

TABLE TALK

Unit 361

September 2026



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Rita Simas, Unit 361 President

These past two years have flown by quickly, and I have mixed emotions about leaving the Denver Unit 361 Board. I have enjoyed the camaraderie over these past seven years, and I was honored to be your President for my final two years. On the flip side, I am looking forward to spending more time enjoying my retirement years.

I am proud that our Board Members have embraced their Board roles and used the Committee concept to recruit talented unit members and their creative ideas. This allows the Board to make demonstrated progress in returning to our pre-COVID tournament attendance levels.

- Our Grow the Game Committee has brought new fresh ideas to the table, and we have seen increases in our Tournament table counts.
- We revamped our Mentor Program which in turn will increase our mentor pool to help our newer players learn the basics of duplicate bridge and give them increased confidence at the table.
- We recently added a Marketing Committee to solicit gift certificates and monetary donations from outside businesses to help us defray our expenses, and these contributions help us reward our I/N tournament winners.
- Our tournament Events Committee has continued our unit member volunteer outreach to help us with tournament setup, daily cleanup, and pack up, and this has sped up the process and thereby reduced the load on our Board Members. We continue to need our volunteers, so please say **YES** when asked and/or contact a Board Member and volunteer your help.

During my time on the Board, we have weathered the COVID pandemic, and our tournament table counts tell us we are continually approaching our pre-COVID levels; I believe we are ahead of most of the Units across America. So, I have chosen this time to retire from the Board and pursue enjoying my retirement years by traveling to Europe, discovering many interesting places right here in America, and attending Regional Tournaments both near and far with my new life and bridge partner, Meg Moritz. See you at the tables.



NEW PLATINUM LIFE MASTER: Congratulations to **Dom Di Felice** for achieving Platinum Life Master status! Collecting 10,000 masterpoints requires not only talent, but regular play, dedication to game theory and tactics, and grit—and he has all those qualities.



NEW MENTOR-MENTEE PROGRAM NOW IN PLACE: Mentors can share their love of the game while mentees gain valuable experience in open and team games. Unit funds cover the mentor's entry fee; mentees pay their own.

Mentoring Levels

Mentees with 5–99 points → Paired with mentors who have 500+ points
Mentees with 100–250 points → Paired with mentors who have 750+ points
Mentees with 250–500 points → Paired with mentors who have 1,000+ points
For mentoring pairs: The mentor must have 1,000+ masterpoints
All participants must be ACBL Denver Unit 361 members

Are you Interested?

1. Contact a club manager to recommend a Mentor for you.
2. Ask someone with 500+ masterpoints to mentor you.
3. Contact the coordinator, Gale Kahn, mentorprogram@denverbridge.org.
4. Check out the flyer at the end of this newsletter.



MENTOR-MENTEE TESTIMONIALS:

Hear what mentors and mentees have to say!

Mentors

“I love bridge—the people, the challenge, and especially mentoring. Helping a newer player gain confidence and discover the joy of the game is incredibly rewarding. One day they tell you they played in a tournament... then that they got points... and then: ‘I got GOLD!’ That’s when you know—you’ve helped create a bridge player. I encourage other experienced players to become mentors. It’s really an honor to be part of the development of new players and the future of bridge. Try it!” — Donna Givner

“Mentoring introduced me to a wonderful partner—I may have learned as much from her as she did from me! Seeing her confidence and table presence grow has been a joy. And yes... we even came in first in a STAC game!” Mentoring is an opportunity, and I encourage others to take advantage of it. Who knows, you may come in first in your first outing!” — Peter Bemski

Mentees

“Walking into a new club can be intimidating, but my mentor immediately put me at ease. His calm, encouraging style made learning comfortable and enjoyable. I left my first session excited to come back. Every bridge club hopes to create a welcoming environment for new players, and mentors are wonderful ambassadors!” — Darin Denzler

“My mentor has helped me improve my bidding, defense, and hand visualization—and our post-game discussions are invaluable. Just as important, my mentor is patient, supportive, and a great teacher. I highly recommend (and have recommended) the program to anyone who wants to improve.” — Tim Hurley



I/N FALL SECTIONAL

The number of Intermediate/Novice players in Unit 361 is growing! That's great news, but we need to plan for the future.

Our upcoming 499er Sectional, September 19-20, will be at Denver Metro Bridge Studio. At our recent NLM Regional at the Denver Metro Bridge Studio, we experienced a HUGE increase from last year—39%. We had 35 tables at that event, which is many more than we could comfortably accommodate. Not everyone pre-registered so we had some last-minute adjustments. We DIDN'T want to turn anyone away!

So, for the 499er Sectional in September we are asking that everyone pre-register. We have accommodations for 30 tables. We want everyone to be comfortable. **Bottom line is, if you don't pre-register, we may not be able to accommodate you.**

For our spring I/N tournament, we are on the lookout for a bigger venue. So please reserve your spot for this one. The attached flyer has the pre-registration links so that we know our numbers in advance of September 19. If you're looking for a partner, use our online partnership desk (link also on the attached flyer).



GROWING THE GAME

We have a fabulous **Grow the Game Committee**. This past year they were extremely successful in getting more I/Ns to play in our clubs and at our tournaments. In 2025 and 2026 this Committee has hosted 3 Meet 'n Greet events. I/Ns are invited to attend a Meet 'n Greet to meet others with whom they can play and learn together. The event is designed to be both social and educational. They meet socially and later play a few hands of bridge together. We have had a tremendous response to these events. We see the results at both our clubs, and at our tournaments. **Watch your email for one coming up in the fall.**



FALL OPEN SECTIONAL: Fall is *almost* in the air and we hope the 100-degree weather is behind us for the year! Come Play in **Denver's Fall Sectional on November 13-15, 2026**. It's an Open Sectional (Silver Points) held at the Summit Event Center 2 in Aurora.

The Sunday team game is \$168 per team and is a **Grass Roots Fund Game** that raises money to support NAPs and GNTs. It will pay silver points using a regional formula. All the more exciting on Sunday!

Schedule: Two-session Open Pairs with accommodation for single sessions, and single-session 0-500 NLM Pairs games on Friday and Saturday at 10:00 and 3:00. Sunday two-session play-through team games starting at 10:00.

Lunches: Sunday lunch is included in the team fee. Friday and Saturday you can buy lunch for \$10 (cash or check). More info: See the flyer at the end of this document for the location, online partnership desk link, and detailed schedule information. **Please note that each session fee is \$15.**



BIG SUCCESS IN JULY 2026! Our July tournaments had by far the highest combined total table count of any since COVID: a total of 328 tables. Last year's combined tournaments had 293 tables, so this year showed an increase of almost 12%. The Open Tournament had 189 tables, and the NLM Regional had 139 tables—up a whopping 39% from last year. If you were there Saturday morning you know we were bursting at the seams, with 35 tables in each tournament! The tournaments were a mixture of successes and things that could have gone better. The latter was largely due to the overwhelming turnout in our experimental venue which we were forced to use in order to avoid canceling both tournaments. We appreciated everyone's patience and understanding.



2027 TOURNAMENTS: Next year's tournaments return to familiar locations. Flyers will be available well in advance. Be sure to come play with us and bring your friends. Let's see if we can set a new attendance record! Here's our schedule:

January 8-10	Open Sectional at Jefferson County Fairgrounds, 15200 W 6th Ave, Golden
March 5-7	Open Sectional at The Summit Event Center 2, 411 Sable Blvd, Aurora
April 10-11	499er Sectional at Denver Metro Bridge Studio, 5250 Leetsdale Dr, Denver
May 25-31	Denver Regional at Renaissance Hotel by Marriott, 3801 Quebec St, Denver
July 9-11	Open Sectional/NLM Regional both at Jeff. County Fairgrounds, 15200 W 6th Ave, Golden
October 2-3	499er Sectional at Denver Metro Bridge Studio, 5250 Leetsdale Dr, Denver
November 5-7	Open Sectional at The Summit Event Center 2, 411 Sable Blvd, Aurora



VOLUNTEERS!! WE NEED HELP!!

Volunteers are bridge players who want to give back to the community and help continue to make our tournaments a success.

Managing our tournaments and building our bridge community are big jobs, and we are looking for people to volunteer to help the Unit 361 Board. And, as we all know, many hands make light work. At tournaments, volunteers:

- Help set up/pack up the equipment and supplies, and
- Help with the day-to-day operations during the tournaments. (Do we need to refill coffee? Whoops, out of snacks? Let's add more! We ran out of cups and now someone needs to find more in a crate!)

We have seven major tournaments each year (three Open Sectionals, one joint Open Sectional/NLM Regional, two 499er Sectionals, and our week-long Memorial Day Regional Tournament). The workload has become bigger than the board and we need more volunteers to help. Thanks in advance for pitching in to help us throughout the year.

Outside of tournaments we also work to build our membership. That generally means reaching out to members and potential members. Easy work from the comfort of your own home! And sometimes we have unique projects that could benefit from the prospective of people not on the board projects. Whether you know it or not, you have skills that could help Unit 361 and the Denver bridge community!

VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR!



CONGRATULATIONS TO JOAN RIORDAN



The Unit 361 Board selected Joan Riordan as Volunteer of the Year. Joan is an Intermediate Novice player, who has joined the Unit's Grow the Game Committee. Joan has been quite active in getting newcomers to come to any and all I/N games (499-ers, 399-ers, 199-ers), finding them partners, making them feel welcome, and willing to return week after week. Joan is a self-starter who sees things that need doing and she does them herself. She eagerly offers her assistance with any/all of the Intermediate Novice tournaments

Joan is retired but was a member of the Colorado Bar Association and she practiced law in Denver for several decades. She enjoys her grandchildren who live nearby. And we enjoy her as a volunteer adjunct to the Unit Board!



FINANCIAL REPORT: As tournament space becomes more and more expensive and inflation has increased other costs, the Unit is struggling to break even for each tournament. Unfortunately, we find it necessary to **raise our fees to \$15/session starting in November**. Even with that fee adjustment, we will continue to eat away at our working capital as we use it to subsidize various expenses, including rental costs. Our current financial picture:

EIGHT-MONTH FINANCIAL SUMMARY

January 1 - August 31, 2026

TOURNAMENTS	<i>Income</i>	<i>Expenses</i>	<i>Tournament Net Inc/Loss (Inc. - Exp)</i>	<i>Budgeted Net</i>	<i>Under/Over Budget (Tournament Net - Budget Net)</i>
January	\$15,797	\$18,417	-\$2,620	-\$2,546	-\$74
March	\$16,603	\$19,534	-\$2,931	-\$4,337	\$1,406
I/N Spring	\$3,379	\$3,175	\$204	\$626	-\$422
Regional	\$70,776	\$71,079	-\$303	\$5,097	-\$5,400
July	\$11,580	\$10,725	\$855	-\$154	\$1,009
July NLM Regional	\$9,221	\$8,152	\$1,069	-\$3,630	\$4,699
TOTAL TOURNAMENTS	\$127,356	\$131,082	-\$3,726	-\$4,944	\$1,218
OTHER INCOME/EXP	\$5,405	\$10,026	-\$4,621	-\$1,630	-\$2,991
TOTAL	\$132,761	\$141,108	-\$8,347	-\$6,574	-\$1,773

NOTES:

- OTHER INCOME (membership dues, gifts, etc.)
- OTHER EXPENSES (supplies, education, charity, table storage, etc.)
- 2027 Unit Budget prorated over 8 months



ELECTION FOR THE 2027-2028 UNIT BOARD

Unit 361's election for the 2027–2028 term of the Board of Directors will be held at 2:45 pm on November 14, 2026 during our fall sectional.

A nominating committee met in order to submit candidates for the upcoming election. The members of this year's committee were Don Boyarsky, Gale Kahn, Marilyn O'Neil, Mary Lynn Darcy, and Donna Givner.

There are five positions open for the 2027–2028 Board. The committee believes the candidates listed here (four board members re-running and one new board candidate) are excellent choices to run for the Board of Directors.

If you are interested in running for the board ...

Anyone who would like to run for the Board of Directors can petition the Board to join these candidates on the ballot. A petition signed by at least ten members in good standing in Unit 361 must be submitted to the Board of Directors at least two weeks prior to the election. The deadline for submitting such a petition is October 31, 2026. In the event such a petition is received, paper ballots will be printed with anyone who successfully petitioned to be on the Board and the five candidates listed below.

Voting will occur on November 14, 2026 at 2:45 pm. The five people receiving the most votes will be elected to the 2027–2028 Board of Directors.



BOARD CANDIDATES

Kathy McMahon

During my tenure I have served as the I/N (now 499ers) representative. I felt that as an I/N myself this was a perfect position for me. Our unit holds three I/N tournaments per year and I have the privilege of chairing those events. There is a I/N Sectional in September and one in April. There is also an I/N Regional held concurrently with the July Open Sectional. Our I/N tournaments now include a bridge lesson over the lunch period.

During my time I have tried to grow the I/N bridge-playing population at our clubs as well as at our tournaments. The board voted to increase the mentor program to include players with up to 500 masterpoints. This resulted in more people participating in the mentor program. At the request of the I/Ns, we are currently trying to provide Swiss Team trainings for I/Ns prior to each tournament in order to prepare them for team events at tournaments.

I look forward to continuing to represent the I/Ns on our Board. I also look forward to hearing from all of the I/Ns regarding how we can assist you and recognize you in your bridge journey. I hope you will reelect me.



Wally Erbes

I started playing duplicate bridge after selling my financial planning firm and retiring in 2016. I am a Certified Financial Planner. Then, knowing I would need a new outlet for my friendly competitive spirit and social interaction, I joined the ACBL in 2017. I am now a Life Master and enjoy the game and the people—including my time on the Unit bridge board.

My background includes leadership and volunteering. I am still very active in scouting, leading a wonderful troop for 20+ years. I am currently a committee chair.

As a volunteer for my church, I serve on the Homebound Committee. We call on people who are unable to attend church because they are homebound and we bring church to them. My wife and I are also active on the World Missions team.



Judith Repp

The bridge community is a wonderful assortment of like-minded nerds that I treasure. I appreciate the opportunity bridge affords to 'instantly' meet people in new environments.

As a bridge-playing architect, I love to solve puzzles. Still a practicing architect with graduate degrees in architecture and structural engineering, I find the myriad challenges of bridge to be not unlike those encountered while designing buildings. For the last two years, I have been the Unit's Treasurer.

On the east coast, I was an avid rower on the Schuylkill River (Boathouse Row) in Philadelphia. Rivers in Colorado are way too rocky for that, so my current 'sport' in Colorado is bridge! My non-bridge-playing husband, Chick, and I live in Evergreen with my faithful hiking companion, a dachshund (TBone), and a very independent cat (McPhee).

I hope to continue to give back to the Unit that gave me such a warm welcome upon my arrival and continually provides me with alternating bouts of exhilaration, consternation, and self-flagellation that is the game of bridge.



Gary Wiess

My relationship with bridge spans four decades, with a few notable detours along the way. I was deeply immersed in the bridge world throughout the 1980s, before life's demands pulled me away from the table for years. It took a pandemic—and a nudge from an old partner—to bring me back, first online, then in person at live tables starting two years ago.

A graduate of Lawrence University, I hold certifications in teaching, conflict resolution, and forensic psychology — an eclectic background that eventually led me to a position as an ombudsman for the Nebraska legislature. My wife, Elisa Birnbaum, and I moved to Denver nine years ago, where we enjoy the city's rich cultural offerings.

And I continue to rebuild my game, one session at a time.



Dom Di Felice

I am married and have two adult children from my first marriage, as well as five grandchildren—two in Toronto and three in Miami—who bring me great joy.

My passion for bridge began in graduate school. After several successful years of tournament play, highlighted by a second-place finish in the Canadian National Championship, I put my cards away to focus on raising a family and building a career in education.

I started as a mathematics teacher before moving into educational administration. I retired as a Superintendent of Education in Toronto and moved to Denver in 2006 to become Superintendent of a charter school network. After retiring in 2017, I was finally able to devote more time to one of my lifelong passions—bridge.



Since returning to the game, I have earned the rank of Platinum Life Master. One of the most rewarding aspects of bridge for me is mentoring newer players at the club. The fact that my mentees have all been women is purely coincidental—but it has provided plenty of laughs along the way!

I believe the skills I developed throughout my career—listening, collaborating, solving problems, and helping organizations grow—would serve the board well. It would be a privilege to contribute to the continued success of our bridge unit and to help ensure it remains a welcoming and enjoyable place for players of all level



NLM'S < 500 MASTERPOINTS: RACING TO WIN THE MINI-MCKENNEY AWARDS!

Masterpoint Range	Leader	Points
0 – 5	James Codik	14.12
5 – 20	Lynn Craig	25.40
20 – 50	Curtis Sporbett	55.93
50 – 100	S C Chamdramouli	41.67
100-200	James Schatzman	109.37
200 -300	Olivia Monday	79.79
300 – 500	Steve Rubin	112.20



2025's 100 TOP MASTERPOINT HOLDERS

Brad	Moss	27,052	Robert	Lupton	5,425	John	Bugay	3,352
En	Hay	21,728	Fred	Herring	5,367	Carol	Cortez	3,333
Allen	Kane	20,947	Curt	Soloff	5,157	Kathleen	Kelly	3,313
David	Caprera	20,462	Paul	Witonsky	5,143	Robert	Murphy	3,308
Flo	Newlin	15,052	Carolyn	Borus	5,003	Jerry	Newcomb	3,263
Anne	Brenner	14,856	Joan	Curran	4,848	Elisabeth	Hirst	3,238
Anita	Heitler	13,647	Nona	Dale	4,789	Roger	Miller	3,222
Don	Heitler	12,707	Paul	Ossip	4,594	Lori	Beard	3,195
Martha	Marsh	12,109	Bob	Martin	4,546	Donna	Givner	3,141
Val	Covalciuc	11,155	Robert	Vetter	4,423	Michael	Shedd	3,136
Hachy	Pennell	10,977	Karen	Trujillo	4,404	Linda	Endicott	3,123
Dom	DiFelice	10,733	Michael	Hellman	4,268	Steve	Wheeler	2,123
Steven	Parker	10,000	Anant	Rathi	4,219	Jonathan	Hellman	3,109
Spenser	Jones	9,717	Joe	Jenkins	4,178	Sung Mae	Bleck	3,104
Donald	Vancil	9,577	George	Becker	4,098	Haisam	Osman	3,090
Stephen	Linehan	9,427	Carol	Ward	4,050	John	Osher	3,072
Peggy	Ware	9,424	Harley	Bress	3,997	Greg	Smith	3,031
Skip	Carson	9,021	Edward	Yosses	3,992	Vincent	Castrigano	2,940
Bonnie	Smith	7,894	Paula	Warren	3,883	Denise	Klein	2,862
Jerry	Ranney	7,583	Jared	Johnson	3,858	Jon	Brandon	2,851
David	Warner	7,097	Mary Anne	Pixley	3,758	Milton	Shioya	2,839
Alice	Kinningham	6,481	Sheryl	Siegel	3,739	Donna	Barrow	2,813
Frank	Queen	6,440	Roy	Weinstein	3,716	Carolyn	Newcomb	2,786
Susan	Grauer	6,347	Marilyn	Hughes	3,703	Marilyn	Ballon	2,765
Eric	Swanson	5,950	Julie	Clark	3,641	James	Dulan	2,724
Nancy	Rassbach	5,943	Jennifer	O'Neill	3,539	Carol	Bertz	2,716
Jane	Ranney	5,761	Margaret	Devere	3,524	Helen	Fitzpatrick	2,692
Jeffrey	Holligan	5,754	Richard	Berger	3,494	Shelbie	Bastiaans	2,662
Pat	Drew	5,702	Paul	Perkowski	3,487	Nancy	Benedict	2,652
Debra	Dallas	5,579	Wesley	Suzuki	3,452	Bill	Kutscher	2,601
Charles	Reed	5,487	Patricia	Miller	3,445	Steven	Blatter	2,583
Jeanne	Achziger	5,476	Bill	Beard	3,402	Kris	Klamut	2,550
Don	Boyarsky	5,467	Jerry	Marrs	3,376	Lianne	Walliser	2,535
			Susan	Wheeler	3,362			



NEW ANNUAL AWARD FOR I/N PLAYERS

The Jan Janitschke (JJ) Award honors the Denver Intermediate/Novice (I/N) Player who has accumulated the most master points in a calendar year. The updated award criteria announced in August 2025 was overly restrictive and difficult to calculate. It was revised, and it will now go to the Denver area **I/N Player who accumulates the most masterpoints in a calendar year at sanctioned tournament events in Colorado.**

To be eligible, the I/N Player must have <500 points at the beginning of the calendar year, and be a member of Denver Unit 361. The JJ Award will be presented at the March Sectional along with the Denver Unit 361 Ace of Clubs, Mini-McKinney, and Colorado Victory Trophy.

The 2025 JJ Award winner was not calculated earlier in 2026 due to the difficulties described above. Using the revised award criteria, the 2025 JJ Award and trophy presentation will take place at the upcoming Denver Unit 361 Annual Meeting on November 14, 2026.



IN MEMORIAM

9/2025 – 8/2026

Stu Horwitz
Thomas Littleton
Nancy Murray
Mary Smith
&
Janet De Grazia
(honorary Unit 361 member)



2026 BOARD NEWS: We had the Unit Board of Directors officer election in December 2025. We'd like to thank **Rita Simas** for her service as president and her leadership through several roles she held over multiple board terms.

-----CURRENT UNIT 361 BOARD OF DIRECTORS-----

-----2026-----

Rita Simas	President	President@denverbridge.org
Don Boyarsky	Vice President	VicePresident@denverbridge.org
	Regional Co-Chair	Regional@denverbridge.org
Judith Repp	Treasurer	Treasurer@denverbridge.org
Susan Marshall	Secretary	Secretary@denverbridge.org
	Communications Chair	Communications@denverbridge.org
Kathy McMahon	IN Tournaments Chair	IntermediateNovice@denverbridge.org
	Education Chair	Education@denverbridge.org
Wally Erbes	Hospitality Chair	Hospitality@denverbridge.org
Jay Silberberg	Sectional Tournaments	Sectional@denverbridge.org
Gale Kahn	Mentor Program Chair	MentorProgram@denverbridge.org
	Membership Chair	Membership@denverbridge.org
	Marketing Chair	Marketing@denverbridge.org
Jennifer O'Neill	Liaison, Special Projects	Special_projects@denverbridge.org
Gary Weiss	Supplies	Supplies@denverbridge.org
	Caddy Master	Caddies@denverbridge.org

-----APPOINTIVE COMMITTEES 2026-----

Partnership Chair,	Susan Grauer	Partners@denverbridge.org
Legal Advisor		Legal@denverbridge.org
Webmaster	Margaret Devere	Webmaster@denverbridge.org

-----DISTRICT 17 BOARD REPRESENTATIVES 2026-----

District 17 Representative	Jennifer O'Neill	D17DenverRep@denverbridge.org
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-----WEBSITES-----

Denver Unit 361	www.denverbridge.org
District 17	www.d17acbl.org
ACBL	www.acbl.org

Visit our website and find out useful facts & figures.

When in doubt, you can find your answer on the

UNIT 361 WEBSITE: www.denverbridge.org

Ode to Bridge

I sit here in reflection
With this cocktail I am drinking
I revel in the game of bridge
(Or is it Whistful thinking?)

All the years I played it-
And years spent in absentia,
Recent concentration
Aimed at fighting off dementia

It's brought me so much pleasure
Like a generous annuity
Sharpening my senses
And annealing my acuity

So I thought I'd tell the story
From the time I was a kid
Of lessons that I gather
Into each and every bid

I remember watching Mom and Dad
So happy when they won
I asked what they were playing
And I thought it looked like fun

But in my Dad's 4 spade contract
It took ten tricks to win
Gran and Gramps just needed four
To me that seemed a sin

On to college, spending evenings
(When not studying bards)
My friends would come around
And out would come a deck of cards

Playing seemed to bring about
A sweet hypnosis
But what I learned in strategy
I gathered by osmosis

Later in my life,
It became a small obsession
And decided, with a friend
That it was time to take a lesson

We entered ACBL tournaments
In luxury hotel high rises
Onlookers were astonished
That there weren't any prizes

No we don't win any money
No statues to collect
Just master points to cherish
'Cause Life Masters get respect

When she moved away
Our partnership went up in flames
And, sadly, for a while
I just played social games

Then when I retired
And I needed some recentering
I found a local program
That was noted for their mentoring

How lucky was I therefore
Dear patient, thoughtful reader
When they assigned to me
A gentleman named Peter

He coalesced the systems
That were swirling in my mind
By delivering instruction
That was helpful, calm and kind

Ask me if I'm honest
And I'll say "No kidding"
When I tell the world I think of you
With every hand I'm bidding

Thanks for the encouragement
And all the sage advice
And that you'll still play with me-
I think that's really nice

I want to get my silver
And you your ruby and gold
With all this concentration
There's no time for growing old

They say bridge may be in decline
And while that could be true
There'd be a great revival
If the folks could play with you.

To all our stunning victories
To when we take our lumps
There may be other games to play
But this one always trumps!

Robin Kovachy
2026

DENVER UNIT 361 FALL 499er SECTIONAL

SEPTEMBER 19-20, 2026

Denver Metro Bridge Studio
5250 Leetsdale Drive, Denver 80246
www.denverbridge.org

Pre-Registration is highly recommended.

<https://tinyurl.com/499erSectionalPreregistration>

Silver Masterpoints Awarded

SATURDAY, September 19

9:00 AM	Coffee, tea, light snacks	
9:30 AM	Beginner Pairs (0-50 MPs) (3-table min)	Single Session
	Stratified Pairs	Single Session
1:30 PM	Stratified Pairs	Single Session

SUNDAY, September 20

9:00 AM	Coffee, tea, light snacks	
9:30 AM	Beginner Pairs (0-50 MPs) (3-table min)	Single Session
	Stratified Pairs	Single Session
1:30 PM	Stratified Pairs	Single Session

Short Bridge Lesson at Lunch.

Lunch Fees: On-site lunch is free if you play both sessions on that day.
Members with 0-5 points and half-day participants pay \$10 for lunch.



**Pre-Registration
Stratification**

<https://tinyurl.com/499erSectionalPreregistration>

May be adjusted based on attendance

A = 300-499; B = 100-299; C = 0-99

**Tournament Chair
Partnerships**

Kathy McMahon

IntermediateNovice@DenverBridge.org

Susan Grauer

Partners@DenverBridge.org

Online Partnership Desk:

<http://www.tinyurl.com/DenverOnlinePartnershipDesk>



\$15 per session for ACBL/ABA members, \$4 additional fee for non-members.

Cash, check or Zelle (treasurer@denver-bridge.org). No Credit Cards.

Free play for ACBL members with 0-5 masterpoints. \$8 per session pricing for youth AND junior (25 & under.)

Non-ACBL members: Purchase a membership or a free 120-day guest membership at

<https://www.acbl.org/membership/>. **If you are a new member, you must bring your ACBL number!**

Denver Unit 361 Sanction Number 2609338

Scent-free event – Please be considerate of your fellow players

NO ALCOHOL CONSUMPTION OR DRUGS ALLOWED



UNIT 361 2026 MENTOR/MENTEE PROGRAM

Learn • Laugh • Level Up Your Bridge Game!

♦ WHAT'S NEW ♦

- Flexible options to fit your schedule
- Mentors matched to your experience
- More ways to connect and have fun

♣ INDIVIDUAL MENTORING♣

- One-on-one guidance after each game
- Play with a mentor 1- 8 games per year
- Mentors can work with multiple mentees
- 5–99 MPs matched with 500+ MP mentor
- 100–250 MPs matched with 750+ MP mentor
- 250-500 MPs matched with 1,000+ MP mentor

♥ PAIRS MENTORING♥

- Improve with your regular partner
- Focus on bidding & strategy
- Each partner: 100–499 MPs
- Mentor: 1,000+ MPs
- Short-term or ongoing coaching

♠ WHY JOIN? ♠

- Build confidence in your game
- Get supportive, helpful feedback
- Meet new friends at the table

♦ SIGN UP ♦

- Ask your club manager
- Email: mentorprogram@denverbridge.org
- Tell us: Individual playing with a mentor or Pairs with comments afterwards
- We'll match you and get you started!

♠ ♥ ♦ ♣ Mentors play for free while mentoring!

All ages welcome — bring your curiosity desire to improve and positive attitude.

NEW DENVER UNIT 361 FALL SECTIONAL

NOVEMBER 13 - NOVEMBER 15, 2026

THE SUMMIT EVENT CENTER 2
411 SABLE BLVD, AURORA, CO 80011
<http://denverbridge.org>

FRIDAY, November 13

10:00 AM & 3:00 PM
10:00 AM & 3:00 PM

Lunch available for purchase before 10 am (\$10 cash or check)

Stratified Non-Life Master (NLM) Pairs Single Sessions
Stratified Open Pairs Two-Session Event
(Single Sessions Allowed)

SATURDAY, November 14

2:45 PM

10:00 AM & 3:00 PM
10:00 AM & 3:00 PM

Lunch available for purchase before 10 am (\$10 cash or check)

ANNUAL UNIT MEETING

Stratified NLM Pairs Single Sessions
Stratified Open Pairs Two-Session Event
(Single Sessions Allowed)

SUNDAY, November 15

10:00 AM and TBD

Lunch provided with team entry

Grass Roots Fund Bracketed Teams Two-Session Play-Through

Grass Roots Fund Game supports NAPs and GNTs and awards Silver MPs using a Regional formula.

NLM Pairs

0–500 masterpoints. No Life Masters. No player over 500 masterpoints.

Open and NLM Pairs

Three stratifications based on average pair masterpoints and attendance, at Director's discretion.

Open Pairs Stratification

0–<1000; 1000–<3000; 3000+

Bracketed Teams

Bracketed by average masterpoints. Teams play only teams in their bracket. Brackets may be handicapped.

Tournament Chair

Jay Silberberg

Sectional@DenverBridge.org

Director in Charge

TBD

Partnerships

Susan Grauer

Partners@DenverBridge.org

Online Partnership Desk:

<https://tinyurl.com/DenverOnlinePartnershipDesk>

Scan QR code for
Online Partnership Desk



Credit cards only. \$15 per session for ACBL/ABA members, \$4 additional fee for non-paid members.

\$168 per Sunday team, includes lunch; \$10 charge for free play participants.

Free play for ACBL members with 0-5 masterpoints.

\$8 for youth AND junior (25 & under) paid ACBL/ABA members.

Denver Unit 361 Sanction Number 2611349

Scent-free event – Please be considerate of your fellow players

NO ALCOHOL CONSUMPTION OR DRUGS ALLOWED