



Louisiana Bridge Association January 2015

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President's Message January 2015

Wishing everyone a Happy and Healthy New Year! This issue of the Kibitzer contains lots of information about the upcoming Nationals this March. Please be sure and take note of key deadlines (for parking passes, for example)...and don't forget about the Rosenblum Sectional starting on January 15th.

Thanks to our retiring board members—Pat Burke, Jackie Madden, and Mike Lappa. We appreciate your service and dedication and will miss you. Welcome to new board members Larry Federico, Lynn Giordano, and Marlene Ruckert; Ben McKown will also start a new three-year term. Since we had only four candidates for the four board openings, there will not be an election.

As most of you are aware, we have been experimenting with a new seating configuration. The purpose is to make it easier for East/West pairs to move coupled with the need to keep stationary pairs from seeing and hearing too much at the adjoining tables. This is a work in progress. We are also changing to an average masterpoint strata at our pair games (we now do this at tournaments). Hopefully, this will encourage higher point players to seek out lower point partners since strata will be determined by the Pair's average masterpoints. We welcome your feedback.

The Board will elect a new slate of Officers at the January board meeting. I have served for the past two years as President, and so it is time for me to step down. I appreciate the support you have given me; it has been an honor and a privilege.

Keenan Romig

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January Events

Jan 9-11 Jackson Sectional Fri-Sun

NAOP District Finals Sat-Sun

Jan 12 Unit Championship— morning games
extra points, no extra fees

Jan 15-18 Rosenblum Sectional Metairie,
including Memorial Recognition Ceremony—
see memorial details on next page

Jan 26-30 STAC Week Monday-Friday
\$7 entry; silver points for all games

Jan 31 ACBL International Fund Game #1
Noon Sat \$7.00 entry fee, extra points

Future Events

Feb 9-15 Baton Rouge Regional

Mar 12-22 NABC New Orleans

NABC parking for our members

As in years past, the Bridge Club will subsidize parking for our members during the National Bridge Tournament (NABC) at the downtown Marriott and Sheraton hotels. Our members can sign up in groups of four for parking passes that provide same day valet parking at either hotel for \$5. The carpooling approach is used since the standard parking rates, and subsidies, at the hotels are considerable. Additional information and sign-up sheets will be posted on a bulletin board in early January. **The cut-off date will be Feb 28th and that date is firm.** Passes, usable at either hotel, will be distributed during the week of March 3-7. If you have questions contact Paul Freese (NABC parking chair) at the Bridge Club or by email at pfreese@yahoo.com. Paul is at the club several times a week.

March NABC

Our Unit 134 is the host unit for the North American Bridge Championships, **March 12-22, 2015**, at the Marriott on Canal St and the Sheraton across the street. Our club will be closed during the tournament. This is a great opportunity for us to play against, or simply watch, the best players from all over the world.

Please also step up and help us as hosts of this event. We need your help and we are counting on you. Soon you will be seeing volunteer sign-up sheets for the various committees. Your NABC Committee Chairs are: John&Eleanor Onstott (tournament cochairs), Dick&Ellie Brammell (registration), Colleen Walker&Lowen (partnership), Jackie Madden (hospitality), Paul Freese (parking); John&Theresa Federico (intermediate/novice), Bobbie Gattuso (pretourney hospitality and local info), Jennie Sauviac (caddies), Louise Saik (volunteers), Jim Thornton (sponsors and finance)

We are in the final process of selling naming rights to all non-National events. i.e: Side games \$100; 1 session Regional event: \$250; 2 session event \$500. Honor your beloved partner, one who has passed away, your specific group, or just because.. Contact Jim Thornton, Dee Moses or Eleanor Onstott.

Hotel information: The room rates for the Marriott are \$160 per night, including internet, and for the Sheraton are \$179 per night. Reserve rooms through the ACBL website (navigate to the New Orleans NABC/Travel and Housing) or call Travel Planners at 1-855-742-9185.

LOST KEYS. Set of keys lost at daytime Christmas party Dec 19. Please check your coat pockets and purses. If you find them contact Lowen at 452-2533. Reward.

Rank Advancements

NEW JUNIOR MASTERS

Elizabeth Cordes, Diane Share

NEW CLUB MASTERS

Augusta Flanagan, Clara Perry, Anita Thigpen

NEW SECTIONAL MASTERS

Gerri Abbott, Sandra Freeman, William

Sewell, Janice Wattigny

NEW REGIONAL MASTERS

Joy Kates, Irene Labiche

NEW NABC MASTER

Barbara Pyburn

NEW LIFE MASTER

Cathy Alford

NEW BRONZE LIFE MASTER

Marilyn Seward

NEW GOLD LIFE MASTER

John Liukkonen

In Memoriam

Sue Maly

Frankie Wittenberg

Leslie Chetta

70 percent games

Dottie Toledano tourney: Wayne Weisler & Iype Koshy Thurs AM open pairs 71.38%; Judy Katz & Lowen Sat AM open pairs 70.11%
Club Open Pairs Jean Talbot & J.F. Lowenstein Dec 1 71.25% ; Carl Merlin & Doug De Montluzin Dec 4 71.72%; Dee Moses & J.F. Lowenstein 74.81%

Paul's Deal of the Month Most bridge players, ranging from novices to experts, opine that defense is the most difficult aspect of the game. A partnership's defense capability is greatly enhanced if a comprehensive set of signals is used. In response to partner's opening lead a majority of players give signal priority first to attitude, then to count and finally suit preference. In standard signaling a high card encourages the continuation of the led suit, while a low card discourages. With experience a partnership learns that an initial low card played at trick one can not only discourage the further leading of the opened suit, it can provide count or suggest that opening leader switch to an obvious alternative suit. For example, in a recent Sectional tournament I held in second seat, all not vulnerable, a rather ordinary hand, K952=xx=Kx=109xxx, when RHO opened 1D. The auction proceeded 1D-P-1H-1S-2H-3S (pre-emptive)-4H-all pass. Partner led the spade Queen. Dummy held Axx=10xxx=Q10xx=AK. SO PLEASE WAIT! BEFORE READING ON DECIDE WHAT CARD YOU WOULD HAVE PLAYED WITH MY HAND TO SIGNAL PARTNER. Have you decided how to signal and are you now READY? Your first impulse would be to signal with the 9, high to encourage, as you have the spade King and therefore like spades. But before playing think a bit further. Partner has overcalled 1S, indicating a probable five card suit, dummy has Axx in spades and controls the first lead and you hold Kxxx, leaving declarer's unseen hand with at most a singleton. So is there any probability of the defense defeating the 4H contract if partner gets in, possibly with a trump, and continues spades? The answer is a resounding "NO" because declarer will trump a second spade lead. So the correct signal must be the deuce, telling partner to look elsewhere for tricks. A thoughtful partner will see the little spade 2 you played, signaling "don't lead another spade," will then look at the dummy, see that there can be no point in switching to a club and will realize that you must have a key card in diamonds if 4H is to be defeated or limited to no overtricks. So the issue then becomes which diamond should partner lead. If partner has the diamond Ace and leads it, the defense will collect two diamonds and a heart, holding declarer to ten tricks. But a truly thoughtful partner will realize that if you (*continued at right*)

Memorial Recognition of Deceased Members

Our annual recognition of Deceased Members will take place between sessions on Saturday during the Julius Rosenblum Sectional. To have the name of a loved one, friend, or bridge partner added to the Memorial Plaque, please give the name and \$20 to a director or to Elaine Prager by January 9.

Road Warriors (tournament successes)

Baton Rouge sectional firsts (** denotes 70% game)

Thurs AM open pairs Iype Koshy & Bob Bowers**

Thurs PM open pairs Iype Koshy & Bob Bowers, Jean Talbot & J.F. Lowenstein (tie)

Fri AM open pairs James Bush & John Onstott Flight A, F. Corredine & Bill Beaushaw Flight B

Fri PM open pairs Jean Talbot & J.F. Lowenstein Flight A, F. Corredine & Bill Beaushaw Flight B; Cathy Rantz & Ray Gandolfi Flight C

Sat AM open pairs Iype Koshy & Joan Van Geffen**

Sat PM open pairs Bill Beaushaw & F. Corredine Flights A,B

Sun Swiss Paul Deal w Jan Galey, Craig & Carole Cordes Flight A; Beth Todd, Cappy McIver, J.F. Lowenstein, David Wolf Flight X

Basics from the Director

by Jennie Flynn Sauviac

For the next few months, Conduct and Etiquette will be addressed. Law 74 in particular.

Law 74 A. Proper Attitude

1. A player should maintain a courteous attitude at all times
2. A player should carefully avoid any remark or action that might cause annoyance or embarrassment to another player or might interfere with the enjoyment of the game
3. Every player should follow uniform and correct procedure in calling and playing.

hold the diamond King and it is a doubleton, the contract can be defeated by the simple expedient of leading a low diamond to your King, back a diamond to the Ace and a third diamond ruffed. My partner, an experienced and competent player, went through that exact thought process, underled the diamond Ace and defeated 4H for a game swing in the Swiss Team event. Partner's hand--QJ10xx=Ax=Axx=Jxx, also an ordinary hand but one with a "dynamic defense" available. So the spade 2 carried a double meaning--first, do not lead another spade, and second, look elsewhere for a possible set. Bridge logic took partner the final step to success. Note that if all I had held was the spade King and no diamond card, my proper signal would have been the spade 9, saying "continue spades unless you have a better plan of defense." Partner knew from the bidding that another spade would not cash, so spades could be continued safely but unproductively if partner's holdings in the other two suits were not safe to lead away from. So bridge, especially defense, is truly a partnership game, as this hand demonstrates. All good partnerships develop an appropriate defense protocol, which is as important as is having a comprehensive bidding system.