in a Day course with a Zoom technology** session. Patty Tucker taught the course using Zoom and Shark Bridge. A mini-bridge format allowed participants to practice more with Bridge Base Online.

We are working with Patty to teach another BIAD/technology course on **Feb. 27**. This is for brand new bridge people, not a "brush up" for players. Look for some advertising and get family and friends to join in our fun!

We will be looking for volunteers to help players as they play their first hands of bridge. Listings for beginning bridge players to connect with beginning bridge teachers will be offered. We need some teachers to step up in our Units to teach our new players! Our hope is that enthusiasm for learning has a class ready to receive our new bridge players. What can YOUR Unit do to help out?

Sally Sassen (U207) offered an "open house" the next day and registered several to take beginning classes. We are hoping this example catches on and that each Unit will send new players to this workshop!

D16 is hosting a monthly intermediate/advanced bridge lesson on-line using Zoom. Sally Sassen is organizing this and each Unit is requested to provide a speaker for one of the Saturdays.

What can YOU do to help? We need each member to make a commitment to help our bridge world grow!

Let's make it fun and get folks to join us in this game we love!

Tournament Results

One of the things that I know we all miss during these strange times is seeing our successes posted for all to see in the *Scorecard*. It's always fun to win and even better when our friends can congratulate us!

Since we now have The D16 group page on Facebook, let's use it to let everyone know how things are going online. If you have won or finished in the overalls of an online event since face-to-face bridge shut down in March, post it and let your friends know.

There are also team events played on BBO, both nationally and internationally, that have members from our district and we very often don't see those results.

So, brag away and let us give you a cheer by posting on **ACBL District 16 Facebook Group Page...[CLICK HERE](#)**.

Bylaws - Rebecca Brown

There is a petition to amend the bylaws which the Board of Directors will be voting on in February. The petition is as follows with reason for change:

The undersigned, being at least three members of the Executive Committee of District 16 of the American Contract Bridge League, petition the Board, pursuant to Article X of the District 16 By-Laws Adopted 8/30/03 ("By-Laws"), to amend the By-Laws as follows:

The By-Laws title shall read "DISTRICT 16 BY-LAWS ADOPTED 8/30/03, as amended through 2/8/21."

1. Article IV Dues: Section 1 replace current language with: "The annual dues shall be in such amounts as the Board of Directors shall assess from time to time."

Reason for change: It is not efficient to change the bylaws every time there is a change in annual dues.

2. Article IV Section 2, delete ", other than the Mexico Unit," and shall read: "In addition to the annual dues specified in Section 1, each Unit shall pay an amount per table in play at Unit-hosted Regional Tournaments. The amount payable shall be determined by the Board of Directors from time to time. This amount is due and payable at the close of such tournament. "

Reason for change: There are three units in Mexico which are part of District 16. Annual dues should apply to all units in District 16.

3. Article V, Section 2. Delete "members term" and replace with "members' term". Add at the end "and such other Committee Chairs as shall be appointed or elected from time to time by the Board or President."

Reason for change: Punctuation error. More inclusive wording..."and such other Committee Chairs...."

4. Article VI, Section 2. Add: "the immediate past President of the Board shall serve as an ex-officio member."

Reason for change: The experience, knowledge and involvement of a past President is extremely important to the board. Many organizations have this policy.

5. Article VII, Section 7: delete the following: "The Executive Treasurer shall be bonded in such sum or sums and with such surety or sureties as shall be satisfactory condition upon the faithful performance of duties."

Reason for change: A few members expressed concern about eliminating the bond requirement and that the District has not required a bond for the Treasurer for some time.

The Executive Committee, after much research and discussion, concludes that there is no need for the Executive Treasurer to be bonded which in current nomenclature is called crime insurance.

Paul Cuneo shared that the bond requirement of Article VII, Section

7 hasn't been enforced since well before he joined the D16 board in 2010. There are financial reports available dating back to 2009 and there is no record of payment of the surety bond. Several years ago, the District voted to have a Financial Verifier, in lieu of annual audits which goes hand in hand with a bond requirement.

The membership will be notified:

--that a financial verifier receives the bank statements directly each month and is copied whenever financial reports are produced, which minimizes the potential for "slow drain" theft of assets. A surety bond would protect us from the Treasurer absconding with District funds. Given the selection process and the people we appoint as treasurer combined with the relatively modest size of the assets, we don't see this as a risk worth paying a significant annual fee to mitigate.

--that a double signature is required for checks over \$5,000 which limits our liability.

With the promise of COVID vaccines becoming readily available to all, it will accelerate the return to face-to-face bridge. We welcome happier days this year...at the tables and online!!! It is my sincere wish that you and yours have a healthy and happy 2021!!!

Warmly,

**Nancy Strohmer
D16 President**

