

East Bay Unit

By

Tom Pajak

Because of the required lead time to submit these columns, I'm writing this the first week of January while memories of the 2017 Unit Holiday Party are still fresh. It may seem weird to readers why I'm bringing up "old news" but I need to brag a little and praise your unit board for putting on such a premier event on December 17th. The East Bay Community Bridge Center was filled to capacity with 96 players comprising sections A, B, and C. This large game was capably directed by Mark Kornmann who kept the pace lively and players moving. Winning in the Open game N/S were Betty Kael & Susan Boyers, with 2nd place taken by Otto Edor & Gunnar Niemi. In the E/W direction Steven Drucker & Russ Kirschenbaum took 1st, while Susan Wiebe & Roseanne Smith followed in the 2nd spot. In the non-life master section, 1st N/S went to Steve & Amy Bess with E/W won by two instructors JJ Kael & Fred Schwartz. Following these in 2nd were Kerry Abbott & Julie Burnet N/S, and Mary Jacobi & Nancy Mangini in the E/W seats.

At the conclusion of the game, everyone enjoyed the scrumptious banquet managed by Amy Bess and her cadre of elves who prepared several turkeys and hams, molds of mousse, yams, salads, gravy, veggies, rolls, desserts, and beverages all to the gustatory delight of the players. A loud cheer goes to Amy for her excellent coordination of this biggest (and difficult) annual event. Special thanks also to Jasmine and Jayden for their help in the kitchen, keeping things running clean and smooth.

If you've been to any tournaments recently, you're aware that ACBL Live Fast Results will email you notification of your performance quickly at the game's conclusion. I'm sure Grant Vance and Jessica Lai were delighted when Fast Results informed them that they'd accumulated 75 masterpoints for their play in the San Diego NABC, with half of those being coveted platinum points. The same goes for David Snyder & Susan Boyers winning 1st overall at the East Bay Sectional in November—this occurred in their very first time playing in the A/X game, known for its really tough competition. It didn't stop there for David & Susan; they also grabbed 1st overall in the December Western Conference STAC with a 71.73% game. Very well done, all of you!

Remember that there will be two Saturday games at EBCBC, starting at noon on February 10th and 24th. You've been asking for a game on Saturday and the Bridge Center wants to provide them, but....if you want to play, you'll need to let Betty Kael know in advance. She needs to plan for the amount of coffee and snacks and other logistics, so come and try our Saturday sessions—but remember to pre-register first. The Sunday unit championships (extra masterpoints) will be held on February 4th and 18th, as always on the first and third Sundays of every month. These are stratified open games where players of

all levels are welcome to compete. Your unit board charges only \$7 and also provides a free lunch prior to the game. Winners receive a free play if they cash it at another unit game within a month's time in the future.

Are you artistic? Do you know someone who is? The 2019 Fall NABC's ("Nationals") will be held in San Francisco in November of next year, and the event needs a logo. This logo is the mascot of the event and will appear on all advertising and media releases. We're looking for a graphic artist who'd like to submit their work to help promote this major event of next fall. Ideas? Suggestions? Submissions? Let Jim Leuker know: 415-824-6399.

Let's welcome Carol Alliger, Fran Friesen, and Jakob Karstens who've recently transferred into Unit 502. And let's applaud these players for their advancement in rank: Leslie Delugach, Keith Evens-Orville, Gretchen Griswold, Marsha Ryle, John Vallerga (Club Masters); Kathleen Clancy (Sectional); Susan Bailey (NABC); Steven Drucker (Bronze); Ed Seputis (Gold).

Larry Bowerman will be next month's author, so if you have any juicy news to share let him know and you'll get to see your name in print.