



SPRING SECTIONAL

March 24 - 26, 2023

Masonic Temple
3579 Masonic Way, Pittsburgh, PA

Get involved! There are many ways to help!

Assistance needed with planning, hospitality, setup, takedown...

Contact Chairman, Gus Costanzo to Volunteer, 412.519.5450



Fall Sectional Thank You to All... A special thanks to our team; Craig Biddle for Chairing the event; Ron Franck for all of his knowledge; Lonnie Carey and Ann Plunkett for the delicious meals each day; Darlene Mannheimer for partnership building, John Doyal, Caddy Chair. In addition to our Chairs, we had a slew of volunteers who gave their time and effort in making this a great tournament. Thank you for attending!!

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IMPORTANT DATES

- Jan. 20-22 Sectional, [Info](#)
Amherst, NY
- Feb. 25-26 Sectional, [Info](#)
Canton, OH
- Mar. 3-5 Sectional, [Info](#)
Akron, OH
- Mar. 9-19 National, [Info](#)
New Orleans
- Mar. 24-26 Sectional,**
Pittsburgh, PA
- Mar. 31-Apr 2
Sectional, [Info](#)
Titusville, PA
- Mar. 31-Apr 2
Sectional, [Info](#)
Williamsville, NY
- Apr. 21-23 Sectional, [Info](#)
Rocky River, OH

NEW NEWS FORMAT

To all,

As you see, I have stepped down from the newsletter to do what I enjoy most, write about bridge. As most of you know, I am not much of a communicator. So all of the non-bridge stuff in the newsletter was sheer drudgery to me, and was almost always the reason why the newsletter was perpetually late under my watch.

Now we have a people person (Denise) writing the newsletter and I can go back to writing "Biddle Bits" to expound on the things about this game that I have loved for 60 years now. Hopefully, I will be motivated to write more frequently. Because I play and watch a lot of bridge online. It's much more entertaining than the vast wasteland known as television.

We now have the square peg in the square hole and the round peg in the round hole. Hopefully, this will make for better communication among all of us for the foreseeable future. We must maintain both channels of communication if we are to survive as a viable entity.

Those of you with children and grandchildren, please pay attention to the online "Bridge Whiz" training opportunity mentioned on page 3 of this newsletter. You can build on this training by playing "open bridge" with those youngsters, where they simply get to pick a contract and then try to make it seeing all four hands. Surprisingly, this helps build card play skills quickly because they learn about finesses and entry management very quickly. But don't forget to remind them, when they drop a doubleton Queen / singleton King offside when missing 5 or more / 3 or more that it was more likely that the Q/K would be on side and when they can't see all four hands it's normal to finesse and lose a trick to the unprotected honor. Also, the great thing about "open bridge" is that you can play with 2, 3, or 4 people.

See you all at the tables,

Craig

NEWS TEAM

Denise Dufour	Layout
	News, New to Duplicate
Craig Biddle	Bridge Tips
Lorraine Hanna	Education
	Up the Ladder
Marilyn Painter	Personnel News
June Threlkeld	From the President
	Unit 142 - PSA

[Please click here to email Denise](#)

anything you feel is of interest to our reads for possible publication.

[Visit Biddle Bits for tips, famous hands and so much more.](#)



UNIT 142 PITTSBURGH BRIDGE ASSOCIATION Membership 689

CONDOLENCES

Marc Ehrenreich died December 29 at age 43. Marc was the nephew of a Karen Shipkovitz.

Harriet Lewis died November 23

Jean Busis Simon died October 16 at the age of 96. Jean was a teacher in the Pittsburgh Public School system for 25 years.

Herbert Heller died October 15 at the age of 92. Many may also remember his wife, Phyllis, who died in 1998.

Janice Lee Neil Hoffmann died September 22 at the age of 81. Janice lived in Plum borough.

In addition, there was an obituary for Fredric Leigh Melman who died October 20. The obituary noted that he was a professional bridge player and teacher.

Our condolences to all the families and friends. *Marilyn Painter*

Marilynlpainter@yahoo.com
Text/phone: 412 708-7433

BOARD ELECTIONS

The Board met on November 5 and elected the following individuals to take office effective November 22

Board of Directors

President ----- June Threlkeld
Vice President----- Gus Costanzo
Treasurer----- John Alioto
Secretary, *appointed*----- Pat Anders

Board Members

Ken Bergman	Lorraine Hanna
Craig Biddle	Bill Holt
Mary Paulone Carns	Ruthie Neafach
Denise Dufour*	Kathryn Rector*
Ron Franck	

*We welcome New Board Members, Denise Dufour and Kathryn Rector. *An election was not held at our October meeting because we had no opposition running against the newest board members.*

The Board would like to acknowledge and thank former Board Members, Lonnie Carey, Ann Plunket and Martin Greenburg who recently resigned from the Board.

The Board now stands at 13 Members. Max is 15. Members are listed on our [website](#).

We hope to continue to bring you the very best in bridge and welcome constructive criticism.

Keep Bridge Alive in the Burgh!! Play face to face.



Keep Informed

For last minute closings of our games sign up for Text Alerts.

Better to know in advance if your game has been cancelled before walking out the door.

To signup for Text Alerts follow [this Link](#) or go to link at the bottom of the Club Results page of our website.

Need a partner? Call the Club Director.

Director contact info on Club Directory [page of our website](#)

Need a partner? Invite a friend that plays rubber bridge and help our numbers grow. See New To Duplicate, Page 4

Need a partner? Use the Membership Directory to contact that nice player you were chatting with last week.

Unit 142 Membership Directory

Bill Holt updated and emailed out the latest Membership Directory on November 10. If you were not included and interested in having your name and contact information included [click on this Link](#) or go to the link on Results page of our website.



UNIT 142

ACBL Membership Benefits

Enjoy an exclusive collection of perks including thousands of local and national discounts as part of your ACBL membership! The ACBL has partnered with Abenity to provide you with savings at hotels, restaurants, retailers, attractions and more.

Full Details are found under "Membership" on the ACBL website.



ACBL CONVENTION CARD [Download a convention card PDF](#) to complete on your computer or print a blank. You may save the completed card to your computer and continue to edit it as your game progresses.

EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

Mentors/Mentees

The Board has approved extending reimbursement for games Mentors play with their Mentee through June, 2023.

[Info and registration is on our website.](#)

0-5 Masterpoints

The Board has extended reimbursement to those having 0-5 masterpoints through June, 2023.

[Click Here for the terms.](#)

ACBL Educational Foundation:

As you may have read in the October Bridge Bulletin, a pilot program has been initiated between the ACBL and the ACBL Educational Foundation to increase ACBL membership and to provide support for face-to-face bridge teachers and clubs. Selected teachers must have access to f-f bridge club where students take lessons then advance to in person supervised play. Students will be offered free 120 day ACBL Guest Memberships. "The ACBL will use digital marketing channels to generate and furnish leads to teachers and prospective students.." If the pilot program is successful, an ACBL wide program will be implemented in 2023.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

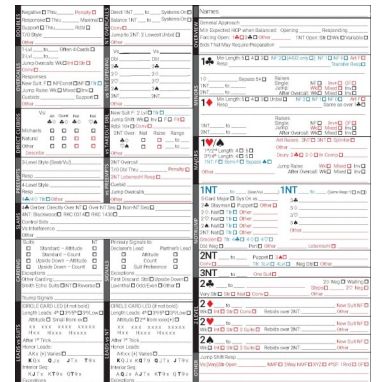
As incoming President, the PBA Board extends our wish for good health, plenty of laughter, & wonderful memories to be created in the New Year when you join us for in person bridge!!

A huge thank you to Lorraine Hanna for being our inspiration and motivation during her term as President.

Also in the appreciation category, kudos to my hostess with the mostest, Ruthie Neafach, and the Stac' n Snack attendees for their participation and delicious dishes contributed in making this event a success. We are looking forward to recreating this event several times this year!!

Thank you in advance for your continued support. See you at the bridge table!!

June Threlkeld.



BRIDGEWHIZ

500 children grades 4-12 are currently taking this FREE online class.

This is very exciting and hopeful for bridge in the future. I know a 5th grader taking this course and he likes it.

January 17 marks the start of the next session.

Classes are offered weekly. You will select your preferred day and time when you register.

For more information, and to register, visit this [ACBL web page.](#)

Please spread the word!!

Never Stop Learning!

[Click to Visit Biddle Bits for tips, famous hands and so much more.](#)



NEW TO DUPLICATE

NEW TO DUPLICATE

will be a regular section in future. Please share your experiences, ask questions, no matter how silly you think they may be, let us know what is on your mind. You may remain anonymous. [Email Here](#)

**Under 200 Masterpoints??
FREE Mentoring Program for
ACBL Members in
Units 142 & 229**

A NEW PROGRAM TO INTRODUCE PLAYERS TO DUPLICATE PLAY is starting in February at the Mt. Lebanon Library. Topics will include the movement of boards, scoring, the similarities and differences in Rubber Bridge and Duplicate. Experienced players will be in the mix and Directors in the South Hills will be a part of the experience. The goal is to make players feel comfortable attending a Duplicate Game and to know some faces before stepping into a game.

Duplicate bridge is a face to face experience with new and old friends. Come to the library on alternating Wednesdays starting February 1 at 6:30. We will spend 90 minutes discussing duplicate bridge methods and strategies. We will play some duplicate. There will be an opportunity to meet some of the regular players in the South Hills and find out where the local games are. Come expand your bridge expertise and meet some potential new friends. A wonderful way to warm up your 2023 winter!

[Please go to the library website to register.](#)

or contact Barbara Logan, 412-344-6691 ~ 838bob@verizon.net, at the library.

OUR FIRST BRIDGE TRIP

*By Marilyn Sittig and Patty Wynn
both with less than 50 MPS*

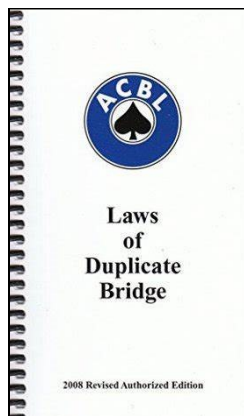
Admittedly we had to be strongly encouraged to take this step by our mentor, Denise Dufour. With the promise of lots of laughs, great dinners, and fun, off we went to the Lancaster Regional.

Knowing our mentor would be nearby gave a sense of security to attend but as it turns out, we really did not need it. Everyone... from the people checking Covid vaccines, to the directors, to the players could not have been nicer. We ran into several Pittsburgh players we recognized from our local games; they were all very encouraging. We made new friends with players from all over, and shared bridge tips with them, even got invited to an club in Ohio's Holiday game and dinner. Yes we went! It was everything we were promised and more, we got POINTS!!

We had so much fun we went to Cleveland and brought 2 new players with us, Ann and Chris Blazak.

Look Out Chicago... here we come!!

Why is it call Duplicate Bridge? It is called **duplicate** because the same bridge deal is played at each table and scoring is based on relative performance. **Rubber bridge** wins are in large part do to the luck of the deal, a big hand equals a big score. Because of this difference Duplicate Bridge is the most widely used variation of contract bridge in club and tournament play.



THE DIRECTOR

The Director's goal is to insure everyone has an enjoyable experience. They are your go to person with any questions.

The Director also acts as a "referee" for the game. If at any time there has been a possible rule infraction, raise your hand and say Director. The Director will come to the table, hear the issue and make a ruling based on the "Laws of Duplicate Bridge".

Need a partner? Call the Club Director.

Director contact information is on the Club Directory [page of our website](#)



PLAYER RECOGNITIONS

Congratulations to the Following!

UP THE LADDER

- Ruby Life Master
 - Estill Duggins
 - Ethel Levine
 - Stewart Metosky
 - Kathleen Mulligan
 - Evelyn Sobol
 - June Threlkeld
- Silver Life Master
 - Carole Shanahan
- Bronze Life Masters
 - Sandi Bross
 - Fran Steger
 - Douglas T. Sterrett
- Life Masters
 - Celine O'Neill
 - Paul O'Neill

OUR TOP OVERALL WINNERS IN CLEVELAND

Thursday

- Open Pairs, 1st Place
 - Bill Holt, Sewickley & Connie Hoechstetter, Moon Township
- Gold Rush, 1st Place
 - James Lauf, Ambridge & Kermit Houser, Freedom

Friday

- Non Life Masters, 2nd Place
 - Patty Wynn, Marilyn Sittig of Sewickley
- Bracketed Round Robins #2, 2nd Place
 - Ronald Franck, Craig Biddle, Pittsburgh with Dian Petrov, Davis Heussler, NY
- Bracketed Round Robins #4, 2nd Place
 - Mary Kirsch, Denise Dufour of Sewickley with Bette Jo Walgren, Patricia Levy, OH

Open Pairs, 3rd Place

- June Threlkeld & Vin Mehta of Bridgeville

Saturday

- Bracketed Round Robins #1, 2nd Place
 - Fred Schenker, Pittsburgh with Hao Ge, Don Sulgrove & Kathleen Sulgrove, OH

[Click here for all of the Cleveland Sectional Results](#)



Kermit Houser & James Lauf



Craig, Biddle & Fred Schenker

On The Road with Bridge...It's More Than Cards...Join the Fun!!



Denise Dufour, Susie Morgan, Chris Blazak, Marilyn Sittig, Patty Wynn, Bill Holt, Ann Blazak



Erin Gonzalez, June Threlkeld, Ron Franck

[2022 Mini-McKenney Awards](#)

[2022 Ace of Clubs Awards](#)

MINI MCKENNEY AND ACE OF CLUBS

2022 Results are In so it's a good time to explain these two Annual Masterpoints Races. Mini McKenny ranks players by the total¹ number of master points earned during the year. Ace of Clubs ranks players by the total number of master points earned at their unit's club games. Players are grouped by the number of masterpoints they had in January of that year. [Follow your progress on our website.](#)

¹ Includes any club game, tournament & BBO ACBL Game