

CONTRACT BRIDGE

Forum



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Hyatt Regency Hotel, Monterey CA

VRXstudios

District 21 Charity Report

By Jeff Hack

District 21 Charity Chairman

Every year District 21 gives \$3,000 to various charities. We can divide the allotment in any way we like. Nominations for grants are accepted between January 1 and

July 4. We try to allocate the funds to charities in our district. The awards are announced at the All-Western Championships during the District 21 Board meeting. This year three charities were selected to each receive a grant. We can also give additional funds for emergencies and special cases if passed by the District 21 Board.

Three charities were selected to each receive \$1000. They are Hines Hospice, Second Harvest Food Bank of Santa Clara and San Mateo Counties, and Maryhouse A program of Loaves & Fishes in Sacramento.

Richard Meffley Unit 522 Presi-

dent reports that the Nancy Hinds Hospice has provided in home and hospice care in Fresno, Madera and Merced Counties since 1981. They have provided outstanding hospice care for several of our members and our members families.

Maryhouse in Sacramento is a daytime hospitality shelter for homeless women and children. This past year, 1,584 women and 978 children received services at Maryhouse.

Units may also run charity games. As of Sept. 1, the amount raised by unit charity games in District 21 was over \$600.

North American Pairs

By Jackie Ortiz
District 21
NAP Coordinator



Last chance to qualify in the unit games for North American Pairs.

Bayshore Bridge Club in Burlingame game will be Nov. 8, one session at 12:15, contact Ranni Bunni rbunni@comcast.net

Bridge Gallery in Santa Rosa will be Nov. 15, one session at 1:00, contact Kathy Venton 707 573-1200 kmv146@yahoo.net

NAP finals at Bayshore Bridge Flight A Sat. 30th 12:00 and TBA, 1st & 2nd session

Sunday 31st, 12:00 and TBA semi-final & final session

Flight B Sunday 31st, 12:00 and TBA, 1st & final session

Flight C Saturday 30th, 12:00 and TBA 1st & final session
jackieo@sonic.net

Tournament Trail

Fresno Halloween Sectional

Bridge Center, Fresno, California

October 29-November 1, 2009

Diablo Valley Fall Sectional

Iron Horse Middle School, San Ramon, California

November 7-8, 2009

BER Fall Sectional

Community Center, El Cerrito, California

November 14-15, 2009

East Bay Winter Sectional

Holy Redeemer Center, Oakland, California

November 20-22, 2009

Sacramento Winter Sectional

Community Center, Citrus Heights, California

December 4-6, 2009

Great Western Holiday STAC XVIII

Local Clubs

December 7-13, 2009

FORUM DEADLINES

Deadlines for *Forum* copy and ads is the 5th of the month!

Rich Luttrell

D21 *Forum* Editor

6550 2nd Street,
Rio Linda CA 95673

Ph: 916 991-6997

Fax: 916 992-6997

luttrellr@sbcglobal.net

Change of Address

Send change of address to:
addresschange@acbl.org

Or regular mail to:
ACBL/Address Change
P.O. Box 161192
Memphis TN 38136



Western Conference Report

By Marion Robertson

Western Conference President

A brief note on the Western Conference: We are well and prospering. Our three Districts (17, 21 and 22) have a total household membership of over 20,000. The *Contract Bridge Forum* gets better looking with each monthly issue and keeps us well informed of local events, as well as national competitions and tournaments thanks to Managing Editor Ken Monzingo and his *Forum* staffers Leticia Magana and Sergio Mendivil and District 21 Editor Rich Luttrell. And we are blessed with interesting writers from all the units who contribute to our unique local Unitscopes. Our three-times-a-year Great Western Sectional Tournaments at Clubs are amazingly successful with ever-growing numbers participating, and thanks to our director in charge Betty Bratcher and Sergio Mendivil, we can see daily STAC results on our computers within hours of game completions. Just check out some of the stats on the August STAC: 7123 tables, 15,667 players, 19,428 MPs won, 495 Canadians participated, largest session 815 tables on Monday afternoon. *Wow!*

Our six-person Western Conference board will have our annual meeting during the Monterey Clambake Regional in 2010. Let me know (mrobertson@msn.com) if there's something you want us to address at that meeting.

There's nothing like my recent attempt to complete a sprint triathlon that makes me appreciate the intellectual stimulation found at the bridge tables! We all have bridge games where we don't even scratch. Nary a point won, but we are an adventuresome lot and we keep competing and learning, expecting to eventually perfect our game. I pledge to keep an open mind to new ideas and endeavors, at the bridge table and in my life, and when I don't even scratch I will continue to enjoy the stimulation of learning to play without fear of failure. Join me?

ACBL Member Survey: To many of you who've given ACBL your e-mail address, and to those particularly that play bridge on line, you might be interested in the memo received from ACBL President Jerry Fleming with highlights from the 2009 ACBL online member survey.

Jerry wrote: The ACBL survey was launched June 29, and was sent to 84,000 league members. My guess is that this is the number of e-mail addresses the league has, as not everyone has e-mail or doesn't give us this information. The response rate was 23%. 50% of the responders have fewer than 300 masterpoints. Almost all learned about ACBL through friends/family, bridge teachers or bridge clubs. 54% of responders have been ACBL members for 10 or fewer years.

Among the responses:

- How likely are you to renew your membership?
89% extremely likely; 8% somewhat likely.
- How would you prefer to renew?
56% online; 28% by mail; 3% by phone.
- How would you prefer to be reminded?
56% online; 31% by mail.
- How satisfied are you with these features of ACBL?
Extremely or somewhat satisfied: Affordability 89%; web site 86%; tournament schedules and results on ACBL web site 80%; ACBL sanctioned clubs 84%; sectionals 79%; regionals 78%; NABCs 58%. *ACBL Bridge Bulletin?*
97% extremely or somewhat satisfied. Satisfaction with ACBL representative service? (extremely or somewhat satisfied) headquarters staff 94%, tournament directors 94%, club directors 91%, unit & district officials 90%.
- How often do you play in club games?
Several times a week 48%, about once a week 29%, never 5%.
- Do higher masterpoint awards make club games more attractive?
Yes 57% No 43%.
- Do increased fees for special games deter you from club play?
Yes 20%, No 80%.
- Do you play bridge online?
Yes 36%, No 64%.
- How often do you play bridge online?
Daily 23%, several times a week 33%, about once a week 19%.
- Do you play bridge online for ACBL masterpoints?
Yes 37%, No 63%.
- Should ACBL sanction online sectional tournaments?
Yes and no 50% each.
- Should ACBL sanction online regional tournaments?
Yes 44%, No 56%. Gender? 48% male, 52% female.
- What is your age?
Under 40 2%, 40-59 18%, 60-75 64%, 75+ 16%.
- What do you like most about playing bridge?
Competitive 30%, social interaction 11%, mental stimulation 54%.

Thanks for the report, Jerry.
See you in San Diego (Nov. 26-Dec. 6) at the Fall North American Bridge Championships. Even if you've never attended a tournament, you will not want to miss this fun competition, lots of free lessons and lectures, great after game treats and entertainments, a bridge game for everyone from learners to pros (and lots to do in beautiful San Diego even if you never touch a card).