

District 16

President's Letter

June, 2021

The Longest Day

The longest day of the year is my birthday, June 21, but more significantly, "The Longest Day" is ACBL's annual fundraising campaign on the week of the Summer Solstice. [CLICK HERE](#).

Please help support the Alzheimer's Association by playing both online and in face-to-face Alzheimer's games raising money to end this terrible disease. DOUBLE masterpoints awarded. Want to make your own fundraising team, [CLICK HERE](#). Want to donate to a team already formed, [CLICK HERE](#).

I hope all of you had an enjoyable Memorial Day weekend. There has been so much good news in the past few weeks such as the declining impact of COVID-19, the shrinking positivity rates, the readily available vaccines and now the new guidelines offered by the CDC. More and more face-to-face clubs are opening daily. I want to give special thanks to the D16 Board and Committee Members who have worked extra hard this year to keep bridge alive!

Hope to see you soon!

Warmly, Nancy Strohmer

District 16 Website - John Magyari

For the latest news District 16 news, [CLICK HERE](#).

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

Austin NABC - November 25 through December 5, 2021

The reality that we are six months out to the Austin Fall NABC grows more exciting each day as mask requirements are dropped and Bridge Centers are opened. Planning is full steam ahead and we would like you to know of three areas that could be of interest to you at this time.

- **Event Naming** is continuing and we have added a special Day-Long Sponsorship rate for honoring Bridge players. This rate is just \$1,000 for a Day and is almost sold out! Individual Regional games are also available at \$100 per game – you can purchase a multi-session event for \$100 per session. For more information, please e-mail: eventnaming@gmail.com.
- **Volunteers** are needed and we would love it if y'all could offer an hour here and there throughout the NABC to assist. Rachell Jackson would love to hear from you if you are interested. Please e-mail her at: rachellann.tx@gmail.com.
- **Room Registrations** will be opening in the **second half of June**. Please stay tuned for the announcement and unveiling of the ACBL Tournament website.

See you soon!

0-20 Masterpoint Game - Kim Brinkman

Hi all Future Life Masters!

We are very excited about the response to our D16 0-20 game on **Mondays at 4:00!!!** If you have any friends that are beginners too, make sure you tell them about our online game! Have them email Beginner20Bridge@gmail.com with their BBO id so we can get them entered into our system.

Recall that there is a FAQ page ([CLICK HERE](#)) on the D16 website that lists frequently asked questions and general information on what you need to do to play in our game and also how to find the D16 0-20 Game.

One change to our game is the use of robots. Our intent with the robots was to use them as subs but some folks have found them easier to use as a partner rather than join the partnership desk. The problem with the robots is they will do some strange things and this game is about encouraging you to play and strengthen the bids, declarer play and defense that you learned in your beginner lessons. So a decision was made to remove the robots and encourage you to go to the partnership desk for the games you do not have a partner. When you join the partnership desk, you must watch and either invite someone or accept their invitation. If you walk away and don't see the invite, it will time out and will be unseen. It's okay to invite again in case the person you were inviting missed the opportunity to accept. Also, you are not charged for the game unless you play, so please take advantage of the partnership desk. You never know, you might meet your next regular partner!

One final note: When you call the director, Kim does her best to get to you in a timely manner. Sometimes there will be delays when there is more than one call. Please be patient and she will get to the call. If a helper comes in and does not take care of the issue, please call again.

We are so glad you are playing and look forward to watching you all grow as Future Life Masters!

99ers Nite Club

Twenty-seven clubs are participating in the program and we encourage ALL clubs in D16 to participate--all your club needs to do is "opt-in"! These clubs deserve a big shout-out for offering our 99ers this wonderful opportunity to play in these games:

Apple DBC
Arlington DBC
Arlington Women's Club
Beaumont Bridge Studio
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
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
Steve's Thursday Afternoon Bridge
Sun City Georgetown DBC
Thursday Mentor/Mentee Club
Thursday Morning Bridge
Valley View Bridge Club
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 at 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! If you need help finding the games, please contact Nancy Strohmer at nastrohmer@yahoo.com.

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 the next regional.

Charity – Nancy Strohmer

More charity games – More masterpoints!

August 2: ACBL Grass Roots Fund
August 3: D16 Charity Fund
August 4: ACBL Grass Roots Fund
August 5: D16 Charity Fund

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!

Director's Corner - Melody Euler

Attention Club Directors!

Monday, **June 14 at 5pm**, District 16 offers the fourth monthly Director Refresher Workshop. District 16 ACBL director **Scott Humphrey** will discuss the **Misbid vs Misinformation, Unauthorized information, Polling and Score Adjustments**.

July's workshop will be our last one since face-to-face bridge is returning. **Melody Euler** will review ACBL Score and discuss movements, especially for smaller games.

Thank you, **Melody Euler, Kevin Perkins** and **Scott Humphrey**, for donating your invaluable service 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](#).

District 16 Board News

The D16 Board of Directors **unanimously approved** the Executive Committee's recommendation as follows:

- that the Puerto Vallarta Regional be handled *like all* other Regionals throughout the District.
- that they should be a stand-alone event, subject to the same restrictions and benefits as all other Regionals.
- that the profit-sharing agreement should be terminated, since they are now required to pay table fees
- that they will also be responsible for purchasing their own bridge pads, cancelling any prior agreement that D16 would participate in those costs.

A signed agreement was executed on May 19 between District16 and Unit 205.

Education – Kristen Onsgard

A fond farewell to Sally...

Sally Sassen has been a great asset on the board as Education Coordinator! She was an active participant on the Membership Task Force and organized the Zoom Lecture Series. We thank Sally for her commitment to growing and retaining our bridge membership! We will miss her but are fortunate in that she has expressed her interest in staying involved in the future. We wish Sally the very best as Co-Chair of the Austin NABC!

A hearty welcome to Kristen...

Kristen Onsgard is the incoming Education Coordinator. Kristen learned bridge by sitting on her dad's lap as a child but didn't join the ACBL until her mid-20s. Her mentor is none other than the renowned Mike Passell. She attends all ACBL nationals and most regionals in District 16. Kristen currently works for Bob Hamman conducting big data analysis. She also teaches bridge and acts as a consultant for individuals and businesses using her technical expertise.

Facebook – Rachell Jackson

Join your District 16 friends on Facebook and enjoy the bridge articles, lessons, announcements and shared bridge interests. We currently have 510 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

The District held its first big online event since the start of the pandemic, conducting the District's GNT Finals on BBO in April. There was a lot that went into staging this event, coordinating with multiple sites and vendors to get people registered, seated, and paid up. Kevin Perkins put in many hours to organize the games, including the use of Zoom rooms to monitor play in the Finals on the last day.

Flight C (open to non-Life-Masters with fewer than 500 masterpoints, as of August 1, 2019) had 13 teams, who played a Swiss qualifier on Saturday, April 10, cutting the field to four. On Sunday, the Justman and Sharma teams won their semi-final matches, both earning their qualifications for the Nationals, online in July. And in the Finals, **Justman (Lilly Justman, Kalyan Venkat, Aaron Denton, and Peter Naimoli)** defeated Sharma (Arvind and Linnie Sharma, Sharon Harbach, and Ross Ramsey) to win the District.

Flight B (open to players with fewer than 2500 masterpoints) was the largest flight, with 16 teams competing. It began Friday night (4/9/21) with the first of two Swiss-qualifying sessions and the field was cut to eight, after the second session on Saturday morning. A two-session bracketed Swiss concluded on Sunday morning, with four teams competing for the title and the right to compete in Nationals. On Sunday afternoon, the **Chu Team (Jin Chu, Pingshan Wen, Stuart Nelan, and Robert Bender)** won by a wide margin, with the **Pushkarsky Team (Stan Pushkarsky, Anita Albert, Sharon Dameron, and Thomas Smith)** narrowly capturing second place and the second qual for Nationals.

Flight A (open to players with fewer than 6000 points) had 11 teams. They also started with a two-session Swiss and cut the field to four teams for Sunday. In the Finals, the **Yang Team (Hua Yang, Yan Song, Danny Feng, and Linhui Lin)** emerged victorious over the Einberg Team (Howard Einberg, Bill St. Clair, Robert Sandfield, and John Erickson).

The Championship Flight was completed on May 22 between the teams of **Bramley (Bart Bramley, Phil Clayton, Ira Hessel, and Dan Morse)** and Lall (Hemant Lall, Mike Passell, Bob Hamman, and Eddie Wold). In an exciting, high-scoring 48-board match, the **Bramley team** emerged victorious, 119-95, and will represent the District in the online Nationals in July. [CLICK HERE](#) for the full story. The Championship Flight winners, the **Bramley team**, have added **Mike Passell** and **Eddie Wold** to their team.

Congratulations to all qualifiers and the best of luck in the July Nationals!

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, **June 5 at 12:30pm** - Zoom **Beginner** Lecture Series: **Thomas Rush** – “Dynamic Defense”

Saturday, **June 12 at 12:30pm** - Zoom **Intermediate** Lecture Series: **Helen Lauderdale** – “The 'Later' is Now - Talking About Tough Slam Hands”

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

Membership – Sandy Potts

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

North American Pairs (NAP) – Larry Davis

Club-level qualification begins in June and runs through August. There is no unit-level qualification required. The district-level qualifier will be held at the San Antonio sectional on January 13-16, 2022. The nationals will be held at the NABC in Reno in March, 2022.

Teacher of the Year (ToY) Chair - Dave Glandorf

A fond farewell to Buck...

Buck Buchanan served as ToY Chair, was a member of the Membership Task Force and led the committee that started the D16 0-20 game. He also kicked off the D16 monthly intermediate lecture series with an extremely successful Saturday lecture. This past year was a challenging year for many, but Buck jumped right in and was among the first in D16 to convert all teaching to online (3 classes in June, 2020). He then ran two, 2-hour online teaching courses for D16; both sold out within hours of announcing! We thank Buck for his many contributions to D16 and we wish him the best in his move to Utah!!

A hearty welcome to Dave...

Dave Glandorf is the incoming ToY Coordinator. He was first introduced to bridge during his first year in college (1959). Of course, once he started, he was hooked, but it was several years before he got involved in duplicate bridge. Dave was the 2013 American Bridge Teacher's Association - Master Point Press Teacher of the Year and the 2016 ACBL D16 Teacher of the Year. In addition, he is an ABTA Master Teacher and an ACBL Certified Director. In 2006, he was recognized by Unit 174 by being the first recipient of the annual Unit Goodwill Award.

Message from Dave...It is my pleasure to have accepted the position of District 16 Teacher of the Year Committee Chair for 2021. I know that many of you teachers may have suspended your teaching activities since the pandemic hit last year while others may have switched to an online mode for all or some of your classes.

But with the relaxing of the COVID 19 meeting guidelines, I am hoping that most, if not all of you, will resume teaching during the latter half of 2021. So, a District 16 Teacher of the Year program is under way for this year. ***If you are a student, now is the time to start thinking of nominating your teacher for this recognition.*** More information on the nomination process will be forthcoming in late July or early August.

In the mean time, feel free to contact me at dr glandorf@sbcglobal.net or 713-628-0030 (cell phone).

Looking for a bridge getaway in December!

San Antonio Holiday Regional

December 17 - December 23

For more information, please view our Flyer: [CLICK HERE](#)

