

TABLE TALK

*American Contract
Bridge League Unit 361*

www.denverbridge.org



Board of Directors 2021

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Message from the President

We are very excited to be holding our November Sectional on the 5th through the 7th. Currently the ACBL is deciding on a monthly basis which tournaments can proceed with ACBL Directors. That decision gets made by the ACBL in October based on local COVID information. If the ACBL does cancel the tournament, we will hold a 'reduced' Unit sectional utilizing our local Directors.

Please check the DenverBridge.org website for the most current and up to date information concerning the tournament status and any restrictions that may be in place for it. Please note that it will be at The Summit Event Center which is located at 411 Sable Blvd in Aurora.

This TableTalk also serves as notification of the election for five new members to the board. The information for each candidate is in the next section.

The information normally presented at the annual meeting is also contained within this TableTalk.

The annual meeting and the election will be held at the Sectional on Saturday between the two sessions.

Looking forward to seeing everyone soon.



Best of luck in the rest of 2021 and please stay safe and healthy!

Rick Gardner
President, Unit 361

Candidates for Board: 2021-2022 Term:

The nominating committee is pleased to present the following candidates for the Unit board, for the two-year term beginning in 2022.

The election will occur on Saturday Nov 6th between sessions (roughly 2:45).

Rick Gardner



I have been playing and enjoying the outstanding game of duplicate bridge since 1996. I was a board member and board president for the Ogden UT unit, and have been the treasurer and currently serving as the President of the Denver board. I enjoy working with others to forward the game of bridge and look forward to participating and working with the current and incoming board members to continue the fine traditions that Denver and Colorado duplicate bridge have to offer.

Carol Gumpert



My name is Carol Gumpert. I have been playing bridge for a number of years, having been taught originally by my parents. I like learning aspects of the game that are new to me. I am interested in working on the board in order to 'give back' to the community. I also volunteer at the Denver Museum of Nature and Science in the Paleontology lab. I am retired from being an I.T. Manager and a Quality (process) Analyst. I hope to be able to bring some of these skills to the board. I have 2 grown children, 2 wonderful grandsons and 2 grand-dogs.

Ed Yosses



I have a continuous ACBL membership since 1975, reflecting a long-term commitment to the League and to our game. I have been Treasurer (2006-2013) and President (2014) of the Northern Colorado Unit and Treasurer of District 17 (2016). I have been Treasurer of the Denver Unit for the past 12 months.

I was recruited to fill a vacancy on the Board last year and promptly put the finances in order, which had been neglected for several months. I seek this position to protect and advance the financial integrity of the Unit, promote the increase and retention of new members and schedule of various forms of bridge games at sectionals and the regional that meet the various preferences of the members. I would greatly appreciate your support for my continued service on the Unit Board.

Vivian Heggie



Being the fourth in a family of bridge fanatics, the game was bred in my bones but I only became aware of duplicate bridge when I moved to Aspen in 1965, was recruited to be an assistant director, met my future husband at the bridge table, "postponed" my intended life in New Zealand, and stayed in Colorado. I started a non-sanctioned "Introduction to Duplicate Bridge" game in the Brighton area in 1990, playing twice a month which grew to 7 tables, and is still going strong; taught Bridge at the Northglenn and Brighton Senior Centers, and played as often as I could with my work schedule.

Having volunteered my time for the past 30 years in the golf world, both on the local and state level, I am a great believer in giving back, and sharing whatever knowledge I have gained over many decades of participating, teaching and mentoring players of all ages, and hope to do so for years to come. I would appreciate your support in this new endeavor for Unit 361.

Eric Mead



I'm running for the board of directors because Donna Givner asked me to. She's very persuasive. I do think it's important for different people to serve on the board and assist those who do the lion's share of the sometimes-thankless work. New people sometimes have new ideas.

I was born in upstate New York and grew up in the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia. My American GI father met my French mother after the liberation of Paris. I followed several years later.

After high school, I came west to attend college and have lived in the Denver area ever since. I passed the CPA exam after college and worked for the U.S. Treasury Department for 32 years as a revenue agent, manager, and appeals officer. I retired 16 years ago and live in Applewood in north Lakewood with my wife, Joyce Larson.

I returned to duplicate bridge after retirement, having first played in high school with my father. I recall receiving several little slips of paper with 0.25 masterpoints each! I now play several times a week, both online and in person. Besides bridge, children, grandchildren, nieces, and nephews keep Joyce and I very busy. I look forward to working on the Unit 361 Board of Directors.

Treasurer's report

As of September 24, 2021

ASSETS		\$
Current Assets		
Checking/Savings		
Checking at Wells Fargo	62,691.00	
Savings	59,361.00	
Total Checking/Savings	122,052.00	
INCOME		\$
Dues	4,092.33	
Interest	4.61	
Tournaments (Regional Pro/Am)	545.90	
EXPENSES		\$
Equipment Storage	-1,380.00	
Directories	-2,418.90	
Prepaid Rent for 2022 Sectionals	-3,923.25	
Trophies / Awards	-1,490.80	

If you have questions about unit finances, please contact the unit treasurer: Ed Yosses.

Tournament Schedule 2021—2022

Event	Date
November Sectional	November 5-7, 2021
January Sectional	January 7-9, 2022
March Sectional	March 4-6, 2022
April IN Sectional	April 9-10, 2022
Rocky Mountain Regional	May 24-30, 2022
July Sectional	July 8-10, 2022
Fall IN Sectional	October 8-9, 2022
Fall Sectional	November 4-6, 2022

Sectional and Regional Table Count

	2019	2020
January (S)	412	473
March (S)	409	N/A
IN April (S)	82	N/A
Regional	1786	N/A
July (S)	514	N/A
IN October (S)	65.5	N/A
November	N/A	N/A

INTRODUCING THE 2020 JAN JANITSCHKE AWARD WINNER!

CURT SOLOFF



(Curt receiving award from award donor Bonnie Smith and Donna Givner, Unit Award Committee Chair)

A year ago the Unit 361 Board announced the launch of an annual award in memory of our legendary member, Jan Janitschke, who passed away in 2019. An ACBL Grand Life Master and designated a World Master by the World Bridge Federation, Jan was also known for his keen interest in bridge education and the mentoring of newer players. His wife, Bonnie Smith, offered to fund this award “In recognition of outstanding teaching or mentoring contributions to the membership of Denver Bridge Unit 361.” Nominations for this honor were solicited from our members with the final selection made by the Unit Board.

Curt was chosen for his tireless dedication to the education of our newer members. Multiple nominations cited his successful teaching techniques and hard work to help students advance to higher levels. He taught at several clubs and gave home lessons, then moved to online classes when Covid shut down in-person bridge. He continued to offer free online teaching events and provided after-game analysis of hands in addition to answering all emailed questions.

One nominator summed up the difficult task Curt faced in 2020 stating, “Curt has worked hard to keep us all linked to bridge during the past year.” High praise for a job well done during an unprecedented time!

Originally from Kansas City, Curt worked in radio broadcasting and landscape architecture before moving to Denver in 2006. It was then he decided to make bridge his full-time career. In addition to teaching and writing, Curt served as the Castle Rock Bridge director from the club’s opening in 2009 until the Covid shutdown in March 2020. Currently he plans to concentrate on teaching and hopes to return to playing in major events with the goal of one day winning a national championship.

Curt expressed much appreciation for winning the Jan Janitschke Award. “I would be honored to receive any teaching award, but to receive one in Jan’s memory is particularly meaningful to me,” he stated. In describing his dedication to bridge, he cited Jan as a personal friend and a mentor who influenced him, “hence the reason for my gratitude in receiving an award in his name.”

In addition to the personal award Curt received, a permanent plaque with Jan's picture and nameplates for each year's recipients is on display at the Denver Metro Bridge Center. Information on the nomination process for the 2021 honoree will be available in January. Please start thinking about who you would like to nominate.

Congratulations Curt and thanks for all you have done for the members of Denver Unit 361! And thanks to Bonnie Smith for your generous funding of this award.

Milestones 2021 (September 2020-August 2021)

Life Masters

Robert Anastasia
Peter Bemski
Alice Griffith
Wayne Eckerling
Kathryn Lindhal

Bronze Life Masters

Jeffery Haber
Lynn Hinrichs
Elizabeth McKay
Barbara Yosses
Matthew Fowler
Mary Lynn Darcy
Peter Fox
Ramona Berger

Silver Life Masters

Linda Harder
Roberta Klein
Leah Mach
Barbara Robinson
Laura Thomson
Charlie Drotar
Eleanor Larson
Kathleen Porter
Ellen Jenkins
Scott Kelly

Ruby Life Masters

Ralph Haines
Michael Shedd
Kevin Dunn
Katherine Schultz
Jim Francis
Dena Shpall
Sandy Buckstein
Greg Smith

Gold Life Masters

Lori Beard
Kathleen Kelly
Robert Murphy

Sapphire Life Masters

Joan Curran
Richard Friedman

Diamond Life Masters

Marie Smerjac
Nancy Rassbach
Jane Ranney
Pat Drew

Emerald Life Masters

None

Platinum Life Masters

Garth Yettick

In Memoriam:

Emily Martinez	Maxine Divine
Marilyn Graham	George Everett
Patricia McElhinney	Ann Krump
Margaret McKanna	Eleanor Gendill
James Roof	Bennett Aisenberg
Romie Sachs	Charles Lehman
Beverly Sanders	Carol Levinson
Tom Schmied	Judy Goldstein
James Toepfer	Bob McKenzie
Carol Bronder	Walt Newcomb
Dixie Sipe	Kathy Marti
Winnie Knapp	

Unit 361 Membership by Rank

As of September 1, 2021

<i>Total membership</i>		1303
<i>Rank</i>	<i>Point reqs</i>	<i>No. in unit</i>
Rookie	0-5	274
Junior Master	5+	147
Club Master	20+	145
Sectional Master	50+	103
Regional Master	100+	117
NABC Master	200+	72
Advanced Life Master	200+	12
Life Master	300/500	63
Bronze Life Master	500/750	121
Silver Life Master	1000	79
Ruby Life Master	1500	71
Gold Life Master	2500	31
Sapphire Life Master	3500	28
Diamond Life Master	5000	24
Emerald Life Master	7500	5
Platinum Life Master	10000	10
Grand Life Master	10000*	1

* and a national title

District 17 Update

By Jennifer O'Neill, Treasurer

It has been great seeing many of you at the bridge table. I hope to see many more of you soon! Masks, while not required at most clubs, provide another level of safety & many choose to wear them in addition to being vaccinated.

District 17 (Colorado, New Mexico, Arizona, Southern Wyoming, El Paso & Las Vegas) has not been idle during the Pandemic!

Early this spring we rolled out our redesigned website. Although improvements will continue, this website is much more user friendly. On the home page, you can find buttons for D17 teachers, clubs & tournaments that are kept up to date. Please check it out:

<https://www.d17acbl.org/>.

The Bylaws and Policies Manual have both been updated and rewritten. Again, check them out on the website.

D17 also voted to join the All Western 99er Club. Monday through Thursday at 7:20PM MDT on BBO, a limited points game (0-99) is run. Tuesday night there is also a 0-20 point game. Clubs can then opt in. To find this game the first-time log onto BBO 2 hours before game time, click competitive, click All Tournaments, search on 99 or Western. Most Denver clubs elected to opt in to this game. If you did not play physically at a club prior to COVID, you may still join this game by clicking on the director tab and requesting entry.

The D17 GNT qualifier was held online in May. A lot of coordination was required by Bonnie Bagley with the help

of a national director. The plan is currently to have the next GNT qualifier at the Denver Regional.

Membership in the district is down approximately 800 people. In comparison, the Denver unit is only down about 70 people over the same time frame. D17 is trying new ideas for membership building. In May, several ads were placed in social media generating interest in BIAD (updated version of Learn Bridge In A Day). The district awarded a grant to Denver's very successful Quick Bridge program for operating costs. In addition, the unit has applied for another grant to bring social players into the competitive environment by having a Country Club Swiss League. This program starts this September with a fall and winter leagues open to both men and women.

D17 voted to withdraw from the Western Conference and run district wide STAC ourselves. This will give us more flexibility and ensure that district members get the highest awards. Income to the district should not change significantly.

As expected, our balance sheet has declined due to meager income and still having expenses but is still healthy. We have trimmed our expenditures to primarily operating costs and membership building grants.

I look forward to seeing many new and familiar faces at the Denver Sectional in November.