

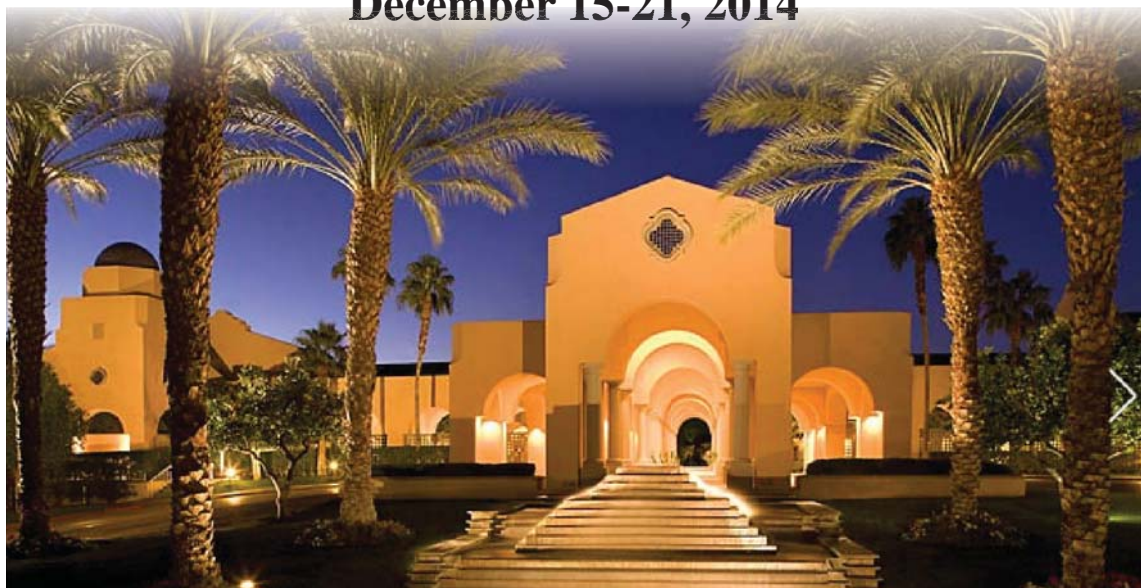
The Western Conference CONTRACT BRIDGE FORUM



Happy
Thanksgiving!

Volume 89 - Issue 11 - November 2014

Palm Springs Regional December 15-21, 2014



The Fabulous Westin Mission Hills Resort & Spa in Rancho Mirage



By Mick Riccio
Tournament
Manager

If a full week of
some dynamic
bridge is now

on your must-do list, the Palm Springs Regional – D22's flagship tournament – is the one to choose! The 2014 Annual is December 15 through December 21. This third largest in the United States in 2013, returns to fabulous Westin Mission Hills Resort & Spa – one of the premier facilities in the country. Reserve online at PalmSpringsRegional.com or call the Westin directly at 760 328-5955 or Westin reservations at 800 335-3545. Be sure to ask for the ACBL special rate of \$138.00 (available through November 29).

No resort fee, and if you book five consecutive nights you will receive a \$50.00 property credit!

This huge regional is stocked with a full schedule of games, as well as the usual Palm Springs terrific player opportunities. Free coffee daily, free parking and a wonderful venue make this a must tournament. See our ad inside.

This Holiday Season tournament continues to place a priority on I/N and advancing players, including a new and exciting opportunity to win not only masterpoints but trophies! As tournament manager, I will kickoff the tournament

lecture series, Monday, December 15, 2014 at 10:00 a.m. with a two hour session on Italian Cuebids. Reservations are required; please contact Assistant Tournament Chair Nancy Erickson by email at erick3333@aol.com or 760 200-0265. Snacks will be served.

This year the regional will hold a 50/50 raffle to support Southern California's ACBL youth participation in the YNABC to be held in Chicago in July, 2015.

We genuinely appreciate the Palm Springs Unit 533 Board for underwriting this important initiative.

Club Director Course

Last, but not least, a Club Director Course will be conducted onsite by Director Arleen Harvey on Sunday-Monday, December 14-15. The course cost is \$80.00; checks made payable to ACBL District 22, and sent to Teri Atkinson.

Please contact Teri at 9911 Artistry Rose Court, Bakersfield CA 93311, phone 661 664-1678, or email teriatk@sbcglobal.net

December in the Desert – it is the place to be, and we hope to see you there!

Ventura Halloween Regional October 27-November 2

By Teri Atkinson
Tournament Co-Chair

It's that time again... get your Halloween costumes ready for the contest on October 31 during our fifth annual Halloween Regional in Ventura. Okay, if you really don't want to participate in the costume contest, there will still be plenty for you to do:

- Enjoy our great hospitality.

- Check out our new schedule, which includes lots of teams games.

- Participate in the "Gold Rush" ... gold points, of course!

- Take advantage of Maritha Pottenger's "Bridge Boot Camp," a special program designed for newer players.

- Ride the train to Ventura and get a free transfer to the hotel. (For that one, contact Co-chair Joe Conti at 805 492-8811.)

Riverside Regional Reprised February 2-8, 2015

By Teri Atkinson

The Riverside Regional is finally going back to its regular time slot: the official dates in 2015 are February 2-8. Yes, you were just there in June... but didn't you love the remodeled facility and the fine hospitality and event schedule? So... you will want to return soon!

We have three great hotels ready

to house you: Marriott Riverside at the Convention Center, Hyatt Place Riverside, and The historic Mission Inn. Check the ad inside for all the wonderful bridge rates at these great hotels.

Maritha Pottenger and her popular Bridge Boot Camp will be there all week for the newer and advancing players.

Put this one on your calendars right away!

District Direction

By Ken Monzingo
National Board Representative



"I know God will not give me anything I can't handle. I just wish He didn't trust me so much."
—Mother Teresa (nee: Anjeze Gonxhe Bojashiu 1910-1997)

Robert Nessen, former White House Press Secretary for Gerald Ford, once said: "Nobody believes the official spokesman... but everybody trusts the unidentified source." That scenario appears to be upon us now in ACBL land. CEO Robert Harman has recently cancelled an expensive ACBL Score+ project and chosen to funnel those monies and efforts into in-house improvements of the present Score – "Score" is the software program directors use to run bridge games, etc. The naysayers are crying foul – much more interesting than just nodding acceptance.

I believe we are all occasionally guilty of jumping to conclusions without facts to achieve a result we would think is more fun than looking at the (sometimes boring) truth. Isn't it more exciting to blast away at someone (something) to make them look bad, than to gather in a circle, have a beer and laud how good people are? Trust in our national politicians is at an all-time low in rhetoric... and somehow this is spilling over into our bridge association.

Trust. Before I made my way onto the national board of directors, I admit I enjoyed engaging in a little ACBL-bashing. I didn't have any facts, mind you, but surely wanted to be a member of the "we know all" crowd. Now, after years of dealing with the myriad of issues in governing this 75-year-old successful association, I have gained enormous respect for the efforts of the board's approach to better – or maintain status quo – of bridge in the new world circa 2014. And with our CEO's improvements on all aspects of ACBL – including the Score upgrade.

Questions: People ask me why I have not taken a public stand on the ACBL Score+ \$1.5M cancellation, since I've been so vocal about our International overspending. I can give you two answers: facts and trust. I do not have definite facts that anything more than a bad business decision went down, causing the termination of the attempt to improve the current ACBL Score (which was written decades ago). And often, maybe naively, I choose trust over accusations – especially those lacking sufficient smoking guns.

More Questions re what happened: Poor initial contract? Insufficient early research on who was best to attempt the massive project? Failure to put it out to bid? And/or hesitating to cancel early when production schedules were lagging? And recently: slowness to clarify the situation in understandable lay language?

I give you my three answers:

No. 1. My opinion: yes, on most of the above.

No. 2. I have few facts to back up my opinions.

No. 3. I trust management's decision to terminate, and their determination on in-house improvement of current ACBL Score.

Unclear? Yes. If some on the national board are still somewhat uncertain whether this was just a failed business contract, or was mishandled, or simply a heroic decision to stop the bleeding before incurring more losses... then how can those on the outside have such certainty in their accusations of mismanagement?

Does this column clarify it? Of course not. But I owed you an answer (opinion). As/if facts and intel change, so will I. But until such time I have great trust in our CEO's many tough decisions.

ACBL Goodwill Committee

I enjoy the privilege of appointing deserving D22 members to the Aileen Osofsky ACBL Goodwill Committee. A prestigious lifetime award as a tribute to greatness at the local level of giving so much to our game. My selections for year 2015 are:



Mary & Ron Huffaker of Unit 539 San Diego. This couple just never stops giving of themselves to our second largest unit, providing hospitality and happiness at unit games, etc. A deserving couple who never seem to tire of making people comfortable in our club games. They represent what goodwill is all about.

ACBL Charity Committee



Maritha Pottenger. I select Maritha Pottenger to the ACBL Charity Committee. Maritha unceasingly organizes events to aid Dr. Ray Sachs and the Esperanca charity organization and its amazing giving of themselves as they travel to third world countries (often on their own money), offering life changing medical expertise to poor needy people – many of whom have never seen a doctor.

Personal Note

I sincerely thank the district's unit boards for supporting me for another term as your District Director (National Board Representative). You guys are the best! I will forever be indebted to you all for allowing me the past six years of representing us, and the next three to come.

Peace, my friends.

**D22 Forum
Deadlines**

The D22 Forum deadline for articles and ads is the 5th of the preceding month.

All ads must be prepaid, payable to D22 ACBL c/o David Lodge, treasurer 219 Loch Lomond Road Rancho Mirage CA 92270 Please e-mail all ads (after prepayment) & all copy to: Joel Hoersch joel@contractbridgeforum.com 858 336-1508

Change of Address Send change of address to: addresschange@acbl.org or snailmail to: ACBL/Address Change P.O. Box 289 Horn Lake MS 38637