

# THE VILLAGE CARD CLUB

[www.villagecardclub.org](http://www.villagecardclub.org)

## NEWSLETTER

### A Zero Tolerance Club

3rd QUARTER

Oct 2009

#### **Presidents Message**

#### **CHANGE**

Is change coming? Is it inevitable? Good questions at our semi-advanced age, you certainly can't say no to either. Nothing is static for very long. We are either advancing or regressing. Change happens in all the spheres that influence our lives: family, health, technology, politics, economy, society, age itself, and our pleasures, yes including bridge.

Bidding boxes, computers, new conventions have all changed our game. Three instances come to mind, two of which I was not around to witness, but rumor has it that we did not always have bid boxes. Can you believe it! And there was resistance to them at their inception. Also, there were and are blackboards in the Ouachita Room, on the East wall so scores could be manually calculated at the end of each session. But there were some controversies over the posted scores. Advanced technology, at first hand calculators, and then computers helped speed up and accurately report the scores

and calculate the results. No further need for blackboards. Now the Internet allows us to get and analyze game results at our leisure in our homes. Further, the "donated" electronic timers above the directors' desks, give us the time remaining for the round, and what round we are currently on.

All these changes have worked out well, and can be listed on the progress side of the ledger. I am not aware, nor have I been informed of any changes to be listed on the negative side of the ledger, but I'm sure there were a couple, perhaps best forgotten. The biggest change of all, of course, was the building and leasing of the Casa de Carta. I am still in awe of the foresight, initiative, and courage it took to undertake that task. Are there further changes on the horizon. Looking backward, you can bet on it. Looking forward, I can list a few for the membership to chew on:

1. Computer Generated Hands. This one has been partially chewed on already, and it continues to be on the plate. Random hands or not? Tournament prep? Educational? Top player oriented? Just plain aggravating?

Lot of opinions, informed and otherwise.

2. Dealing Machine. The 5 member panel report is due at the October Board of Directors' Meeting. As of the publication of this newsletter, reports, pro and con have been mad to the board, and the board has voted to buy a dealing machine. It will be financed by donations. For further information see the minutes of the October 9<sup>th</sup>, Board of Directors meeting

3. Bridge Pads (Electronic Score Keeping at the Table). These were used at the Tunica Tournament, and apparently will be used at the DeGray Tournament. The reports are very favorable.

From the first, I have felt, and said, that proposed changes should have a positive effect on the enjoyment of playing, and on the promotion of education for the members. All else need not be bothered with. As the Board weighs these things, we need your input. Don't be shy.

We had two goodbyes recently for long time advocates and active members of the club. One is for Mabel Serpa, who is moving away, a bittersweet goodbye. And sadly, we say a long goodbye to Jan Farnsworth, a past President, and very active member of the Club and the Unit.

Dick Condon

### **Keep the Roses Blooming**

The pink tree roses on the east side of our building are beautiful as ever. They are blooming in the memory of deceased members of our bridge club. In recent

months we have four members that have passed away. Ben Dickson, Tom Cosgrove, C.R.(Dick) Johnson in Omaha Neb. Pat Robbins, and Jan Farnsworth. At least one of the roses will have to be replaced and the deceased members added to the plaque. Contributions to the Rose Fund would be greatly appreciated.

Kathy Harris and Lillian Estes

### **“Frank’s Bridge**

#### **TIPS**

09.27.2009

01 May “stretch to INVITE”; but must have SOUND VALUES to accept

02 4NT over LAST NT is NEVER ACE ASKING

03 1-Suit Open in 1<sup>ST</sup> seat *usually* will have 13+ HC **-or-** 2 ½ DEFENSIVE TRICKS

04 1-Suit Open in 2<sup>ND</sup> seat *usually* will have 12+ HC **-or-** 2 ½ DEFENSIVE TRICKS

05 **Sub-minimum** 1-Suit Open in 3<sup>RD</sup> and 4<sup>TH</sup> seat *usually* will have 4-or-more S

06 NEVER over-bid PARTNER’S Hand

07 Bid your OWN values only once unless FORCED

08 If your hand will become “dummy”; HAVE THE HAND YOU BID !

- 09 Bridge may be a “timed event” - but **think twice** before selecting a bid or play
- 10 BEFORE playing to TRICK ONE (declarer/or/defender); plan your play/or/defense
- 11 Pay attention to all the bidding and strive to “reconstruct unseen hands”
- 12 Each card you and partner play on defense should send or complete a message
- 13 Try to select defensive carding that “tells partner” something useful
- 14 Defensive carding need not “tell opponents” [this does NOT mean hidden messages]
- 15 Allow partner “some room” when bidding in a competitive auction
- 16 Anticipate your 2<sup>ND</sup> bid before announcing your 1<sup>ST</sup> bid
- 17 Previous rule includes planning next bid BEFORE ACE-ASKING
- 18 Bidding provides the “brush strokes” on a fresh canvass - VISUALIZE partner’s picture
- 19 Always attempt to count suits and HC as declarer or defender
- 20 Acknowledge partner’s **and opponent’s** good bids/plays – otherwise “say nothing”
- 21 Do not waste mental energy or time on completed hands
- 22 NEVER *intentionally* violate partnership bidding and defensive agreements
- 23 Select bids and defensive carding that ‘make it easy for partner’
- 24 Joint decisions are preferred over one-sided decisions
- 25 Conserve bidding levels when partner’s conventional response is “undefined”
- 26 Replace *bad habits* with *good habits*
- 27 “If it ain’t broke – Don’t fix it!”
- 28 ***In “Pass-out”***, [2-Suit OPEN] -or- [2-Suit Jump Overcall] is NEVER WEAK
- 29 [2NT over ***Weak*** 2-Suit Open] -or- [***In “Pass-out”***, 2NT] is NEVER UNUSUAL NT

## Amnesty Offer

Are you a lapsed ACBL member with unrecorded masterpoints? You are invited to reinstate your membership between now and December 31, 2009 and receive all masterpoints won during the time you were on inactive membership status. The points will be credited to you at no charge.

Effective January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2001 the requirements for Life Master will change. The new requirements will not apply to ACBL members in good standing whose dues are current as of December 31<sup>st</sup> 2009, and who maintain continuous membership in ACBL until they become Life Masters.

The requirements to become a Life Master for those who join after Dec. 31, 2010 are:

Total of 500 points To be distributed in this manner . 50 must be gold or platinum, 50 red, gold, or platinum, 75 silver, and 75 black.

If you are not currently a member of ACBL

**JOIN NOW**

## Calendar

Oct.24<sup>th</sup> North American Pairs : At the the card club. Two sessions. Sign up please

Oct 31<sup>st</sup>. Halloween Party ( open and 0-299)

Nov. 6<sup>th</sup>,7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, DeGray Tournament. Card Club closed

Nov. 9<sup>th</sup> Life Master/Non Life Master Mixer

Nov. 11, afternoon session Club Championship

Nov. 17<sup>th</sup>, Club Championship

Nov. 20<sup>th</sup>, morning Club Championship

Nov. 26<sup>th</sup> Closed Thanksgiving

Dec. 3<sup>rd</sup>. morning and afternoon sessions Club Championship

Dec. 14<sup>th</sup> through the 20, STAC

Dec. 17<sup>th</sup> Christmas Party and Annual Meeting

Dec. 25<sup>th</sup> Closed : Christmas

Dec.28<sup>th</sup> Unit Championship Open and 49ers

Please return this copy of the Newsletter to the table after you have read it. The Newsletter is also available on the Village Card Club web site.