

San Antonio Bridge League (www.d16acbl.org/U172)

The Winning Finesse

Vol. 34, No. 3

August 2024

President's Column by Nancy Tom. Howdy All! Last weekend's annual meeting / unit game was truly amazing! We had a fun time organizing the Luau unit game. What I really enjoy is seeing all the smiling faces. It appeared that each and every person was eager to play bridge and have fun. I appreciate all who take the time to bring food to the games. I can't tell you how many new, interesting, and yummy dishes I have tasted at the unit games. Thank you to everyone who lends a helping hand with either the setup, tear down, or any other task. I want to give a shout out to Sam Williams who, without even asking, volunteers to do the heavy lifting, unloading and loading of the supplies at all of our events. Thank you all, we are a great team, unit, and community.

The directory is finally finished and has been printed. Thank you to Roxana Tom for working on the Unit Directory. It was a huge endeavor, contacting all the members to get permission to post address and phone numbers. Please accept my apologies if you were inadvertently left out. We will always strive to get better at creating the printed membership directory. For those that didn't make it to the unit game in August to pick up your copy of the directory, your local club will have extras. Please take only one per household.

Our next Sectional is coming up in New Braunfels, September 5-8, 2024. Remember that Thursday morning is a Pair Game and Thursday afternoon is a Team Game. Ann Kuehler and all her chairs have been working tirelessly on making this the best Sectional yet. They are excited to have y'all come out and maybe even win a door prize! Ann has secured a great deal on the Comfort Suites Hotel, located at 1489 N IH 35, at a \$99 rate. It's a great location for anyone that doesn't want to fight the traffic. Come out to the Sectional enjoy a great spread. Our next Unit Game is November 16, 2024, which is a Pro/Am and Mentor/Mentee Pair Game.

"No matter where I go, I can always make new friends at the bridge table."

- Martina Navratilova

Unit Game Results. Fifteen teams competed in the July 27 Pro-Am Teams, with five teams in each flight. Winners included: **Bill McCarty, Leila Jackson, Daniel Jackson, Deborah Jackson (A1); Roxie Tom, Nancy Tom, Brian Bankler, Patty Thompson (A2); Karen Fillis, George Fillis, Leigh Primerano, Ann Perry (A3, B1); S. K. Sharma, Chuck Jefferson, Joe Hsiau, Jim Seiders (B2); Gordon Hardin, Sally Sanders, Dick Powell, Belo Kellam (B3, C1); Bob Otis, Beth Gale, Beverly Flannery, Gloria Harkey (C3).** Thanks to **Rebecca Evans and David Mitchell** for an excellent job of co-hosting the event.

Nineteen tables competed in a 2-Session Pair Game August 17 at the Luau and Annual Membership Meeting. Four more tables competed in one of the two sessions. Overall winners included: **Rosemary Kelley-Bill McCarty (A1); Jerry Harrington-Tom Trudeau (A2); Al Fulton-Martin Hester (A3, B1); Hank Eng-Lew Spurlock (B2); Phyllis Giffin-Matt Giffin (B3); Gloria Harkey-Joe Hsiau (C1); Carol Ellis-Rena Lunke (C2); and Lynn Bartek-Nancy Henderson.** Thanks to co-hosts **David Mitchell and Rebecca Evans** for arranging the event.

Election. Unit 172 is governed by an 11-member Board of Directors who serve staggered 3-year terms. The election will be held the first three days of the Oct. Sectional and at clubs prior to the tournament. There will be four positions up for election. Candidates are shown below.



Kay Dabney - Hi, I am Kay Dabney, running for a position on the Board of the San Antonio Bridge League, Unit 172. I received my BBA in Accounting from University of Incarnate Word and MBA from Our Lady of the Lake. I worked for many years in the accounting field, retiring from USAA after twenty-one years working at the bank and then the Corporate Finance Department. I have served on the board of a local nonprofit for thirty+ years working in every position from president to secretary. I recently retired after ten years as treasurer.

I love playing bridge and would like to see the San Antonio Bridge League continue to run as the efficient, productive organization that it is now. I would love to have your vote.



Rebecca Evans - The first thing my new Mother-in-Law asked me many years ago was "Do you play bridge?" I said no but I would love to learn. She sat me down at a table and I started to learn. Fell in love with the game immediately and took beginning bridge lessons. She also got me, and her son (my new husband) started at the local club. I cannot imagine anything else I could do that would be more enjoyable.

My name is Rebecca and I have been playing bridge for many years. I only learned a few basic conventions over the years but really haven't taken my game to the next level. I was born in Texas and spent many years working in Rochester, MN. I am retired from IT Project Management and would like to improve my game, help others learn the game and keep duplicate bridge growing and going for the future.

While living in Minnesota (10+ years ago) I served on the board, chaired tournaments, and created and grew an intermediate club (There was only a small club of members with high point ranges). After a group of bridge players approached me to help them start a 0 to 299 game, I asked one of the stronger players to teach us in my home. 2 tables quickly grew to 6 and my house was beginning to get a bit crowded, so we officially started a sanctioned 299er which grew into 9 tables and later re-sanctioned for up to 499 points. The game is still going today.

I love the game, the competition, and the large learning curve of duplicate bridge. I think duplicate bridge can be fun, but I am seriously enjoying learning and growing my game and partnerships. Let's keep it competitive! Let's keep it Friendly! And most of all, let's win!! Thank you for considering me for the board of directors.



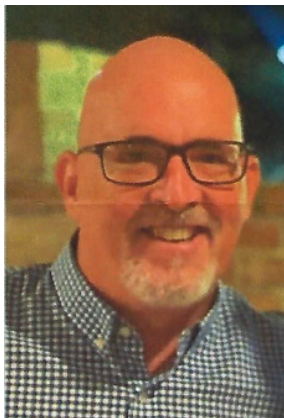
Karen Fillis - It has been my pleasure to serve as the Treasurer and Secretary for the San Antonio Bridge League for the past 2 terms. My second term is about to expire and I am asking for your vote to continue serving on the Unit 172 Board. I am an experienced accountant and an enthusiastic bridge player. The bridge community has done a lot for me and I wish to continue serving on the board so that I can give back to the community that is so dear to my heart.



James Gardner III - Born in Washington DC and 8 days later fully humanized upon arrival in San Antonio, TX. "I cannot claim to be a native Texan, but I got here as fast as I could." Survivor of Catholic parochial schools, grades 1-12, in the Archdiocese of San Antonio. At age 18, mainlined into Baylor University, emerging four years later as a devout agnostic with a B.A. degree in print journalism. Insinuated into medical school at the University of Texas at Houston. Doctor of Medicine conferred (hesitantly) in 1982, followed by medical

residency in Greenville, SC. Married childhood sweetheart, Patricia Rodriguez Gardner in 1987. Three children in rapid succession: now fully-grown, well-adjusted, tax-paying adults. Grandchildren: still waiting.

Introduced to duplicate bridge via Turtle Creek Bridge Club in 2010. Card-playing skills remain mediocre, but friendships made at tableside have been first-rate. "I welcome the opportunity to give something back to our bridge community. Hope to earn your vote for a place on the board of directors."



David Mayer - I am a San Antonio native and an active member of the Fiesta Bridge Club. Although I started playing bridge as a kid, it is only in the last two years that I have played duplicate regularly. I worked in public education as a teacher and school administrator until retiring in 2020. I am married to Courtney Mayer who also happens to be my favorite bridge partner.

I would like to serve on the board so that I can give back to the local bridge community. As a relatively younger player, I am well-suited to introduce new players to the game we love. If elected, I will do my

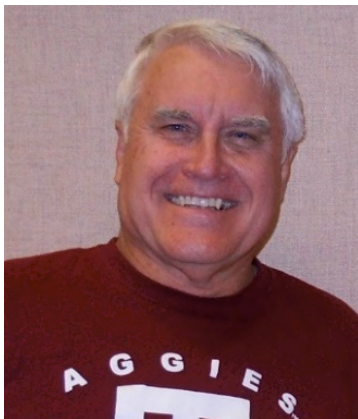
best to work collaboratively with members of the board to grow and manage our unit.



Nancy Tom - My Name is Nancy Tom and I am running for a second term for Unit 172 Board. When I retired from teaching in 2016, my mother encouraged me to take bridge lessons. I only attended the lessons to please my mother. I had no intention of continuing with this card game. To my surprise, I wanted to learn more. I could not wait to play again. I wanted to play, play, play. And then play more. I can now say that I too am addicted to bridge.

I taught in the Harlandale School District for almost thirty years before retiring. As a former teacher, I have many skills that have been an asset to this board. I am dependable and can get the job done. I am both detail oriented and flexible. I work well with others and have great communication skills. I am trustworthy, ethical and work well with people that have differing opinions. As a former computer teacher, I also have the technology skills that are needed for data collection.

My name is Nancy Tom and I would love to continue to serve on the board. I will give 100% effort as I work diligently for all bridge members. Please vote for me, Nancy Tom



Pete Voges - I picked up the game of bridge as a young Second Lieutenant in 1966. I later became a director and ran a bridge club at the Officer's club in Boston. After retiring from the Air Force in 1986, I taught mathematics at Judson High school as well as San Antonio College. At Judson, I even taught duplicate bridge to my advanced math students. I embraced the mentor/mentee program when it first started so many years ago. I've mentored quite a few folks.

My greatest joy was to partner with them in a regional and winning their 1st gold points. One memorable mentee made Life Master in a National where our table was between Bill Gates and his professional partner and Warren Buffet with his. We beat them both and we scored 16+ Gold! (My partner only needed 6). Being the partner of someone who makes Life Master is a truly memorable event and I've had the pleasure many times. Scoring a 60% game is memorable and 70% is fantastic but with one mentee at an evening club event we had an 89.3%. What fun!

I'm a big supporter of Bridge Base on line. With so many folks playing on line I tell my mentees to learn the "robot" system. Far better than the SAYC. People all over the world use it and it makes it easy to pick up new partners and perhaps a new friend. Plus, you can practice...practice...practice with a partner that will never get mad or say a disparaging word.

I would love your vote for a position on the Unit 172 Board of Directors.



Bob Watson - I am from a very small town in Oregon and graduated from Oregon State University with a Science Education degree and later, I earned a master's degree in business. I was commissioned from ROTC and entered Air Force pilot training upon graduation. From pilot training in 1970, my path was to Vietnam, which oddly enough, is where my "bridge life" began while living in the "hooche" with eight others at Da Nang, AB. One of the guys was a bridge life master and decided to teach us the game. We flew daily and played rubber bridge for money most every night, which took our minds off home and made the time to pass quicker.

I convinced my wife to learn the game and continued playing throughout my Air Force career. After Air Force retirement, I worked in the business world and also as a Texas Vocational Counselor followed by working with a government contractor developing flying training courseware and computer based flying training courses.

Bridge games were few and far between during my civilian life. I retired in 2013 after 45 years with the government. I was needing to find "things" to occupy my time and work was out of the question! Driving down the street one day, I noticed a sign that read "Bridge Club of San Antonio". Wondering what this establishment was, I dropped in to investigate. The idea of a bridge club was interesting to be so I began to play this strange game of duplicate bridge and like many, was hooked.

I joined ACBL in 2014. Due to again and COVID, I have watched both membership and attendance decline. I am motivated to work to increase both, which leads me to my desire to be on the board. My efforts would be to work to gain members and increase active face-to-face participation. I would especially like to gain more younger members and even try to get kids away from electronics and have a junior group playing. It is evident that without the youth, the clubs will slowly die off and we cannot let this happen.

Should I be elected to the board, I will work hard to achieve my goals and hopefully be a positive influence on this great game and the Unit.

Membership Matters. We welcome the following new members and transfers: **Emily Sparks, Margaret Altizer, Richard Walker, Billie Darnell.** All those who received higher ACBL ratings: new Junior Masters: ; new Club Masters: **Courtney and David Mayer;** new Regional Masters: ; new Advanced NABC Masters: **James Sutter;** new Life Masters:; new Bronze Life Masters: **Roxi Raaf;** new Silver Life Masters: **Ann McMullan, Jim McMullan;** new Gold Life Masters: ; new Sapphire Life Masters: . Congratulations to all!

Calendar.

Sept. 5-8	New Braunfels Sectional	NB Civic Center
Oct. 16-19	Diane Olson Election Sectional	St. Thomas Episcopal
Nov. 15	Pro-Am Pairs	St. Thomas Episcopal

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