

UNIT 131  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President:  
Aline Zimmer

1st Vice President:  
Tom Cranshaw

2nd Vice President:  
Alan Hierseman

Treasurer:  
Rajeev Bansal

Secretary:  
Beth Malone

Past President:  
Bar Kaelter

At-Large Members

Term Expires 2023

Randy Klein  
Max McGinn  
Trisha Pitts  
Paul Pressly

Term Expires 2024

Hong Chen  
Vicky Muir  
Becky Stasi  
Shawn Tate  
Judy Woodfill

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Notice of 2023 Election	2
Notice of 2023 Annual Meeting	2
2023 Upcoming Tournaments	2
2023 Board Candidates	3
2023 Unit 131 Election Ballot	5
Our Rising Stars	6
Come and Play	6
Bridge Builds Friendship	7
Spring Tournament Flyer	8

# THE DECLARER



THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF UNIT 131 OF THE AMERICAN CONTRACT BRIDGE LEAGUE

A P R I L 2 0 2 3

## From the President



Dear Unit 131 Members,

This is our “election edition” which includes a ballot to print and mail. Alternatively, you can vote electronically – an email will be sent to you if you’ve opted into ACBL emails, or you can vote in person at the Spring Sectional Tournament on May 5th and before 9am on May 6th . We have candidates for the seven open positions on the Unit 131 Board of Directors and it’s important that you vote. The call for candidates was in the previous Declarer, posted on the bulletin board at the Bridge Studio, and many of you were approached by members of the Nominating Committee. While it’s too late to run for the Board this year, consider it for next year – just let Bar Kaelter know you’re interested.

I’d like to thank retiring Board members Randy Klein, Max McGinn and Judy Woodfill for their service. It won’t be the same without you! I also want to thank the members of the Nominating Committee who recruited the slate of candidates: Bar Kaelter, who chaired the committee, Marilyn Fabian, Rich Mellinger, Marlin Rueb, and Shawn Tate.

The Spring Sectional will be held May 5-7 at the Jewish Community Center, with the annual meeting to be held on Saturday, May 6th before the second session at approximately 1:30. Please make an effort to attend the meeting – **your participation counts!** Thank you to those who stepped up as leaders for the tournament: Tournament Chair Liz Rhea and Partnership Chair Shawn Tate.

If there’s anything you think should be addressed by the Board, or included in this quarterly newsletter, please reach out to me. Happy bridge playing!

Sincerely,

Aline Zimmer  
Unit 131 Board of Directors



email all submissions/requests to:

Declarer Editor — Aline Zimmer [alinezimmer50@gmail.com](mailto:alinezimmer50@gmail.com)

Layout Designer — Beth Malone [bdawson1346@gmail.com](mailto:bdawson1346@gmail.com)

# Notice of 2023 Election

The annual election of the Unit 131 Board of Directors will be completed by 9am Saturday, May 6th. You can vote using any **one** of the following methods:

In-person voting at the Kansas City Spring Sectional, all day May 5th and before 9am May 6th at the Jewish Community Center in Overland Park.

Electronic voting: members who have an email address listed with the ACBL will receive an email notification and can fill out the electronic ballot.

Mail-in voting: print and complete the ballot included in this issue of *The Declarer* and follow the instructions in boldface. All mail-in ballots must be received by April 30th, 2023.

Information about each of the candidates is included in this issue.

# Notice of 2023 Annual Meeting

The Unit 131 Annual Meeting will be held on Saturday, May 6th at the Jewish Community Center in Overland Park between sessions of the Spring Sectional (approximately 1:30.)

Agenda:

President's Report

Treasurer's Report

2023 Awards

Election Results

# 2023 Upcoming Tournaments

## **Unit 131 Kansas City Sectionals**

May 5-7 Jewish Community Center

August 25-27 Jewish Community Center

November 3-5 Jewish Community Center

## **District 15 Regionals**

April 10-16 Midwest City (Oklahoma City), OK

June 19-24 Broken Arrow (Tulsa), OK

October 10-14 Wichita, KS

December 26-31 Overland Park, KS

## **District 15 NLM (Non-Life Master) Regionals**

May 17-20 Topeka, KS

July 27-29 Bentonville, AR

# 2023 Board Candidates



**John Kirkland  
Douglass ("Kirk")**

I started playing bridge in high school and it became a significant part of my life through my college years. I continued to play until I got married and then stopped. I retired in 2016 from a company that I had founded in 1993. I wanted to get back into bridge and called Lee Goodman to ask about the Bridge Studio. Lee informed me that my past experience (Goren and Culbertson) was pretty much useless. I thought he was joking but agreed to take the beginners' lessons. Needless to say, I quickly discovered that Lee was right and that the game had changed dramatically. I have found new friends and a great deal of enjoyment (and frustration) as I have slowly relearned the game. I think others could get the same benefits. I want to help in any way I can to support and grow duplicate bridge in our community.

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I play bridge 3-4 days a week at different duplicate clubs in the area. I have helped with tournaments and played in several sectional and regional tournaments. When not playing bridge, I sing with the Kansas City Chorus of Sweet Adelines and volunteer at the Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts. Church, family, friends, and pickleball round out my activities.

I was appointed to serve on the board for one year a couple of years ago and had a positive experience. If elected, I will do my best to share the enjoyment and benefits of playing bridge, support bridge education, continue growth for future generations and help make decisions for the good of all.



**Jana Larsen**

Growing up, I was aware of the game of bridge as my mom played regularly. In September 2022, after seeing the classes advertised by the Junior League of Kansas City, Missouri, I took the plunge to learn how to play and haven't looked back. I've enjoyed the new challenge, meeting new people and building skills that will last a lifetime. Sharing this new bridge journey with my friends is a daily occurrence and many are interested and talk about learning. I hope through continued conversation and encouragement to bring in newer players to love the game as much as I do.

When I'm not at the Bridge Studio, you will find me working as a full-time Realtor serving home buyers and sellers in the greater Kansas City area; spending time with Bobby and our two greyhounds, Molly and Carter; serving on the board of the Youth Symphony of Kansas City; volunteering with the Junior League; and watching my nephews play Little League. I look forward to the opportunity to serve on the Board to support its mission, to build awareness of the game of bridge, and to help preserve the Bridge Studio as a location for all those who love the game of bridge to come together.



**Jana Henderson**

# 2023 Board Candidates



Trisha Pitts

I am in my first term on the board, serving as chair of the finance committee. I am willing and ready to continue in this position if elected to serve again. My background is as a CPA doing public accounting and development work.



Paul Pressly

I have been a bridge player and teacher in Kansas City since moving here in 1985. I served on the Board 20 years ago and again this past year, and have served as both District and Unit recorder. I support the Bridge Studio with my presence on a daily basis, volunteer regularly with the Holiday Regional, and co-chaired the recent fall Sectional.



Barbara Waldron

I grew up in Prairie Village, Kansas, and except for a few years in Germany while my husband served as a dentist in the U.S. Army, I have lived in this area my whole life. I graduated from KU with an education degree and taught middle school social studies and language arts in the Shawnee Mission School District for a total of 22 years. I have two young grandchildren who live far away in Michigan, so I have time for friends and hobbies, which include travel, reading, knitting, jigsaw puzzles, and my games - mah jongg, canasta, and, of course, my favorite, bridge. I enjoyed working on the Mentor games post Covid, when many players were not coming back to the various venues. The mentor games brought players of all levels together, but the success did not carry over long term. If I am elected to the Board, I would like to brainstorm with others some ideas to grow participation in this game we all love.



Marlin Rueb

I practiced dentistry for 17 years, the first two as a U.S. Air Force dentist and the next 15 years as a private practitioner in Kansas City, Missouri. In those years I also taught part time at the dental school. In 1979 I returned to my home town to work on and manage the family farm. This career lasted for 40 years. About 25 years ago Anabelle and I decided to spend our winters in Overland Park. During this time, I began to play serious bridge at our club at 95th and Metcalf. In 2018 I retired and we have lived in Overland Park on a year-round basis.

Over the years I have become aware of the amount of work and organization that is required to keep the club and tournaments functioning well. I have decided that it is time for me to pitch in and help out if the members wish me to do so. When I play, I play to the best of my ability, but I like to tease people and get teased in return. I think that this makes the game more fun. Some of you might also know me as the man who walks cats!

# 2023 Unit 131 Election Ballot

Voting for Members-at-Large to serve on the Unit 131 Board of Directors is now open. There are seven open positions – 2 one-year terms and 5 two-year terms. Please support the Unit by casting your vote. Return the ballot to the address below no later than April 30, 2023. Alternatively, you may drop it off at the KC Spring Sectional by 9am Saturday, May 6 or vote electronically if you receive a ballot by that method.

## Unit Officers (Automatically elected)

1st Vice President          Hong Chen

## Members-at-Large (vote for up to 7)

Kirk Douglass	<input type="checkbox"/>	Jana Henderson	<input type="checkbox"/>
Jana Larsen	<input type="checkbox"/>	Trisha Pitts	<input type="checkbox"/>
Paul Pressly	<input type="checkbox"/>	Martin Rueb	<input type="checkbox"/>
Barbara Waldron	<input type="checkbox"/>		

The list of candidates and their backgrounds are published in this newsletter.

Unit 131 Members may vote by completing and sealing this ballot in an envelope along with a separate sheet of paper with your name, signature and ACBL number. This is to ensure your privacy. Send to the address below:

**ACBL Unit 131  
c/o Bar Kaelter  
13228 Windsor St.  
Leawood, KS 66209**

***All mail-in ballots must be received by April 30, 2023.***

# Our Rising Stars



## NEW LIFE MASTERS



**New Life Master**  
Trisha Pitts

**New Sapphire Life Masters**  
Lawrence Gibbons

**New Bronze Life Masters**  
Randall Klein

**New Diamond Life Masters**  
David Braverman

**New Ruby Life Masters**  
John Hanger



## RISING STARS



**New Junior Masters**  
Jim Christopher  
Mary Jo Cousins  
Huned Gangriwala  
Kathy Lewman  
Chris Watkins  
Joyce Weiblen  
Jian Weng

**New Regional Masters**  
Wensheng Wang

**New NABC Masters**  
Carole Kimsey  
Robert Ross  
Holli Williams

**New Club Masters**  
James Kirby  
Thomas Roszak

**New Advanced NABC Masters**  
Karen Bowers  
Judith McKarnin

# It is Springtime, Come on Out & Play!

By Vicki Muir

While bridge was once described as “the social game invented for anti-social people,” it is really more fun to play with real people. During Covid, the internet provided a way to play safely. Now, most of the face-to-face clubs have reopened and bridge can be played the way we all like it best.

One of the nicest things about club bridge is that no one has to do anything to make it happen. No house cleaning, no cooking, and no setting up of tables and chairs. Just come as you are. The more the merrier.

Contact your favorite partner and make a date to play at your favorite club or in the next tournament. The sounds and rhythms of the game are welcoming and reassuring. Life is back to normal!

# Bridge Builds Friendship

By Aline Zimmer

Games are about fun, friends, strategy and friendly competition, and bridge is a game, after all. Here are the top ten goodwill gestures from Roger Smith that we can use at the table to make a connection with our table mates.

- Greet and welcome opponents.
- Always say, "Director, please."
- Lead or place dummy before you write on your score card.
- Mentor a new player.
- Say "Thank you, partner."
- Compliment the opponents' play.
- Discuss hands after the game.
- Accept defeat and victory with grace.
- Leave a tidy table.
- Smile often!

We need friends at all phases of life, through the highs and the lows. Research proves the value and necessity of friendship. For example, animals can form lifelong friendships with individuals that are not from their own species. Many studies have shown that chimpanzees, baboons, horses, elephants, dolphins and whales will make friends outside their own species. Wouldn't the world be a special place if we befriended those who are a little different from us?

Fun facts:

In a lifetime, you make 396 friends, but only 1 out of 12 friendships lasts. That gives us 33 long-lasting friendships.

Not having friends can be dangerous to your health, as dangerous as smoking or being overweight. Treat your partner and opponents well!

A 2004 study published in the *American Sociological Review* said that the average number of trusted friends fell by a third in the last 20 years. During that timeframe, the proportion of people with no confidants doubled. Don't let that happen to you!

It's the friendship aspect within a marriage that makes it last. According to John Gottman, successful marriages are based on deep friendship. Mutual respect for each other's company, plus a good knowledge of each other's quirks, likes and dislikes, strengthens the marriage. When faced with major illness, individuals with a good social network are in a better position to survive. According to a 10-year study by the Aged Care Centre at Flinders University, people over 70 with an extensive network tend to live 22% longer than those with less extensive networks.

Your brain reacts the same way whether you or your friend is in danger. Friends make us more empathetic, caring for others as much as for ourselves.

Friendship is the emotion babies recognize even before they start walking or talking. According to a study conducted at the University of Chicago, babies can understand social relationships. "Infants are able to watch strangers interact and then make inferences about whether those two people are likely to be friends," said Amanda Woodward, the study's co-author.

Playing bridge forms friendships, and friendships increase longevity. Conclusion: play bridge, make friends, and live longer!

# Kansas City *Spring* Sectional

May 5-7, 2023

Jewish Community Center

5801 W. 115th St. Overland Park, KS

Between Nall and Lamar



## *Tournament Schedule*

**Friday, May 5th & Saturday, May 6th**

9:30 A.M. Flight A - No restrictions (Unlimited/3000)

Flight B - No player over 1500 (1500/750)

Flight C - No player over 300 (300/100)

2:00 P.M. Flight A - No restrictions (Unlimited/3000)

Flight B - No player over 1500 (1500/750)

Flight C - No player over 300 (300/100)

*Stratification within flights based on average masterpoints*

**Sunday, May 7th, 2023**

**Bracketed Swiss Teams**

10:00 A.M. & TBD Brackets of 7-9 teams are created using each team's total MP. The Director starts with the teams at the top and works toward the bottom. This provides a game where teams with similar skills and experience play against each other. Each team's captain is responsible for reporting their total team points at time of registration.

## *Tournament Contacts*

Chairperson: Liz Rhea 913-957-4320 qarhea6@aolcom

Partnerships: Shawn Tate 816-465-1540 tatorcoupmil@yahoo.com

Director-In-Charge: Joan Paradeis

Sanction #2305313

## *ACBL Covid Protocols*

All Players and volunteers must show proof of Vaccination. Covid protocols subject to change. See our website for updates.

## *Pre-registration Requested*

If you played in a 2022 Unit 131 tournament, including the Kansas Regional, you can pre-register without sending your vaccination card. Just send an email to

Alan Hierseman @ [alan26482648@yahoo.com](mailto:alan26482648@yahoo.com)

If you did not attend, send a copy of your vaccination card.

## *Entry Fees*

Flighted Pairs: \$14 per person per session\*

Swiss Teams: \$168 per team for 2 sessions\*

### **Cashless Tournament**

\*\$4 additional for unpaid ACBL members

Non-ACBL members must join on annual basis or buy temporary one-month membership for \$7.99

## *Hospitality*

Donuts, fresh fruit for morning sessions

Friday/Saturday lunch available for purchase

Hot lunch included for Swiss Teams

## *Unit 131 Website*

[www.acbl-unit131.org](http://www.acbl-unit131.org)

