
THE VILLAGE CARD CLUB

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NEWSLETTER

A ZERO TOLERANCE CLUB

3rd QUARTER

SEPTEMBER 2008

President's Message

Its that time of the year again, We are in the process of putting things in order to select an administration for the year 2009. Martha Parry will chair the Nominating Committee, which consists of: Ken Pyles, Micki Johnson, Alicia Fetters and Linda Smith.

As you are aware, the system was changed at the semi annual Club Meeting in June whereby any person, in good standing, who wishes to seek a particular position on the Board can do so, simply, by asking that his or her name be placed on the ballot. Further instructions as to the handling of your campaign will be given you by the Nominating Committee.

Your present administration, along with the Constitution and Bi-Laws Committee, put a great amount of time and effort into getting this change in the election laws. At the Semi Annual Meeting, the membership approved this change by a vote 86%--this is what you wanted. Any person who seeks a position on the Board will be placed on the ballot with the same status as any other candidate.

Now that all the goodies are touched on, it is time for you, the members, to step forward and offer your experience and talents to the Village Card Club; I am sure there is at least one position on the Board that fits your area of expertise. Also, if you know someone who you would like to have considered for a particular position, please pass that person's name to the Nominating Committee and they will contact that person. In either case, please step forward.

We are so fortunate to have this beautiful facility along with some of the finest people around to share it with. Along with this, we have the great game of Bridge. Put it all together and it has amounted to untold hours of enjoyment for all

of us; those who have left us and the many who will follow us. Fulfilling the latter is our responsibility; doing our part for the club "today" will assure it will be here in the future.

Thank you,
Cecil Grattafiori, Jr.

COMING EVENTS

October 2008

2 nd	Club Appreciation Game		12:30
5 th	0-299 Swiss Team		1:00
6 th	Club Appreciation Game	9:00 &	10:30
7 th	Club Appreciation Game		12:30
10 th	Club Appreciation Game		9:00
13 th	LM/NLM Mixer Club Appreciation		7:00
14 th	Unit Wide Championship		12:30
15 th	Mentor Game		7:00
16 th	First Easybridge Lesson		9:00
16 th	Life Master Party		12:30
18 th	Club Appreciation Game		12:30
19 th	0-2000 Swiss Team		1:00
	Club Appreciation(Gold Points Avail)		
20 th	Individual Game		6:30
21 st	Club Appreciation Game		6:30
22 nd	Club Appreciation Game		1:00
23 rd	Easybridge Lesson		9:00
27 th	Club Appreciation Game	12:30 &	1:00
29 th	Club Appreciation Game		9:00
30 th	Easybridge Lesson		9:00
30 th	Halloween Party (Unit Championship)		12:30
31 st	Club Closed for DeGray Tournament		

November, 2008

1 st	Club Closed for DeGray Tournament		
2 nd	Club Closed for DeGray Tournament		
4 th	Club Championship		12:30
5 th	Club Champtionship		1:00
6 th	Easybridge! Game		9:00
9 th	0-299 Swiss Team		1:00
10 th	LM/NLM Club Championship		7:00
11 th	Unit Wide Championship		12:30
13 th	Easybridge! Game		9:00
14 th	Club Championship	9:00&	10:30
16 th	0-2000 Swiss Team		1:00
	Club Championship		



August 2008 Achievements

NORTH AMERICAN PAIRS (NAP)

Gold Life Master	Ned Irving
Silver Life Master	Doris Waugh
	Bob Case
Bronze Life Master	Becky Rice
Life Master	Francie Brown
	Glenda Barrow
	Dave Barrow
	Lois Schoenrock
Over 200 Points	Sue Myatt
Over 100 Points	Leo Naeger
	Jean Ramsey
Over 50 Points	Linda Wessel
Over 20 Points	Anne Carney
	Nancy Jones
	Lee Siebels
Over 5 Points	Barbara Hope
	Jack Shaffer
	Amy Shaffer
	Doug Berke
	Stephen Seitz
	Tom Christner
	Marion McConnell
	Ed Reinsch

North American Pairs club qualifying games are run from June 1 to August 31 each year. During that time a club may hold two NAP qualifying games per sanctioned session per month. The club qualifying games are 50% red points and 50% black points at sectional rating. 50% of all players in each strat who compete will qualify at the club level. This allows them to advance to the next level of competition.

NAP games are divided into three flights: Flight A is open to all players regardless of their masterpoint rank; Flight B is limited to players with 0-2000 masterpoints; and Flight C is limited to Non-Life Master with fewer than 500 points. A player's masterpoints as of April 30, 2008 determine in which flights on may play.

After qualifying at the club level a player will be eligible to play in the unit qualifying level of competition. This year the two session unit qualifying round will be held at the Little Rock Duplicate Bridge House. Their new facility is at 7415 Indiana Avenue. This unit qualifying game will be on **Saturday, October 25th at 9 am:** a two session event for Flights B and C. The top qualifier in the Flight C Bracket will receive 5% gold and the remainder red points. All other qualifiers will receive red points. 50% of all pairs in each bracket will qualify to compete in the District Qualifying round which will be held in Vicksburg, Mississippi on January 9-11, 2009.

As a special incentive to compete, Unit 161 is awarding a reimbursement of \$100 to each Flight B and Flight C pair who qualify in the Unit Round and then goes to Vicksburg for the District Level competition.

Players of the Month

June

Open	Gina Doss
Under 1000	Cecil Grattafiori
Under 300	Ginna DeThomas
Under 20	Nancy Holland

July

Open	Ray Banks
Under 1000	Becky Rice
Under 300	Larry Kaddatz
Under 20	Tom Christner

August

Open	Ray Banks
Under 1000	Randy Lusk
Under 300	Bob Wessel
Under 20	Bill and Kay Butterworth



At the District level if there are four qualifiers, the 1st and 2nd place qualifiers will be reimbursed \$700 per person and the 3rd place qualifiers will receive a \$300 reimbursement per person, after they play in the Nationals in Houston. The 4th place qualifiers will be invited to participate in the National Level Finals, but will not receive any prize. The National Level Finals is in the spring of 2009 in Houston, Texas.

If you do, then the Easybridge!™ lessons starting October 16 will be just the thing for them. Lessons will be from 9:00 – 11:30 a.m. every Thursday morning.

Do you know.....

Do you really know those who are your Board of Directors? Here's a little test that will tell you the answer to that question!

Correct answers will be given at the end of the newsletter. (One bio is not available.)

299er Sectional Tournament at the Village Card Club

The Village Card Club has received the sanction from ACBL to hold a 299er Sectional Tournament. This will be a fabulous opportunity for players with under 300 points to compete and test their skills with their peers. *In this tournament, even the "big boys" will all be under 300 Master points.*

Co-Chairs for the event are Ned Irving and Ginna DeThomas. The dates of the tournament are August 28-30, 2009.

More information about the 299er tournament will be available at the VCC later in the year.

1. I was born and raised in Little Rock Arkansas. My husband and I met on the CB radio in Little Rock in 1976 and my handle was Sugar Plum and his was Bassmaster. We lived in Shreveport, Louisiana for 8 years and I was one of the first Blackjack dealers hired by Harrah's when gambling became legal in Louisiana. We moved to Hot Springs Village in June of 2004 from Arlington, Texas.

2. I moved to the Village nine years ago from LaMarque Texas, where I was involved in bridge at the club and Unit level. As a friend of Dick Banks from the Galveston Bridge Club, he talked me into becoming a Club Director. Then as a accredited teacher, I volunteer to teach when needed. When the Unit needed a Tournament Chair for the DeGray Tournament five years ago, when asked, my husband and I said yes. Then, four years ago I was asked to run for the Board. I also serve on the Unit 161 Board. Yes, I have a problem saying NO. YES I LOVE BRIDGE and the Village Card Club.

3. I have been a member of the club for 11+ years. I joined the VCC two days after I moved to the Village. I was born and raised in a small town in Kansas (out in the middle of no-where) and after marrying, lived in Manhattan, Kansas for two years (while my husband finished his degree). That's where I first started to play bridge. There I worked for Kansas State University in the Engineering Department, setting up interviews for the engineering graduates. We then moved to Kansas City, where we spent ten years. During that time I was busy raising my

Easybridge!™ is coming!



Do you have friends in the Village who played bridge back when they were in school—and want to start playing again???

Do you know people who want to learn to play FAST!!



family (five girls -- all beautiful and so different -- and our son -- the apple of his mother's eye). I played a lot of "kitchen" bridge there. We moved to Pittsburg, PA for two+ years and from there to suburban Chicago (Schaumburg) where we lived for 28 years. I started to work part-time in 1972 for Harper Community College and worked there for 18 years, mostly in the counseling department and ended up as the Secretary for the Dean of Student Development. When my family was no longer in school, I decided that I didn't need to work so hard and quit the best job anyone could ever have (mid-life crisis). Then I worked temporary work for 10+ years, having fun at such firms as Digital Equipment (where I was a permanent employee for 1+ yrs), Motorola, International Harvester, a law firm, etc. etc. So guess I have had lots of experience in secretarial work. I hope to represent your wishes with my work on the Board and help to make the Village Card Club a pleasant place for our members to enjoy their retirement time.

4. I learned about bridge and began playing duplicate bridge for the first time in 1971. For the next 29 years I played party bridge occasionally and duplicate bridge rarely. In 2000 I met (via the internet) and married an avid duplicate player, and in 2004, when we moved to the Village, I took lessons again and began playing regularly at the club. In my "pre-retirement life" I was a public school teacher in Arkansas for 28 years—teaching science and business education at the junior high school level; I taught in an international school in Shenzhen, China for three years (where I had students from 21 different countries); and I taught business courses as an adjunct faculty member at the University of Arkansas at Monticello and at Arkansas Tech University.

5. I began playing bridge while a freshman in college many years ago. After college there was little time for bridge and the bridge I did play was "party" or "conversation" bridge. It wasn't until we moved to the Village 10 years ago that my wife and I took lessons at the club and started to play "serious" bridge.

The Village Card Club offered us a wonderful place to learn duplicate bridge and to play the game in a comfortable facility. Bridge has given us new friends during our retirement years and a

reason to travel in order to accumulate those most valuable master points awarded by ACBL. I feel honored to serve on the Board of the Card Club this year and hope that the time I spend working for the club will show my appreciation for all the good times, good friends, and good mental challenges I have enjoyed thanks to the game of duplicate bridge and to VCC.

6. I am a fifteen year member of the VCC. I served two years as Treasurer; two years as Purchasing Agent and several years on various committees. Before retiring, I owned an Accounting practice in Dallas, TX. Prior to that, I was in the field of Finance in the Automotive Industry. I play a lot of Bridge and enjoy every minute of it.

7. I was born in the Bronx and we moved to Long Island when I was 12. I graduated from the University at Albany in '62 with a BA in social studies and received an MA in the same field in '69. I taught school on Long Island for four years and then entered the Department of Defense Overseas Schools where I was assigned to Turkey, Germany and Okinawa. This gave me an opportunity to travel in various parts of the world. I married in '76 and lived in Virginia, Kansas and Fort Worth, Texas where I taught school again. We retired in '96 and moved to the village. We are presently in our third house in the village.

8. I have lived in the village since January of 2006. Before that I lived in California for 36 years and was originally from New York. I graduated from Penn State and received a Master's degree from Hunter College in New York.

I taught school for 39 years. Most of that time was spent teaching 6th grade although it was interspersed with time at the District Office, some years as a Curriculum Resource Teacher, and some time teaching other grades.

My hobbies and interests, before bridge and old age took over, were needlepoint, snow skiing, reading, water skiing, cooking, floral arranging, going for long bike rides, and taking many Adult Education classes.

