UNIT 131
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President:
Aline Zimmer

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Tom Cranshaw

2nd Vice President:
Alan Hierseman

Treasurer:
Rajeev Bansal

Secretary:
Beth Malone

Past President:
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Term Expires 2023
Randy Klein
Max McGinn
Trisha Pitts

Term Expires 2024
Hong Chen
Vicky Muir
Paul Pressly
Becky Stasi
Shawn Tate
Judy Woodfill

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THE DECLARER

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

JANUARY 2023

From the President

Dear Unit 131 Members,

Our president, Marti Malcolm, has resigned for health reasons and I've been voted in to take her place. Thank you, Marti, for the great job you did. My hope for the new year is for the unit to continue to encourage face to face bridge despite the tremendous change in habits that have been brought about by the pandemic and to continue the friendliness and camaraderie that makes playing bridge so worthwhile. We're social beings first and foremost; the game is an excuse to match wits with our friends.

Our recent tournaments were successful. Thanks to our hard-working tournament co-chairs Paul Pressly and Beckie Stasi, the November Sectional was well-run and turned a profit. While the results of the December Regional are not yet in, we had lots of positive feedback and we hope it was profitable as well. Chair Alan Hierseman, with help from Richard Jones, did a fabulous job of running a long tournament with many moving parts. Without the help of all the volunteers we cannot hold these events, so I offer a heartfelt thanks to you all.

We have Board elections coming up. I encourage anyone who is interested in serving on the Board to contact Bar Kaelter, Nominating Committee chair. We meet monthly and wish to have good representation of both long-time and newer players to offer a balanced perspective of history and experience with new ideas and skills. Information on the Board, including minutes, bylaws, etc., can always be found on the unit website at www.acbl-unit131.org.

May the coming year be one in which each of us is filled with joy and kindness.

Sincerely,

Aline Zimmer
Unit 131 Board of Directors

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Kansas City Regional 2022 Was Well Attended

By Alan Hierseman

Unit 131, along with District 15, held the annual Kansas City Regional on December 26-31 at the Sheraton Hotel in the Cottonwood Ballroom. It was a beautiful room and allowed the Sheraton to manage and staff our event much better because we were on their property and staff did not need to walk across to the Convention Center, where the tournament was played in past years. The weather cooperated by providing wonderful days.

We had 756 tables in play along with 14 in NAP for a total of 770 tables. This was an increase of 300 tables over the 470 tables in 2021.

459 players from across the country played, and a total of 5786 masterpoints were awarded to players. Topping the list was Chris Compton, a well-known professional player from Omaha, NE who is the 10th all-time masterpoint winner in ACBL history, and his partner Tod Moses. They won every event they entered during the week: the two Soloway KO's, the top bracket of the Friday Bracketed Swiss and Saturday's A/X Swiss.

Our local players were fantastic -- numbers 5-12 of the top masterpoint winners were all local. The top local player was Chad Fisher with 77.44 masterpoints, followed by Don Stack (number 36 overall in ACBL history) and Don Brooker with 77.41, Paul Pressly with 71.73, Bill and Vicki Muir with 71.51, Beckie Stasi with 69.41 and Shawn Tate with 68.95.

The tournament got off to a shaky start as two of our directors were stranded due to Southwest Airlines issues. Our local director, Joan Paradeis, was able to handle 47.5 tables by herself until Carol showed up at 2:30, and Melody arrived just in time for the evening session. Shawn Tate was outstanding in helping get the games started. Unit 131 appreciates you both.

Team games were popular with the players. There were always 18+ tables in play every day. We will plan on scheduling them again this year.

There were two guest speakers (a third got stuck in San Diego --thanks SWA) that were entertaining and enlightening. I hope to have more next year.

I heard many positive remarks about the playing area, food, hospitality and directors. This should translate into more players coming this year as word continues to spread that Kansas City knows how to put on a tournament. The Ballroom holds 100 tables; will it not be fun when we have to spill out into the hallway?

There were many volunteers who helped with the tournament in the areas of table set ups, staffing for Covid registration (which ran very smoothly after we made improvements from our experience with the Sectionals), and taking down tables and bidding boxes. Thank you to all of you. Without your help, it would be expensive and difficult to put on a tournament.

Richard Jones was extremely involved in organizing, preparing and implementing the plan and I am very grateful for his help, John and Bob Zipf hosting hospitality, Aline Zimmer in Covid registration, and Kathy Breen was outstanding at partnership. I am looking forward to our next Regional.

Holiday Regional 2022 Survey Results

While just 63 attendees responded to the after-tournament survey, the results were very positive. They graded the event as follows:

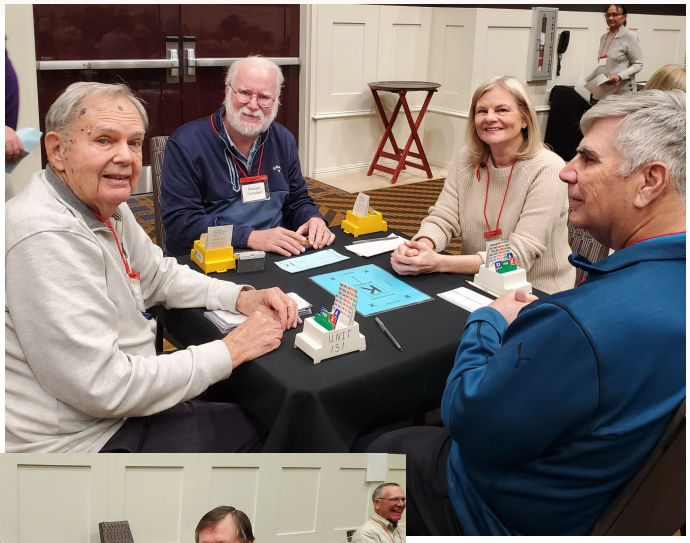
Rating Summaries:

	Grade	Votes
Overall Recommendation	A	62
Game Directors	B+	63
Game Customer Service	A-	63
Daily Bulletin	B+	63
Facility Services	B+	63
Customer Service Desks	B+	63
Hotel	B+	63

A selection of comments illustrates the general consensus:

- Great lunches and the price was right!
- Loved the Soloway knockouts.
- I think we need to renew the practice of putting out cards reminding players of common bridge courtesy. You'll probably hear from him directly, but a newbie friend of mine was essentially accused of lying by one of his opponents. If it had been my first tourney, I can assure you that I'd be done with tournaments.
- Great pencils!
- Excellently run tournament. Wonderful free lunches and hospitality. Everyone was very friendly and helpful.
- Food at the hotel was over the top good!
- You have done a great job. Get rid of Covid protocols.
- Excellent, tasty lunch.

Fun at Holiday regional



Fun at Holiday regional

Now Accepting Nominations for the Unit Board of Directors

Each year we elect about half of our Board member positions and any open officer positions at our Spring Sectional and Annual meeting, May 5th to 7th this year. We have 2 Board member positions open for a 2-year term, 1 Board position open for a 1-year term, and the 1st Vice-President position open for a 1-year term.

If you are interested in running for one of these positions, please notify Bar Kaelter, Nominating Committee Chair, at baruchk@aol.com. Also, if you know of someone who you think would be good to fill one of these positions, please contact that person to get their agreement and then forward that name to Bar Kaelter at baruchk@aol.com. All proposed nominations must be received **no later than Monday, February 6th.**

Our Rising Stars

NEW LIFE MASTERS

New Life Master
Susanne Kissane
Marilyn Fabian
Terry Martin

New Silver Life Masters
Bonnie Buchbinder
Mary Schneider
Janice Strop

New Bronze Life Masters
Howard Mick
Jane Pettinger
Susan Soha
Kaye Summers
Glenn Smith
John Woodfill
Susanne Kissane

New Sapphire Life Masters
Alan Hierseman
Connie Leonard

RISING STARS

New Junior Masters
Craig Harris
Sara Morris
Elizabeth Pendleton
Raymond Swanson
Vernon Van Slyke
Ann Vering
John Vering

New Club Masters
Janet Allton
Linda Martin

New Sectional Masters
David Pease

New NABC Masters
Valerie Bante
Linda Litton
Judy Zimmermann

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
November 16-19 Oklahoma City, OK

License Plate Quiz

Answers: 1.Never Late 2. Calculate 3. Exsqueeze Me. 4. Accelerate 5. Wait for me! 6. Endless Summer 7. Be Nice to Us 8. I see you laughin' 9. Guten Tag 10. Creative 11. Be seein' you 12. Too Quick for you 13. Tennis, Anyone? 14. Run Forest Run.