

# District 16

## President's Letter

November, 2021

The Austin NABC is just around the corner! This will be the first NABC in two years—hard to believe! The Austin tournament team has lots of great hospitality in store for you - we hope to see you there! For players who have never attended an NABC, take a look at what makes this NABC special... "Making the Most of Your NABC Experience" by Melody Euler: [CLICK HERE!](#)

And, if you are looking for a bridge holiday getaway, why not spend it in San Antonio at the Holiday Regional, December 17-23!

Fortunately, good news continues regarding the declining impact of the virus, so face-to-face games are increasing on a regular basis. It is safe to say that face-to-face and online games will be part of our future.

The next time you will receive a President's Message will be in the all-digital Scorecard which will come out in early January. Thereafter, the Scorecard will be sent every two months. We welcome aboard our new editor, Sue Caulfield! Her experience makes her so well suited to take our District forward digitally.

Congratulations to Jim Bauer as the 2021 Oswald and James Jacoby Award recipient! Jim, along with 2020's recipient, Rebecca Brown, will be recognized at the 2022 Lone Star Regional in Houston.

The holiday season is quickly approaching! It is the perfect time to reflect and be thankful for all of our blessings. I am thankful for the D16 Board, Committee Members and volunteers who work tirelessly day in and day out for our bridge community!!! If you are interested in giving back to the game we love, let me know!

Warmly,

**Nancy Strohmer**  
**District President**

## **NABC - BJ Sanders, Chair / Sally Sassen, Co-Chair**

Greetings one and all! With the Fall NABC just a short time away, thought we should get right to the point...

What three things you need to know now to get ready for the Austin NABC Tournament, November 25-December 5, 2021:

1. Register your vaccination Card on-line, **BEFORE** the Tournament, with our third Party Vaccine Verifier, VOW, using this link if you're a [U.S. resident](#) or this link for [international visitors](#)

If you have a Smart Phone, you can simply upload photos of your valid ID (e.g. Driver's License) and Vaccination Card. In 24 hours (or less) you will get confirmation that your information has been accepted. You will get a digital pass on your Smart Phone the day the tournament begins.

If you do not have a Smart Phone: For the smoothest process, we suggest you register for clearance in VOW via any computer **PRIOR** to the event. At the first check-in point, you will need to present a government-issued ID and a print-out of your confirmation or access pass that you will carry at all times during the tournament. You can also request a wristband for future ease of clearance.

For more information, the following is a link to a short

Video: <https://youtu.be/Eg659aD31SY>

You can also go to NABC Austin on the ACBL.org Website and click on "Safety Protocols."

2. Reasonable Parking? Yes, there is some. But first, do everything in your power to car pool so you can share the cost and so more spaces are available to all attendees. This parking garage is a 'stone's throw' from the JW Marriott: Austin Convention Center 2nd St Garage: ½-3 hrs \$5; 3-9 hrs \$10; 9-12 hrs \$15, plus \$3. per additional hour. Entrances on both Brazos and San Jacinto just south of 2nd St.

3. Practice playing Bridge while wearing a Face Mask and Practice playing face-to-face. Personally, I found it took about 3 face-to-face games to get used to all the things you have to do at the table that you don't do on BBO! And wearing a Face Mask a few times beforehand also helps one get past being aware that it is there. Do both of these things before you come and you will be more comfortable at the table and able to focus on counting and having a GREAT time!

See You at the Tables, Very Soon!!!

## **Congratulations Jim Bauer!** **2021 Oswald and James Jacoby Service Award**

***The Oswald and James Jacoby Service Award is District 16's premier Service Award. It was established in 1982 and designed to honor those volunteers who have worked diligently at the Unit level and have risen to recognition at the District level after many years of outstanding service. Although typically awarded at the Dallas Labor Day Regional, we wanted to extend our congratulations to this year's winner in a timely fashion despite the pandemic. Formal presentation of the Award will be made at the Lone Star Regional in Houston. The following is the submission made on Jim's behalf.***

Unit 176 (Dallas) is delighted to honor Jim Bauer with a nomination for the prestigious Oswald and James Jacoby Service Award.

District service always grows from Unit beginnings. Jim has served 2 three-year terms on the Unit 176 Board. During that time, he served as Vice President and President multiple times. He also served as the Unit Game coordinator, at a time when that meant hauling supplies each month from Unit storage to the game site, giving him a true hands-on approach. He was chairman of the Nominating Committee for 5 years and in that time, his hard work and discerning eye brought some great candidates to the board. It is hard to say no when asked by Jim to serve alongside him. He was a member of the Unit Disciplinary committee for 10 years and handled issues with fairness and objectivity.

More recently, Jim and another one of our volunteers surveyed different venues for our regional tournaments to be sure the Unit was getting the best deal possible. Together they negotiated another 5 years of contract space for our Dallas Labor Day regional.

As Jim worked hard for our Unit, he also began to work at the District level. His interest in playing in the Grand National Teams led him to become the District GNT Committee Chair for two years. He also served as committee chair for an ad hoc committee created to establish goals and objectives for the District. He was appointed to represent Unit 176 on the District Board and served for three years. While in that position of the Board, he was appointed to chair yet another ad hoc committee, to review ways to reduce the costs of the Scorecard to the Units and develop and evaluate paper versus online methodologies. This resulted in substantial savings to Units that chose to go to digital only delivery, while maintaining costs to units who wanted to stay with paper issues. As a result, he was appointed and served as the Scorecard Committee chair for a year. Jim also served as 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President for District 16. He serves quietly but is always ready to take on projects that need leadership.

## District 16 Website - John Magyari

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

## CONGRATULATIONS TO USBF 2021 WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP TEAMS!

We are especially proud of the District 16 players (in bold) who qualified!!!

The 2021 USBCs are now over and the qualified teams for the 2021 World Team Championship, to be played in Salsomaggiore, Italy from March 27 to April 7, 2022 are:

### **BERMUDA BOWL:**

USA1: Nick Nickell-Ralph Katz, Eric Greco-Geoff Hampson, Bobby Levin-Steve Weinstein, NPC Jill Levin

USA2: Warren Spector-Gavin Wolpert, Kevin Bathurst-John Hurd, Vince Demuy\*-John Kranyak

### **VENICE CUP:**

USA1: Pam Wittes-**Shawn Quinn**, Emma Kolesnik-Amber Lin, Cheri Bjerkan\*-Rozanne Pollack\*

USA2: Lynn Baker-Karen McCallum, Jill Meyers-Kerri Sanborn, Janice Molson-Sandra Rimstedt\*, NPC Sam Dinkin

### **WORLD MIXED TEAMS:**

USA1: Andrew Rosenthal-Debbie Rosenberg, Dana Berkkowitz-Eldad  
Ginossar, Migry zur Campanile-Chris Willenken  
USA2: Linda Lewis-Paul Lewis, Disa Eythorsdottir-Mark Itabashi, Ljudmila  
Kamenova-Ron Smith

**D'ORSI SENIOR BOWL:**

USA1: Mike Levine-**Eddie Wold**, **Mark Lair-Mike Passell**, Jeff Meckstroth,  
NPC **Bob Morris**  
USA2: **Bart Bramley**-Kit Woolsey, **Dan Morse**-Pratap Rajadhyaksha

\*Players who have been added to qualified teams and approved by the  
Credentials Committee  
The two Senior Bowl teams will have to augment to 6 players on each team.

## 0-50 Masterpoint Game - Kim Brinkman

### New to bridge?

Come to our 0-50 MP game on Monday nights. Game time is 4pm CST and  
is done by 5:45. You will play 12 boards and will receive a flyer the next day  
highlighting two hands from your game. All this for only \$3! What a deal!

Come join us and have some fun playing this great game :)

## 99ers Nite Club

**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](mailto:nastrohmer@yahoo.com).

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**

## **Awards - Betty Starzec**

The deadline for submission for the names of the recipients for the **District Star Award** and **Unit Goodwill Awards** to Betty Starzec ([Lstarzec@comcast.net](mailto:Lstarzec@comcast.net)) is December 31, 2021. The recipients will receive their Awards at a celebration ceremony at the Lone Star Regional in Houston on Saturday, January 29, 2022, before the afternoon session. Please remember that for the Star Award recipients a photo and a short writeup should also be submitted to Betty.

## 2022 District 16 Teacher of the Year Nominations - Ed Rawlinson

District 16 values its bridge teachers. As a way of saying “thank you!” the District is resuming its Teacher of the Year recognition. Any member of District 16 may submit a nomination for this award during the month of November. Nominations may come from students or from leaders in the bridge community who recognize the value an esteemed teacher is creating for their game, club, or Unit.

To be considered, a teacher must:

- Be a current member of ACBL.
- Have been a teacher for at least 5 years
- Reside and teach within the geographical boundaries of District 16.

Rules for nominators:

- You must have the teacher’s permission for the nomination.
- Prior winners are not eligible.
- Only individual teachers, not team teachers, may be nominated
- You must tell us a thing or two about why you are nominating your favorite teacher.
- You must provide up-to-date contact information for both the nominee and yourself.

Nominations must be sent to Ed Rawlinson, 12515 Bonanza Way, San Antonio, TX 78254 by **November 30**. Nominees will be contacted for additional information during December. A committee will select the winner, who will be recognized at the Lone Star Regional in late January.

***The nomination itself will be a “thank you” to your teacher. Go for it!***

## Charity – Nancy Strohmer

More charity games – More masterpoints!

March 22: ACBL Grass Roots Fund  
March 23: D16 Charity Fund  
March 24: ACBL Grass Roots Fund  
March 25: 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!**

## Education - Kristen Onsgard

If you have ideas for education, please contact Kristen at [onsgardk@gmail.com](mailto:onsgardk@gmail.com).

## Facebook – Rachell Jackson

Join your District 16 friends on Facebook and enjoy the bridge articles, lessons, announcements and shared bridge interests. We currently have 568 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

## Grand National Teams (GNT) - Scott Nason



Many of you have heard that the new year of Grand National Teams has begun and are wondering about our plans here in District 16. Historically, Flights B and C have required club or unit qualifying, while no such requirement has existed for the top two flights (Championship and A). Things are obviously a bit different in the world of tournament bridge right now, so we have altered the game plan a bit.

Clubs are now free to offer GNT qualifiers, either online or in person, and there figure to be many such opportunities. However, qualifying will **not be required** this year in any Flights. So anyone may play in a GNT qualifier as an opportunity to “practice” for District Finals and earn 2x points, half red. While I hope other GNT team game opportunities will be scheduled, you can start “practicing” right now in the twice-weekly BBO game that Band is holding. Their GNT qualifier team games on Thursdays and Sundays at 5:15PM each week. (If you are not on the Band approved player list, you can send your info – name, BBO ID, and ACBL number – to [Bandpublicity@mindspring.com](mailto:Bandpublicity@mindspring.com) to get “approved”.)

The first “official” GNT event will be the District Finals that we hope to hold in conjunction with the Houston Sectional next April. You can get all of the details on the D16 website.

Hope to see you in Houston in April!

## 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, **November 6 at 12:30pm** - Zoom **Beginner** Lecture Series: **Gary King** – “Declarer Strategy: Combining Chances”

Saturday, **November 13 at 12:30pm** - Zoom **Intermediate** Lecture Series: **Ed Rawlinson** – “Second Hand Low”

**NOTE:** December 4--NO lecture due to the Austin NABC--we hope to see you in Austin!

If you are interested in lecturing, please contact Thomas at [playbridgewiththomas@gmail.com](mailto:playbridgewiththomas@gmail.com).

All Lecture Videos and Handouts can be obtained by [CLICKING HERE](#).

## Membership – Sandy Potts

If you have ideas for membership growth and retention, please contact Sandy at [sandy.potts5@yahoo.com](mailto:sandy.potts5@yahoo.com).

## North American Pairs (NAP) – Larry Davis

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

## Scorecard - Sue Caulfield

At its September meeting, the Board of Directors for District 16 voted to produce the Scorecard in **digital format only**. We believe this change will result in a product which will be more “user-friendly”, with content more accessible, produced with more current software which will allow printer-friendly formatting, will reduce costs substantially and will align our District with the rest of the U.S.

You will still see your “faves” and some new and exciting content. As you probably have already heard, Sue Caulfield is our new editor; her experience makes her so well suited to take our District forward.

By this notice (as well as the notice you will find on the district website), we are asking all Unit Presidents and Club managers to announce this change at local games. There are very few of us who do not use email, but we want to make sure that those players are also informed.

We expect that the first all-digital Scorecard will be available in **early January**. When it is available, a link to it will be sent by email to you. There will also be a link available on the district website.

**Looking for a bridge getaway in December!**

# San Antonio Holiday Regional

December 17 - December 23

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

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