

## WESTERN CONFERENCE

# CONTRACT BRIDGE Forum

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## Pacific Southwest Regional

March 29-April 4



Town & Country Resort Hotel

By Alice Leicht  
Tournament Co-Chair

It's getting closer to opening day for the Pacific Southwest Regional. San Diego's Town and Country Resort Hotel is all ready for the bridge players to arrive. Your tournament committee is there to greet and welcome you to one of the top regional competitions in the country. No exaggeration here. Read on - visit [PacificSouthwestRegional.com](http://PacificSouthwestRegional.com)

This year a new structure of start times gives us - and you - more

flexibility. With most of the double session pairs and KOs starting at 10:30 and 3:15, it's possible to play a full day's event and still get home in time for dinner! Plus single session or side game series are available from morning to evening. And ... if you want to add a third daily session, or if you can't be there until evening ... look for the continuing KOs and two-session Swiss Teams at 7:30 p.m., which have been structured with you in mind. We're proud to present you with this versatile time frame.

A group of our talented regional teachers are lined up to give you helpful insights on the game. Look for the daily presentation each morning. Plus an impressive

list of professional players are primed to give lectures in the afternoon. Again check the Daily Bulletins and chose your "faves." Filled with knowledge, get ready to collect your gold or red or black masterpoints or to claim your section top awards.

Need a partner? Letha Couch and her crew will be there to help you win. Got the hungries? There is an express lunch, fresh and delicious, available for purchase. Look for complimentary coffee and our famous candy basket.

In need of some entertaining bridge books? There is a great bookseller stand.

In the mood for fine dining? Check out the great restaurants

(See Pacific on page 16)

## Grand National Teams

By John Kissinger  
GNT Coordinator

Go for the Gold!

Players of all flights: get your teams together and qualify, at either your local club or unit level, to play in the Grand National Teams District 22 final at Dana Harbor Bridge Center [danaharborbridgecenter.org](http://danaharborbridgecenter.org)

A high finish at Dana Harbor could entitle your team to compete at the national level in New Orleans this summer, with the District 22 board picking up an \$800 team tab to subsidize your trip! Tell your club and unit managers you want more qualifying games! Remember that you may

qualify as many times as you want, and while doing so, you can win lots of color-coded points. And, yes, you can play in more than one final if you qualify in more than one flight! But remember ... you must be a District 22 resident to play in the final.

District finals for Flight A and Flight C are scheduled for April 10 and 11. The Flight B and Open Championship district finals will be held April 17 and 18. So get moving now to prepare for a great experience in bridge ... and we'll meet you on Bourbon Street!

Questions, or want more information? Ask [john.kissinger@cox.net](mailto:john.kissinger@cox.net) ... or before March 6 contact [jonawright@cox.net](mailto:jonawright@cox.net)

## ACBL Charity Grants

By Ken Monzingo  
District Director

One of the perks of chairing the San Diego NABC last Thanksgiving was to be able to award a \$5000 charity grant from ACBL's Charity Foundation to the 501(c)(3)\* recipient of my choice. Last year, then district president Teri Atkinson was approached by San Diego's Barbara Coffey about donating to The Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation International. Both Teri and I felt this was a most worthy cause, which solved our dilemma of what to do with the grant.

ACBL Charity Foundation is very generous with grant money, and our district has been showered with charity dollars for two years in a row. As part of a rotation of ACBL districts, last year the league awarded District 22, as

well as a few other districts, \$20,000 each; in D22 we divided these funds equally between the four areas of our district. The district's area reps each selected the local charity of their choice, and I was very impressed with the quality of the selections. I feel we really served some needy and competent organizations.

We will next come up in the rotation in a few years after the other districts have been served. However, since the foundation had a banner year in 2009, we may be awarded a smaller, unscheduled amount this year.

\*501(c)(3) - Religious, Educational, Charitable, Scientific, Literary, Testing for Public Safety, to Foster National or International Amateur Sports Competition, or Prevention of Cruelty to Children or Animals Organizations [IRS requirement category]



## District Direction

By Ken Monzingo

National Board Representative

### Tournaments

Other than the *Forum*, most of my time is spent dealing with our tournaments. From managing NABCs, to sitting on site selection and tournament allocation committees, to working with our four district regionals. I love tournaments, especially regionals and nationals. The regional sanction allocation committee I am currently on is a result of a motion I presented to the ACBL board a year ago requesting we award Palm Springs "permanent" or "resort" regional status, which would allow us an ex quota (fifth) regional.

The 25 districts of the ACBL are each given sanctions (authority) to host four regionals a year. Anything more must be requested, discussed, and voted upon. This is harder than pulling a stubborn tooth. And often just as painful. Extra regionals are awarded to districts with enormous bridge populations like Florida, or enormous attendances like Gatlinburg or Las Vegas, or to service locations not connected to the continental U.S. - like Alaska, Hawaii, and Mexico.

Since my motion the national board has decided to take an even closer look everywhere and study possible sanction allocation reform nationwide - if necessary.

We, District 22, use our four annual sanctions for Riverside in late January or early February, San Diego during Easter Week, Orange County in September, and Palm Springs in December. I've requested the extra one to continue our experimental northern home in Ventura.

By the July Summer NABC in New Orleans our committee will have done its work and the votes will be in on whether we get the additional sanction. Stay tuned; the future looks pretty good.

### Western Conference

Being a member district of the Western Conference awards us the advantage of having this newspaper to promote our four regionals through ads, stories, photos and by publishing results. We are one of only three districts in the country to have such a valuable monthly newspaper - all are Western Conference, of course.

The result is that our district's regional tournaments average about 500 tables more than the national average of 1450, with Palm Springs being arguably the third largest regional in the country (averaged over the past five years). Districts 17 and 21, also of the Western Conference, do a little better, each averaging 2000+ tables per tournament.

### Special Club Games

There is a phenomenon called special MP games happening at the moment whereby clubs can award huge masterpoint payouts in what is normally the quiet atmosphere of their local establishment. On the surface it sounded good, but deep down we may have created a black hole.

For openers, the Western Conference depends on its three annual Great Western STACs for a major portion of its operating capital used to publish this paper. These STACs are the largest sectional tournaments in the country, and pay enormous points themselves if you make the overall. However, some clubs have chosen to run the special MP games instead of our GW STAC games in direct competition with us. Such practice, if continued on a large scale, is dangerous to the survival of the *Forum*.

Another danger of the special MP games is that point-wise they pay like sectionals, so they compete with them for attendance.

A third pitfall is that newer players can now accumulate points much faster in club play and very quickly progress up out of the comfort of their present flight and have to play against much superior opponents.

This is a turnoff to most new players, and to many veterans.

### Bridge Technology

We have become a totally electronic scoring district with all our regionals and many sectionals and clubs using the exciting new Bridgemates. What a hoot. You (*North*) record the score on the pad at the table and it is instantaneously transmitted to the director's computer. No more caddies looking for pickup slips, no more directors entering scribbled (and often erroneous) scores on a computer keypad. All is done immediately, and the final results are up as soon as the last board is played and recorded.

I love them, and they've eliminated at least one director and a couple of caddies from each of our regional's overhead expenses.

On the controversial side of technology there is heated discussion on how many, and what color, points should be awarded for playing in ACBL games online (*Bridge Base Online et al*), but I do not believe it is reduced enough. There is strong possibility of cheating or fudging online since you are playing alone, unobserved.

This may well become black hole number two. I play leisure bridge online, but am negative towards the awarding of bushels of masterpoints under such unguarded atmospheres. There is also much controversy over whether online bridge creates new ACBL players, or takes players out of our clubs and away from tournaments.

### Reno NABC

I'll be in Reno for the Spring NABC board meetings during the second and third weeks of this month. You can normally reach me at the *Forum* office or at [KenM@KenMonzingo.com](mailto:KenM@KenMonzingo.com)

## Forum

### Deadlines

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

Ads must be prepaid, payable to D22 ACBL  
c/o Fran Foresta  
38385 Rock Creek Circle  
Temecula CA 92592  
Please e-mail all ads (after pre-payment) & copy to:

Joel Hoersch  
[joel@contractbridgeforum.com](mailto:joel@contractbridgeforum.com)  
858 277-5490

### Change of Address

Send change of address to:  
[addresschange@acbl.org](mailto:addresschange@acbl.org)  
or mail to:  
ACBL/Address Change  
P.O. Box 161192