

VALLEY TALLY

MIAMI VALLEY BRIDGE ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

Editor: Gary Hatten

January 2009

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

By Georgia Banziger, President Unit 136

I wish a Happy New Year to all Miami Valley Bridge Association members. As we move into the new year, I hope to continue to attract new members and increase participation by current members. Several things will help us toward this goal:

- We are going to continue to improve communication:
- We will have at least three Valley Tally editions this year.
- We need up-to-date information for our mailings and records. So, if your name, address, phone number or e-mail address changes, please let ACBL know. It is best to call ACBL at 901-332-5586, ext.1259 for the membership department or you may contact them by e-mail at membership@acbl.org. We receive monthly updates from ACBL which wipes out previous data. ACBL also has a snowbird category now which eliminates problems we have had in the past.
- I am constantly trying to improve our website at www.mvba.com. Please check the front page and the "Event Calendar" often if you have web access. The "Weekly Game Schedule" section will note any game changes. The Board of Directors' page has e-mail links to all officers and MVBA Board members. If a game is cancelled for any reason, it will be listed on the website. Please e-mail me at gbanzi@sbcglobal.net or call me at 937-439-4073 with any suggestions, questions or error reporting.
- We have three huge bulletin boards and a calendar at the Bridge Center to announce upcoming events, game results and other club activities.
- We have a new "Zero Tolerance Policy" which has been approved by the Board. It will be in effect at our tournaments and all games at the Miami Valley Bridge Center. It is posted on our website and at the Bridge Center and is included with this mailing.
- We have a beautiful new facility in Kettering. Let's try to keep it neat. When you finish playing, throw out your trash (recycle if appropriate) and return your pencils to the front. If you have an accident, please clean it up.
- We are going to move toward getting an automatic board shuffler called a "Duplimator". This will allow us to get started faster, finish sooner, and have hand records after the club games.
- Wayne O'Connor, our Past President, has offered to take over the "Education Liaison" position. He is forming a committee to work on educational activities which include classes for players at all levels of experience and expertise.

FAREWELL MESSAGE

by Wayne O'Connor, MVBA Past President

I want to take this opportunity to talk a little about the Unit and its future. I have been very fortunate to have had interested and active members on the Board of Directors during my presidency, especially since this was a time of great activity and change. After investigating many alternatives, the Dayton club decided to move after its lease was up. We successfully built and moved into a new facility and are modernizing its operations. The Logan County club has moved into the internet age in a big way and is a model for keeping members informed and interested. With all the positive things that have happened, however, there is a continuing challenge that we face along with the rest of the ACBL – an aging membership and an otherwise decline in the number of playing members.

We all know what a great game bridge is and how exciting duplicate bridge can be. In addition, our clubs are warm and friendly places that build camaraderie and long-lasting friendships. Think of “Cheers” where everyone knows your name! It is very hard, though, to help prospective new members understand and embrace this with all the other claims to their time and resources. That having been said, it is still imperative that we continue to try to find ways of getting this message out, not only to non-players but to the many people who play “party” bridge in their homes and other locations. Since personal contact is still the best recruitment tool, let me offer a challenge to all the members of the Unit: during the next year, each of you bring one new member into our Unit.

Beyond that, I think a continuing campaign of exposure is the key to making this happen. Not only exposure to the game for new players but to the friendly atmosphere and fun of duplicate (for party bridge players). Advertising efforts like putting Bridge Bulletins in reception areas are needed but we also need activities such as continuing education in place for the people who do come to investigate. In Dayton, we have taken some initiatives already. Steve and Sandy Forsythe’s Monday night lessons and game and Peter Wahl’s lessons are prime examples. Clubs in the Unit can share ideas and results in these and other areas to maximize our efforts.

As I leave the Presidency I intend to work in two areas; continue building the Flying Buckeye Regional tournament and further the educational opportunities for both new and current members who want to develop or further improve their bridge skills (I will be first in line). We have great resources in bridge expertise among our members but we need to use it to provide continuing lessons and tutorials. An active Education Committee in the Unit is imperative to accomplish this goal and I propose to establish it. I have already gotten many good ideas and volunteers (and would like many more) so I believe we can make this a centerpiece for the betterment and growth of the Clubs.

I want to thank all members for your support and encouragement. We have a great unit and I am sure you will give the new officers and Board the same support you gave me. I should probably have picked up some good closing lines from all the recent political speeches but I’ll just say, "keep coming back, enjoy the game and enjoy each other".

EDITOR'S NOTE: I'm sure I'm joined by all MVBA members in expressing our appreciation for the outstanding job Wayne (and Marilyn) has done for Unit 136. Bravo!

RYAN SCHULTZ COMES FULLY CHARGED

By Bonnie Papini

Most denizens of the Dayton club know Ryan Schultz by name and sight. Players in District 11 know him also as he has had great success at regional competitions. With partner David Camillus, he won the NAP district pairs in the fall of 2007 to play in the Detroit Nationals of 2008. He was also part of the winning team of the evening series knockouts in the Flying Buckeye Regionals in 2007 and 2008. Even more remarkable, Ryan has only been playing bridge since the Spring of 2006.

Ryan is a native of Centerville. After graduating from Centerville High School, he earned Bachelor and Masters degrees in electrical engineering at Ohio State University.

While Ryan was finishing his Masters' degree, Jason Parker introduced him to bridge. The first time Ryan played bridge was at the Spring Sectional of 2006 in Columbus. Jason explained how to bid and play on the way to the tournament and the pair scored over 50% in their first outing. Quite a beginning!

After leaving OSU, Ryan worked as a substitute teacher in the Dayton area before attending law school in Toledo. He lived a few blocks from the Toledo club and occasionally walked there to play. He met and played with several great area players such as Gene Benedict and Mary Smith who writes beginner columns for the Bulletin.

After a semester of law school, Ryan decided that law was not the road he was meant to travel and returned to the Miami Valley. He is a volunteer coach for the Science Olympiad at Centerville Middle and High Schools and has traveled with the team to Washington D.C. and Wichita, Kansas. He also enjoys snow skiing and basketball.

NEW OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS

Georgia Banziger, our newly-elected unit president has been a board member for three years, the last two years as Vice President. Georgia wears many hats in our organization as she serves as chairperson of our membership committee and is our online web master. She also welcomes new members, makes posters and posts the daily results of our club games. In her spare time, she directs the Wednesday and Thursday morning club games. Georgia is a retired teacher.

Bonnie Papini, our newly-elected vice president, was born in Dayton and grew up in Beavercreek. She graduated from Wright State University with a degree in chemistry that took her to Canton, Ohio to work at Republic Steel for twenty-five years. Although cards were a popular pastime for her family, Bonnie did not learn how to play bridge until 2006 while living in Italy.

Joanne Trecaso is returning for her second year as Unit Secretary. Her background as an executive secretary has made her perfect for this job.

Jan Gimbrone was elected to a three-year term on the Board of Directors. Jan has strong organizational and creative abilities and is eager to help our unit increase its playing membership.

Also elected to the Board of Directors for three years is **Marcie Pavlo**. Marcie is a fairly new player who desires to help our club grow its membership. Her organizational skills and ability to work with others will be a great asset to our unit.

Janet Lee was elected to her second three-year term to the Board of Directors. Janet has worked hard for our unit in many capacities. She has served as coordinator for the Unit games including the Christmas Party and New Year's Eve Party. She chaired the very successful Larry Cohen event.

Richard Andalaro, PhD, our fourth new member to the Board, lived in Toledo for most of the previous twenty years. Richard moved to Urbana in 2005 to become a professor of physics at Urbana University. Richard has played duplicate bridge for over twenty years. His other pastimes include sports, backgammon, pocket billiards, coin collection and mathematics.

MVBA ZERO TOLERANCE POLICY

By Wayne O'Connor

The ACBL Board of Directors and management are committed to improving acceptable player behavior at all times. In accordance with Laws 74, 80F, 81C4, 90A, 91, and 92A (Laws of Duplicate Bridge) the following policy expectations for all players during ACBL sponsored events as well as in the playing area before and after each session.

The ultimate purpose of the Zero Tolerance policy is to create a much more pleasant atmosphere. We are attempting to extinguish unacceptable behavior in order to make the game of bridge more enjoyable for all. Below are some examples of commendable behavior which, while not required, will significantly contribute to the improved atmosphere:

- Being a good 'host' or 'guest' at the table
- Greeting others in a friendly manner
- Praising the bidding and/or play of the opponents
- Having two clearly completed convention cards readily available to the opponents

The following are some examples of behavior which will not be tolerated:

- Badgering, rudeness, insinuations, intimidation, profanity, threats, or violence
- Humming or singing at the table or talking during the play of the hand
- Negative comments concerning opponents' or partner's play or bidding
- Gratuitous/unsolicited lessons and analyses at the table
- Loud and disruptive arguing with a director's ruling

If a player at the table behaves in an unacceptable manner, the director should be called immediately. Annoying behavior, embarrassing remarks, or any other conduct which might interfere with the enjoyment of the game is specifically prohibited by Law 74A. Law 91A gives the director the authority to assess disciplinary penalties.

Having said this, we recognize that it is sometimes difficult to call the director immediately. Many in the clubs are old friends and behaviors may seem on the borderline or may end quickly. While many of us can take these occasional situations in stride, they may have a very different effect on newer players. Whether they are on the receiving end of the behavior or merely a witness to it, too often it has been the deciding factor in their not returning to the club. We cannot afford to drive people away while we are trying to recruit new members.

To enhance our strict enforcement of the Laws, the Board has endorsed the following policies for the MVBA. First, if a player is unsure if the behavior constitutes a violation, s/he can wait until the end of the play at that table and report it to the director before moving to the next table. If the director believes it constitutes a probable violation, s/he will file a report for possible action by the Conduct and Ethics Committee. That committee can issue letters of warning for continued unacceptable behavior over time or take more direct action (reprimands, suspensions, etc.) if warranted.

THE GOLDEN RULE OF BRIDGE

ACBL Law 74:

A.1. Courtesy

A player should maintain a courteous attitude at all times.

A.2. Etiquette of Word and Action

A player should carefully avoid any remark or action that might cause annoyance or embarrassment to another player or interfere with the enjoyment of the game.

GRAND OPENING PARTY by Gay (Miller) Grogan

On Saturday, October 4th, a grand opening party was held at our new bridge center in honor of Wayne Penrod who magnanimously made our new bridge center possible. As you probably know, our other options for suitable places were sparse and would not have worked out nearly as well. Before lunch, brief presentations were given by Tom Coyle, Georgia Banziger and Wayne.

Many of our members, whom I won't mention at the risk of leaving someone out, were instrumental in our move. President Wayne O'Connor and Georgia Banziger, however, were here, there and everywhere.

The event was expertly catered by our own Jeanie Walsh who always does everything just right. Delicious and nicely-presented food was enjoyed by all in attendance. Perhaps some of us enjoyed a little too much of it.

We had a good turnout for the party including some players we haven't seen for years. Eighty-four players stayed for the game after lunch. It was very nice to see so many tables (27) in play. Game winners were Russ Shoup and Craig Satersmoen.

IT'S THE REAL DEAL by Gary Hatten

It sounds like it might be a mutant vegetable but the Duplimator is a high-tech card-dealing machine now available to bridge clubs. With this little gizmo, hands are pre-dealt and sophisticated hand records are available after the game at the club and online which would be a valuable tool for learning and teaching. Moreover, the cards would be dealt more randomly than those by hand.

The Duplimator's cost is around \$5000 which is a paltry sum for a club which has just relocated at the cost of tens of thousands of dollars. On the other hand, I look at it as a stimulus package which just may help attract new members and invigorate current members to play more often.

It is encouraging to hear that Georgia Banziger, who is the newly-elected President of the MVBA, has made the Duplimator a priority item for consideration by the next Board. With the the average age of our membership rapidly approaching 70 years of age, we are in danger of running out of players before we run out of money unless our playing membership grows at a respectable rate.

THANKS GO TO ROGER DYBVIG

At a recent Board meeting, Roger Dybvig was praised for his tireless efforts as chairman of our regionals the past three years. Roger, who is stepping down as chairman, was the go-to guy whose job it was to see that our tournaments were highly organized and run smoothly. Well done, Roger! All of us appreciate the fruits of your labor.

NEW SHERIFFS IN TOWN

Since our club relocated to our new venue, there have been a few changes in the directorial staff. Mary Frees relinquished her Wednesday morning game to Georgia Banziger. Janet Lee is directing the Wednesday evening game, taking over for Elaine Kreitzburg. Georgia is also directing the Thursday morning game, filling in for Bill Schleman. Beverly Dana is directing the Thursday evening 0-500 game in place of Bill Schleman. Most recently, Don Jenkin turned over his Monday morning game to Peter Wahl.

Many thanks to all of the retiring game directors for your years of service. You have made it possible for the rest of us to enjoy our favorite pastime.

BILL KOLB HONORED

Most social organizations depend on just a few people to carry the greatest loads. Bill Kolb is one such person. For twenty years, Bill has faithfully and competently fulfilled the duties of treasurer for Unit 136 but has finally decided to retire from his position.

On November 1st, over sixty members of the MVBA showed their appreciation for Bill's exemplary service with a carry-in luncheon and unit game in his honor. Bill was presented with a gift certificate and received accolades from Club Manager Tom Coyle and everyone in attendance.

It should be noted that Bill was an engineer by profession. During his long tenure as Treasurer, however, he not only kept the books but was instrumental in investing funds which reaped a huge payoff for the Unit. He gave generously not only of his time but he and Marge have contributed freely to both building fund campaigns held since 1992. He also secured playing sites for our sectionals and regionals. It will be very difficult to fill Bill's shoes but Roger Himmel has consented to serve as our new treasurer. Thank you, Bill, for all that you have done for us!

Note from Bill: "Many thanks for attending the Unit Game on November 1st to celebrate my retirement as your treasurer for the last 20 years. Your contributinal gift is greatly appreciated."

YOU TOO CAN BE A SHERIFF

With the many recent changes in our club's directorial staff comes a need for new recruits to stand in ready reserve. All ACBL sanctioned games must be directed by an ACBL certificated director.

The road to certification for club game directors is not a difficult one. Anyone willing to study basic ACBL laws, regulations and procedures can become a qualified game director.

Certification is based upon results of a written test administered locally. It is an open-book test and applicants may use any resources at their disposal to complete the test items. Completed tests will be forwarded to ACBL headquarters where they will be graded. The cost to take the test is eight dollars.

To assist in test preparation, Gary Hatten will be offering a series of two-hour sessions devoted to basic bridge laws, regulations and procedures. Instruction on ACBLscore using a computer will be provided as well. While the lessons will be provided free of charge, participants are expected to purchase a copy of ACBL Laws and a copy of Duplicate Decisions, both modestly priced. Anyone interested in participating in these sessions should contact Gary Hatten. Classes will commence once a minimum of three participants have enrolled. Sessions will be conducted at the Bridge Center at times convenient for all enrollees.

It should be mentioned that members not interested in becoming a club director but who wish to improve their knowledge and understanding of bridge law are invited to attend as well. It will not be mandatory for these members to purchase the books on bridge law.

MARY FREES RETIRES

Mary Frees is an MVBA institution. Having learned to play in 1963, she soon realized the possible benefits for consolidating the various clubs scattered throughout the Miami Valley. So, she along with Evelyn Tuck and then president, John Meinken, secured a playing site at the now extinct Hills and Dales Shopping Center in Kettering. Several of the local clubs made the new center their bridge home. This effort was the genesis of the MVBA as we know it today at our new location.

Not content to simply play the game, Mary started her own club games and assumed the duties of the MVBA club manager along with Evelyn. Mary held these positions for nearly thirty years until the middle of 2008 when she decided to retire from those aspects of bridge. She will, of course, continue to play the game to which she has devoted herself.

On her last day as the Wednesday morning game director last June, over fifty players showed up to celebrate Mary's significant contributions to our bridge club. Naturally, there was carry-in food and a brief ceremony during which Mary was presented with a beautiful ring and gift certificate.

The highest praise which can be showered upon Mary is this: If you've just played a great game and have one round to go, the last person in the world you want to see sit at your table is Mary Frees. She is very likely to single-handedly ruin your day with her mastery of the game.

OUTSTANDING!

Carol Levitan was selected by the Dayton Daily News as one of the Miami Valley's Ten Outstanding Women of 2008. Carol was recognized for her community service and philanthropy. Congratulations, Carol!

RESCUED! by Georgia Banziger

It was already dark when the October Board of Directors' meeting ended just before 7:00 pm. Beverley Dana, Gay (Miller) Grogan, and Joanne Trecaso were in the parking lot ready to go home when they heard a tiny sound. They looked all around but didn't see anything. When Beverley got a flashlight out of her car, they discovered the tiny sound seemed to come from under Joanne's car.

When the flashlight showed nothing under the car, they decided to open the hood. Hearing a slightly louder sound unmistakably now a "meow", Bev shined the light down into the engine to see two tiny eyes looking back at her. Bev reached down and plucked out a very small black kitten! Gay said, "Take it in to Georgia. She won't be able to resist".

Gay was right! Although this kitten has already used up one of her nine lives, the Vet said the kitten was healthy and only 6 or 7 weeks old. I've aptly named her "Brigette"! She holds her own with Buddy the Beagle and my other cats, Katy, Patches, and Scotch.

Editor's Note: Well done, ladies! You're a saint, Georgia.

WELCOME

The MVBA is pleased to welcome to our club the following new members: Joann Findlay, Sandra Sutterlin, Marilyn Brinkman, Cherie Mulcahy, Gerald Sharkey, Charu Joshi, Andrew McSherry, Maxine Ankeny, Dorothy Savage-Kemp, Donald Snyder, Karen and Peter Wahl, Robert Woehrmyer, Armand Fahrer and Michelle Zechar. Welcome also to Susan Freeman who has returned after living in Colorado a few years.

A TERRY TALE

by Gary Hatten

Once upon a time in a faraway land called Vegas, a practicing leech master by the name of Terry from Groganwood succumbed to the temptation of poker. As fate would have it, he was able in a very short time to parlay his pittance into a small fortune.

Wondering how he might squander his new-found coin of the realm, he perchance came upon a traveling carnival called the Las Vegas National Bridge Championship Tournament. Not one to avoid a competition, he decided to seek the services of a professional card player thinking to himself that "bridge is only a game. How hard could it be?"

After hiring a young scoundrel by the name of Jeff Meckstroth, the intrepid Terry soon found himself pitted against some of the world's best bridge players...Grant Baze, Paul Soloway, Barry Crane, Bernie Chazen, Mike Lawrence, Eddie Wold, and Tommy Sanders to name a few. Terry's good fortune continued as he and Jeff were able to vanquish all competitors save one pair in a field of nearly 100 pairs.

Many years passed and Terry has never until now revealed the story of his good times in Vegas. Although he was bursting with pride, he was told as he was leaving town, "what happens in Vegas, stays in Vegas".

Since that time in Vegas, Dr. Terry Grogan has retired from his practice of medicine and has recently married the fair maiden, Gay (Miller) Grogan, herself a force in the bridge world. In December, Terry underwent quadruple bypass surgery and is recovering nicely as he and his new bride winter in Florida. May they live happily ever after!

WISHING YOU WELL

The following members have been recently ill or had surgery: Marion Myron, Don Jenkin, Denise LaGasse, Carole Marcroft, Bonnie Schultz, Pat Kramer, Ellen Jellison, Bob Anderson, Terry Grogan and Harold Sebourn. If not well already, we wish you all a speedy recovery.

PASSAGES

Our condolences go to the families and friends of the following MVBA members who have recently passed away: Milly Warner, Carolyn Kinlaw, Dottie Dixon, Johnny Bowman, Sally Cox, Charlie Trimbach, Irma Hutchison and Frieda Weymouth.