



President's Letter April, 2021



HAPPY APRIL FOOL'S DAY!

Play More Bridge – No Fooling!!

Things are looking up--let's hope they stay that way! More and more people are getting vaccinated. More of our face-to-face clubs are opening this month. There is hope that face-to-face bridge will be a reality sooner than later. In the meantime..."mask up" to be on the safe side!

In spite of the pandemic, our volunteers have worked hard this year--THANK YOU!!! Lots of new initiatives have been put in place, but we are always looking for new ways to improve and grow our game. If you have ideas and/or are interested in volunteering and having the satisfaction of helping our game, please let us know!

If you haven't tried playing online, now is the time! If you don't know how, email me (nastrohmer@yahoo.com)--it's easy and fun!

We miss all of you and look forward to the time when we can see you at the bridge table!

My very best, Nancy Strohmer

***New!!!* 0-20 masterpoint game!**

The District is initiating a new game for beginning players, those with less than 20 masterpoints. It starts **Monday, April 5**. The game begins at 4:00 pm CDT and, after playing 12 hands, will end

about 5:45 pm. The cost is only \$3.

Before playing in the **D16 0-20 Game**, we need you to do the following:

1. If you are not already an ACBL member, get your free 120-day ACBL Guest Membership [here](#).
2. Set up a Bridge Base Online account [here](#). Be sure to include your ACBL number and put money in your account
3. Email Kim, our director, at Beginner20Bridge@gmail.com and give her your BBO username.
4. Put a reminder on your calendar: **D16 0-20 Game every Monday @ 4-5:45.**

If you have less than 20 masterpoints, this is a great opportunity to test your mettle against peers or just to try out competitive bridge to see if you like it. Kim will be on hand to coach you through the occasional hard spots. You can reach her with questions at Beginner20Bridge@gmail.com.

We hope to see all you 0-20 players at this game!

Special thanks to the 0-20 Committee for making this game a reality: **Buck Buchanan (Chair), Kim Brinkman, Lauri Laufman, Sandy Potts and Sally Sassen.**

***New!!!* Zoom Beginner Lecture Series**

The first lecture will be on **April 3** at 12:30pm CDT. **Marifrances Watson** from our Fort Concho unit will lecture on "Stayman, Above and Beyond". Don't miss it!

***New!!!* Director's Corner**

Attention Club Directors!

It's been almost a year since you've seen a bid out of rotation, a lead out of turn or a revoke. Soon we'll return to face-to-face bridge, and you'll make director calls on those mishaps and many more.

Here's your opportunity to refresh your director skills and get ready to hit the ground running.

Monday, **April 12 at 5:00 p.m.**, District 16 offers the second monthly Director Refresher Workshop. District 16 ACBL director Kevin Perkins will discuss the **New Alert Procedures**. Plan to attend follow-on sessions the second Monday of the month until face-to-face bridge returns.

Melody Euler conducted the first workshop on March 8 covering calls that are made in F2F games but not virtual. We had a huge turnout!

If you have a topic that you would like to see covered, email questions or topics to melody.euler@acbl.org.

Thank you, **Melody Euler, Kevin Perkins** and other ACBL

directors, for donating your invaluable services to District 16!

[CLICK HERE to Join Zoom - Director's Corner](#)

Meeting ID: 856 3647 2037

(If you have any questions or need the one-tap mobile information, please contact Melody Euler: melody.euler@acbl.org.)

Recordings of the sessions may be found on the District 16 website: [CLICK HERE](#)

99ers Nite Club

Twenty-five clubs are participating in the program and we hope that ALL of the clubs in D16 participate--all your club needs to do is "opt-in"! *THANK YOU* to the following clubs for offering our 99ers this wonderful opportunity to play in these games:

Apple DBC
Arlington DBC
Arlington Women's Club
Bridge Academy of North Dallas
Bridge Center of Austin
Bridge Club of Houston
Clear Lake Bridge Club
Denton Bridge Studio
Friendly Bridge Club
Fiesta Bridge Club
Georgetown Bridge Club
Kay's Afternoon Bridge Club
Kingwood Duplicate Bridge Club
Lake Chapala DBC (Mexico)
Lake Conroe DBC
Lone Star Bridge Club
Los Amigos Duplicate Bridge Club
MAC Bridge
McAllen TX Duplicate Club
McKinney Duplicate Bridge Club
Queen of Diamonds Bridge Club
Sun City Georgetown DBC
Thursday Mentor/Mentee Club
Thursday Morning Bridge
Westside Bridge Academy

These games are offered 7 days a week at 6pm. **If you are a 99er, ask your Club if they are participating.** Your Club has to "opt in" for these games to participate. There are extras perks of this game--Lynn Berg provides mini-lessons @ 5:30pm, a wide variety of professionals (including Larry Cohen) conduct a postmortem at about 7:30pm and these are bigger games offering more masterpoints!

Awards - Betty Starzec

Goodwill pins: Unit presidents that have submitted names for goodwill recipients and have not asked for the pins to be sent to them as yet, please send Betty (lstarzec@comcast.net) your mailing address so they can be sent to you. Star awards will be given out at next regional.

Charity - Nancy Strohmer

April 12-18 - ACBL Charity Week - more points!



Support ACBL with a Smile!

AmazonSmile, that is. Why not support ACBL when you shop? Sign up at <http://smile.amazon.com>. Amazon will donate 0.5% of the price of eligible AmazonSmile purchases to the charitable organization of your choice...why not make it American Contract Bridge League Charity Foundation Corp!

AmazonSmile's impact, 1st quarter, 2021:

\$559.95 to American Contract Bridge League Charity Foundation Corp*
\$241,928,506.19 to all charities in the US
\$266,896,659.48 to all charities worldwide

District 16 Website - John Magyari

Keep up with the latest news by going to: [CLICK HERE](#)

Education - Sally Sassen

Many initiatives were successfully accomplished this past year because of Sally's ongoing efforts. She served on every Membership and Education committee including organizing the Lecture Series program--thank you, Sally, for all your work for bridge and our district!

Facebook - Rachell Jackson

Join your District 16 friends on Facebook and enjoy the bridge articles, lessons, announcements and shared bridge interests. We currently have 449 members--the challenge is on--let's get to 1,000! Tell your bridge friends to join us!

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

This year's Grand National Teams District Finals will be conducted online on BBO from April 9-11 and requires advanced registration, which closes at noon on April 7.

Your team captain should collect the information for each team member – specifically the BBO name and either the Bridge Winners User name or email address and ACBL number for each player.

Once the Captain has the information for the team, they should click on the following link and register the team:

[REGISTER HERE](#)

Upon clicking on “register”, you will be asked for credit card information, which will be charged \$5 per player per session ... after the tournament is completed. So, a team of four players that reaches the finals of Flight C, for example, will be charged \$80 (4 players x 4 sessions x \$5).

A few notes:

1. There is only one Championship Flight team registered. I would encourage anyone wishing to play in this to register for the GNTs and we plan to arrange the match(es) at mutually agreeable times.
2. There are only two Flight C teams registered, so please join us and compete for a chance to play in the Nationals.
3. The start times are subject to minor adjustments, but the intended start times may be found in the tournament flyer at: **[CLICK HERE](#)**
4. There will be some security measures in place for the semi-finals and finals. We hope to use Zoom or a similar app, but may fall back to phone calls, in order to pair each player in a Knockout match with one of their opponents.
5. Each team must include four, five or six members, each of whom must have met the District's residency requirement and the masterpoint limits as of August 6, 2019. If you need to verify your masterpoints as of that date, please write to Scott Nason at **sdnason@sbcglobal.net** and he will confirm them.
6. If you choose to have more than four players on your team, please be aware that substitutions will only be permitted between Swiss sessions (not between matches) or at the half-way point in KO matches. If you compete with a four-person team at District, you may add additional players for the Nationals.
7. Conditions of Contest may be viewed at: **[CLICK HERE](#)**
8. Winners (and possibly some second-place teams) will earn the right to compete (online) in the Nationals in July.
9. Any questions should be addressed to the District's GNT Coordinator: Scott Nason at **sdnason@sbcglobal.net**.

Lecture Series - Thomas Rush

Monthly Zoom Beginner Lecture Series, first Monday at 12:30pm
Monthly Zoom Intermediate Lecture Series, second Monday at 12:30pm

Coming soon:

Saturday, **April 3 at 12:30pm** CDT: Zoom Beginner Lecture Series: **Marifrances Watson** – “Stayman, Above and Beyond”

Saturday, **April 17 at 12:30pm** CDT: Zoom Intermediate Lecture Series: **Joe Quinn** – “Major Suit Auctions Over 1NT Openings”

The attendance at the lectures has been huge! Many thanks to the following who have kicked off our lecture series with a bang: **Buck Buchanan, Rosemary Kelley and Charles Ford.**

If you are interested in lecturing, please contact Thomas, (playbridgewiththomas@gmail.com).

Membership - Sandy Potts

We are excited that so many of the initiatives that were proposed by the Membership Task force were successfully accomplished:

- Two, Learn Bridge in a Day workshops
- Online Teachers Course
- Beginner and Intermediate Lecture Series
- 99ers Nite Club Game
- 0-20 Masterpoint Game

Mega thanks to the Membership Task force: **Sandy Potts (Chair), Buck Buchanan, Lauri Levin, Sally Sassen and Betty Starzec!**

If you have ideas for membership growth and retention, please contact Sandy Potts, sandy.potts5@yahoo.com.

NABC - BJ Sanders, Chair and Sally Sassen, Co-Chair

Austin NABC News:

Austin is so honored and excited to be hosting the Fall NABC from November 25 through December 5, 2021...8 months away! The tournament includes an Intermediate/Novice competition, a Regional competition as well as the International competition. Yes, three separate tournaments at the same location!

At this point, players are signing up to recognize important people in their worlds who have had an impact on their love of the game. If there is someone special you or a group would like to name a game after, now is the time. Game Naming and Day Long Sponsorships for Regional events are available on a first-come basis and need to be paid for by July 25, 2021. (full refunds guaranteed if the NABC were to be cancelled)

For more information, please e-mail: eventnaming@gmail.com Pat Berry and Rachell Jackson are the Committee Co-Chairs and will be happy to walk you through your options. Final Game schedules and Hotel information are expected to be available in mid to late May. Stay Tuned.

We look forward to seeing you!

NAP - Larry Davis

Club-level qualification begins in June and continues through the end of August.

