

TABLE TALK

*American Contract
Bridge League Unit 361*

www.denverbridge.org



Board of Directors 2020

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720-530-6575

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720-416-6316

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303-981-5230

Carol Gumpert
Communications Chair
303-378-6696

Vard Nelson
Partnership Chair
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713-853-7604

Donna Givner
Membership & Education Chair
402-216-9154

Bob Stansbury
Sectional Chair
Supplies Chair
303-750-5600

Rita Simas
Hospitality Chair
702-296-5303

Wayne Eckerling
I/N Chair
Regional Chair
303-829-9565

Message from the President

So... 2020... quite the year. I don't know about you but things have been very different for me. We were lucky enough to squeeze in the January Sectional and made the correct decision to cancel the March Sectional. Everything after that has been adjusting to a world of online bridge. While I don't mind online bridge, I miss the social interaction of face to face bridge and look forward to club games and tournaments once again. Just exactly when that will happen is difficult to say.

We do know the ACBL has cancelled all sanctions through the end of February of 2021, and while nothing has been formally announced I suspect that the cancellations will be a month to month decision. I do not know what the criteria the ACBL will be using. The development and availability of a vaccine will surely be a key factor along with the percentage of the population that has been vaccinated. There are then also various other state and county restrictions that we as a board will also have to take into account when considering which tournament we will first be able to hold. So, in short if you are wondering if we know when face to face bridge will start back up we don't.

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. We are not able to hold the November tournament so the information normally presented at the annual meeting will be contained within this TableTalk.



Best of luck in the rest of 2020 and please stay safe and healthy!

Rick Gardner
President, Unit 361

New Election Process | Candidates for Board: 2020-2021 Term

In a normal year, elections for new Denver ACBL Unit #361 Board (Board) members and to address other business requiring the entire Unit's input take place during the November Sectional. The current Corona Virus/COVID-19 situation has prevented us from holding a Sectional. With input of others, the current Board has decided to run the election online supplemented with mail-in ballots.

On the [Denver Bridge website](#) two new menu items have been created under the Members tab. [2020 Board Candidates](#) shows brief, candidate-provided resumes. [2020 Election Sample Ballot](#) shows an expected ballot for the election.

There is also a question on the ballot regarding whether or not to update the Unit Bylaws. It is suggested that informed voters utilize the [Unit Bylaws page](#) under the About Denver Bridge tab for information on these changes. Sometime before 7:00 AM on November 1st, the Sample Ballot page (with modifications as necessary) will be modified to become the 2020 Election Form. At that time, you will be able cast your ballot in the 2020 election.

If, as of September 13, 2020, you have a valid email address registered with the ACBL, and you've allowed the ACBL to share that address with the Unit, it will be assumed that you have the capability to utilize the online form. You will not automatically be sent a paper ballot.

If your email address appears invalid (email bounces or email attempts run into something like an Earthlink block), if you have chosen not to give the ACBL your email or if you have chosen through privacy options to prevent the Unit from obtaining your email address, a paper ballot will be sent to you at your address of record for you to return prior to November 30th.

In the case your ACBL privacy options prevent us from obtaining either your mailing or email address (there are 19 of you), we will make a reasonable attempt to contact you. Your vote will default to online.

You may vote online even if you receive a paper ballot in the mail. You may NOT vote more than once in any online/paper combination. Multiple votes by the same individual will invalidate all votes by that individual. **Online voting is encouraged.**

Questions and requests for paper ballots may be emailed to VicePresident@DenverBridge.org or alternately calling Rob Vetter at 720-530-6575.

The nominating committee is pleased to present the following candidates for the Unit board, for the two-year term beginning in 2021. The list is in alphabetical order.

Tom Barrett



I am a semi-retired professor from the University of Denver. I still teach in the graduate school of professional psychology as clinical professor emeritus at DU.

My parents both played party bridge and they were eager to teach me to play. However, I resisted until I started playing in college and graduate school. I quickly became addicted to this best of all card games. I played occasional party bridge until Paul Ossip and Norma Sands encouraged me to start playing duplicate. I joined ACBL in 2000 but I moved to Europe in 2004 to work for the World Health Organization. I played some duplicate in Geneva Switzerland but the games were not eligible for ACBL master points.

I achieved life master status in 2014, seven years after returning to the United States. I am interested in improving the popularity of duplicate bridge, particularly with young people. I am thankful for those who have helped to improve my level of play and I believe in giving back. I would appreciate your support.

Julie Clark



Hi, my name is Julie Clark. I currently serve on the Denver Unit 361 Board of Directors in the roles of Secretary and Caddy Chair.

Since retiring from 25+ years of public service, I have been able to enjoy playing duplicate bridge several times each week. It has been a joy getting reacquainted with many of you and meeting others.

Next year, I am looking forward to taking on the role of Regional Chair. My hope is to continue the previous chairman's efforts in working with the Unit, the District and the Members to make Denver's Regional one of the most popular tournaments in the country.

I love bridge, and serving on the Unit's Board of Directors is my opportunity to pay back the bridge community for all the pleasure I have taken from the game over the years. The Board of Directors is a hard-working group of individuals who share a passion for bridge, and I would love the opportunity to continue working with them for another term.

Kathleen Kelly



I was lucky to have spent 35 years teaching HS Mathematics, 29 of them at Niles West HS in Skokie, IL, a northern suburb of Chicago. During those years I coached the Math Team, sponsored the Pom Pom squad, was a member of the PTSA (Parent Teacher Student Assoc.), and was elected union VP of our teachers union. I served on the executive board of the union and was involved in contract negotiations and grievance settlements.

When we first retired in 1999, my husband Bob Murphy and I split our time between Ireland and Sun City Center (SCC), FL. We both volunteered with the SCC Emergency Squad. Bob was a first responder and an ambulance driver and I was an EMT. That 14 years of service was a very rewarding and learning experience.

We had more time while in Ireland to pursue our bridge interests. Bob and I began our duplicate bridge life when we married in 1990 and immediately became bridge fanatics. When retired, we helped the bridge club in SCC by taking charge of the food at the club's annual Sectional Tournament.

I believe that to have a viable Bridge Unit requires the commitment of its members. I will be happy to serve the Unit in whatever capacity needed.

Tom Purl



I consider it a great honor to be considered as a member of the Board for Unit 361 District 17. to that end allow me to say a few things about myself.

I retired to Denver area from Philadelphia Pennsylvania in August of 2019. While in Philadelphia I was a member of the Board of Unit 141 for 30 years. During that time, I was the President of Unit 141 for a 2-year term. I helped select playing venues and made arrangement with the venues as to what the Unit could bring from outside the venue and what we had to allow the venue to supply. I was also a member of District 4 Board of Governors for 20 years. I helped select venues for Regionals along with arranging for outside items that we could provide.

I am a qualified Club Director and have taken and passed the ACBL exam for Tournament Assistance. I have Directed at all Sectionals in Unit 141 for the last 5 years, we had a Sectional about every 3 months. I also was the partnership chairman for all the Sectionals. I also Directed at the last 4 Regionals in Philadelphia and last 3 Regionals in Lancaster Pa. I was the partnership chairman for 3 Nationals that were held in Philadelphia and for the World Bridge Federation that were also held in Philadelphia. I also acted as a view graph operator for the World Team games.

Rita Simas



Hello, this is Rita Simas, like my fellow nominees, I have been playing bridge for many, many years. My logic teacher in college volunteered to teach anyone in class how to play bridge since it was a wonderful way to learn deductive reasoning. I was 19 at the time, and I shocked my mother by having two tables of bridge at our home. She and I would play in bridge tournaments for many years after that.

I am currently the Hospitality Chair, and I would be honored to continue that role in the next term.

A company transfer from Los Angeles brought me to Denver in 2007 as part of the Boeing and Lockheed merge of their Rocket programs. I have fallen in love with this city and state, and I have elected to retire here.

In addition to playing bridge I am an active volunteer in various non-profit activities as well as holding a variety of elected positions within the Democratic Party organizations here in Colorado. I collect colorful art and enjoy searching second hand stores for unique, memorable objects de art and architecture. I share my home with an older Border Collie mix, Piper, and two incorrigible cats, Tov and Sherlock. All are rescues, and they shower all guests with affection and demands for pets (except the more reserved Sherlock).

Hoping to get back to face-to-face bridge when it is safe for us, but love the Denver Metro Virtual Club environment and play five days per week.

Treasurer's report
As of September 24, 2020

| | | |
|---------------------------|------------|----|
| ASSETS | | \$ |
| Current Assets | | |
| Checking/Savings | | |
| Checking at Wells Fargo | 69,379.00 | |
| Savings | 59,355.00 | |
| Total Checking/Savings | 128,734.00 | |
| INCOME | | \$ |
| Dues | 4,223.00 | |
| Directory | 0 | |
| Interest | 19.85 | |
| Other | 0 | |
| Tournaments (Net Profits) | | |
| January 2019 | 7,508.00 | |
| EXPENSES | | \$ |
| Equipment Storage | -1,440.00 | |

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

The Jan Janitschke Award

It is with great please we would like to announce the Jan Janitschke Award. Last September Denver Unit 361 lost a bridge legend when Jan Janitschke passed away. An ACBL Grand Life Master winning four National Championships, Jan amassed 19,038 masterpoints during his career. He was also designated a World Master by the World Bridge Federation and placed 4th in the 1982 World Pairs Championship. While we will not soon forget the impact Jan had on the bridge community, a great opportunity recently came our way. Jan's wife, Bonnie Smith, approached the Unit Board with an offer to establish an annual award in Jan's memory. She was particularly focused on furthering Jan's interest in bridge education and the mentoring of newer players. A committee was formed to pursue her idea and the "Jan Janitschke Award" was born.

We are pleased to announce Bonnie has generously agreed to fund this award to be presented annually "In recognition of outstanding teaching or mentoring contributions to the membership of Denver Bridge Unit 361." It is hoped that the award recipient can be announced at the May Regional Pro-Am game each year. The first award will be made for contributions during 2020. Nominations will be solicited from the entire Unit membership with the winner chosen from these submissions by the Unit Board. We will be asking for your nominations early in January, but please start thinking now about who you would like to see honored with this award. Our criteria for nomination includes the following:

- What has this person done for advancing bridge education and mentoring in the Denver area?
- How has this person impacted you and/or the bridge community?
- Who has contributed time and energy to help less-experienced Unit members become better, more confident bridge players?

Complete details about selection procedures will be sent to the membership with the nomination forms. The Unit Board approved the proposal for this award at its September meeting. We are pleased Bonnie Smith is happy with the prestigious honor we created as shown in the following message:

The family of Jan Janitschke wish to thank the Denver Unit 361 Board for the consideration and approval of a new award, "The Jan Janitschke Award", to be presented to the person who has performed outstanding teaching or mentoring contributions to the membership of the Denver Bridge Unit 361. We also wish to give special thanks and appreciation to the members of the committee that established the criteria and procedures for the award:

Chairperson Donna Givner, Julie Clark, Wayne Eckerling, Jennifer O'Neill and Sheryl Siegel.

Jan resided in Denver for most of his life and he dedicated his life to the pursuit of excellence in bridge. He loved the people, the game, teaching and mentoring, and thoroughly enjoyed the entire Colorado Bridge community. This award exemplifies everything he believed in and we are delighted that it will be a tribute to his memory and legacy. All members of the Denver Unit are encouraged to submit their nominations to the Unit Board when the dedicated e-mail address is provided.

Sincerely,

Bonnie Smith

If you would like to know more about Jan's life and many accomplishments away from the bridge table, see the in-depth article "Farewell to Our Gentle Giant" in the October, 2019 issue of Table Talk.

Milestones 2020 (September 2019-August 2020)

Life Masters

Marilyn C O Neil
Rita Simas
Beth Barnet
Elizabeth McKay
William Fry
Romie Sachs

Bronze Life Masters

Brian Berlund
Scott Kelly
Katherine Demong
Robert Stansbury
Donald Fuerst
Wayne Wong
Anjenette Cooper
Judith Pooge
Linda Priboth
Charlie Drotar
Max Farnsworth
Kathryn O'Connell

Silver Life Masters

Elneta Justice
Arjun Singh
Robert Battin
Merrily Van Zevern
Greg Smith
Kay Freyer

Ruby Life Masters

Kris Klamut
Jennifer O'Neill
Joan Kushner
Steve Wheeler
Gerald Benedict
Lian Walliser
Shirley Heinsohn
Susan Cuff
Rey Pena
Ruth Pena

Gold Life Masters

Jonathan Hellman
Sung Mae Bleck
Ed Yosses
Joan Thompson
Marilyn Ballon
Debra Hyatt

Sapphire Life Masters

Karen Trujillo
Dolly Hauge

Diamond Life Masters

Dom Di Felice
Jeffery Holligan
Loie West
Susan Grauer
Alice Kinningham

Emerald Life Masters

None

Platinum Life Masters

None

In Memoriam

(September 2019-August 2020)

Marilyn Eber
Norma Sands
Robert Schulz
John Swenson
Judy Ude
John Van Ness
Nancy Wickes

Unit 361 Membership by Rank

As of September 1, 2020

| | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| <i>Total membership</i> | | 1376 |
| <i>Rank</i> | <i>Point reqs</i> | <i>No. in unit</i> |
| Rookie | 0-5 | 324 |
| Junior Master | 5+ | 158 |
| Club Master | 20+ | 136 |
| Sectional Master | 50+ | 93 |
| Regional Master | 100+ | 121 |
| NABC Master | 200+ | 71 |
| Advanced Life Master | 200+ | 9 |
| Life Master | 300/500 | 71 |
| Bronze Life Master | 500/750 | 129 |
| Silver Life Master | 1000 | 85 |
| Ruby Life Master | 1500 | 73 |
| Gold Life Master | 2500 | 34 |
| Sapphire Life Master | 3500 | 31 |
| Diamond Life Master | 5000 | 24 |
| Emerald Life Master | 7500 | 6 |
| Platinum Life Master | 10000 | 10 |
| Grand Life Master | 10000* | 1 |

* and a national title

Online Directory

Thanks to Rob Vetter, with assistance from Sheryl Siegel, Unit 361 now has an online directory. You can find it on the Denver website (denverbridge.org) in the Membership menu.

District 17 Update

By Jennifer O'Neill, Treasurer

It's hard to find positive news during this pandemic, but the district is in great shape financially and wants to support the units & clubs. We have been reducing expenses & streamlining communication. We are further reducing expenses during this time by holding all our meetings online & cutting all unnecessary expenditures. If you have an idea for education or membership building, please contact me or the unit & we will work with you to apply for a grant.

Due to low open rates and the high cost of publication, D17 has decided effective January 1 to end publication of the Scorecard. The Bridge Buzz will continue to be published bimonthly. We redesign has begun & we hope the new site will be up by January 1. We expect our new site to reduce the impact of not receiving the Scorecard.

Rob Southworth from Cheyenne is retiring at the end of the year. D17 is fortunate that he has agreed to continue to work on web design. Sharon Smith from Steamboat was elected to serve that area & we welcome her! Lakin Hines, Mesa & Steve Norberg, El Paso were re-elected for 3 year terms.

National has voted to reduce the number of districts by ½ over the next couple of years. District 17 will continue to

contain the same units and states that it currently does. The only change will be that District 17 will become District 10. These changes will reduce expenses at the national level while still fairly representing the membership.

All tournaments are cancelled through Feb 2021. The Tucson regional was scheduled for March 1 but since no contract was signed that tournament is also cancelled. D17's first regional will be the Denver regional starting Tuesday, May 25th, 2021. Please mark your calendar & plan to attend. I look forward to seeing you!