

Unit 142 Board Meeting Minutes
November 8, 2025
Concordia South Hills

Attendance: Ron Franck (President), Bill Holt (Vice President), Mike Pascal (Treasurer), Robyn Fennell, Jim Gump, Terri Tunick, and June Threlkeld (acting Secretary).

President's Remarks: Ron stated the goals are to promote bridge and help all enjoy the game.

Secretary's Report: The minutes from the September meeting were reviewed and approved.

Treasurer's Report: Mike Pascal distributed the financial report. The Unit is in good financial shape.

Ron Franck made a motion to allow the head of a Committee to

- spend up to \$100 without Board approval
- spend \$100-250 with approval of the President, Vice President, and Treasurer
- spend over \$250 with approval of the Board

The motion was seconded by Bill Holt, and approved.

Committee Reports

Education

Bill Holt mentioned resigning from this position, but will continue with the technical help of David Loeb. Bill announced plans to attend the National Association for Gifted Children Conference at the Pittsburgh Convention Center November 13-15 in conjunction with Patty Tucker's Jump Start Bridge program. Male and female players are needed to participate in the booth.

Membership

Prior to the meeting, Maureen distributed a report of membership count in each masterpoint rank.

I/N, Marketing, Facebook

Terri Tunick reported a Christmas party will be held on Saturday, December 12th at Sweetwater for new players. Teachers are inviting their students. Players will be encouraged to join the ACBL.

Tournaments and Special Games

Ron reported an agreement to assume operational and financial responsibility for the Pittsburgh Regional is being discussed with District 5's Executive Committee. When a draft agreement is reached, it will be presented to the Unit 142 Board and the District 5 Board for approval. The agreement must contain an out clause.

Club Liaison

No report.

Website and Newsletter

David Loeb distributed a report prior to the meeting.

Information for the website or the newsletter should be sent to David Loeb. Terri Barker needs to talk to David about posting Monday game results.

Club Support Funds

Remains at \$12 per game, \$24 if a separate limited game is also held.

New Business

Fall Sectional Report

The Fall Sectional lost money. Need to determine if we want to hold the Fall Sectional next year. Holding a 2-day Intermediate/Newcomer Sectional in lieu of the Fall Sectional was suggested. District 5 may be scheduling an I/N Regional in Erie this first week of November, 2026.

Bill Holt mentioned the potential for a Newcomer Swiss at Glenshaw on a Saturday in 2026.

Proposed Merger of Unit 229 into Unit 142

Unit 229 has requested to merge into Unit 142. Ron Franck made a motion to approve the merger. The motion was seconded by Bill Holt, and approved.

Holiday Parties at Clubs

A motion to provide each Club Manager \$50 to hold a holiday party was made, seconded, and approved.

Election of the 2026 Unit Board

The expired 2-year terms of Board Members will be renewed for 1-2 years. Potential additions to the Board include: Dan Lattanzi, Chris Rasmussen, and Richard Wilt. Ron Franck will meet with the candidates.

Pro-Am

June Threlkeld will contact Erin Bealles, and a decision will be made as to chairing the Pro-Am.

Extending the Mentoring Program

The Board voted to extend the 0-10 free play mentoring program for 2026.

Next Meeting

Subject to confirmation, the next Board meeting will be held on January 17th at 10:30 at the Zelienople Bridge Club.

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made, seconded, and approved.

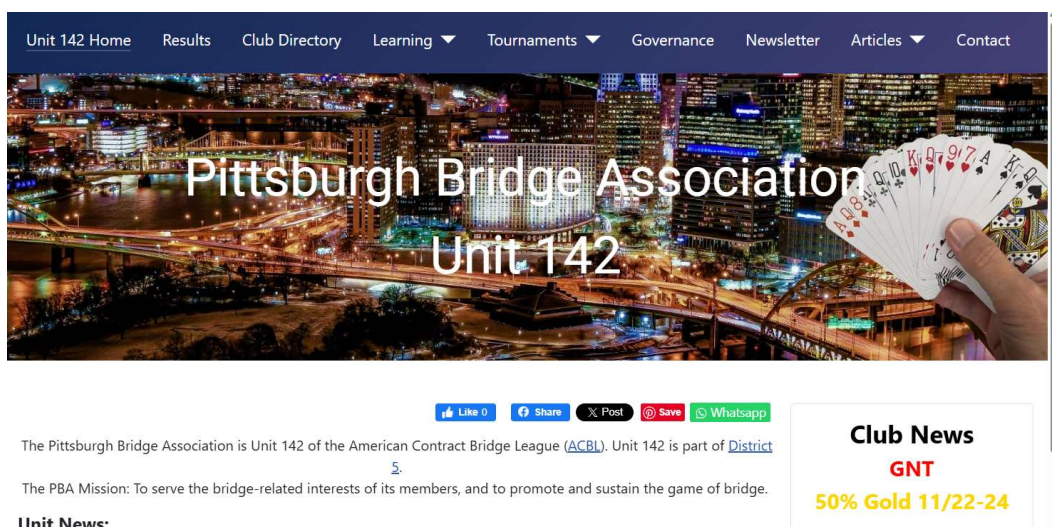
Newsletter and Website Report for the November, 20025 Board Meeting

Website Update:

The website is operating smoothly. I added the tournaments for 2026. To make it easier for people to contact the Unit 142 Board, I added a Contact Form which can be accessed from the menu at the top of every page.

Countdown clocks are now being used to promote events. The countdown is typically displayed at the top of the main page, the results page, and the club directory.

To improve visual appeal, sliders are being used on the main page. See below. The slider occupies the full length of the screen. I am considering reducing the height. Your feedback is welcome. A 2nd slide was added to promote the sectional. The slides automatically rotated every 8 seconds on the homepage, the results page, and the club directory. Sliders provide another way for us to increase the visibility of Unit events on the website.



To support the Free Plays for Students program, a form was added to allow clubs to request reimbursement for free plays. Students are required to provide their email and consent to receiving emails from the Unit. To date, 18 reimbursement claims have been processed. The students' emails have been added the Unit's Student mailing list which we can use to send targeted emails to students.

Students participating in the free play program:

1. Gretchen Brocks
2. Steve Brookes
3. Tricia Cattrell
4. Chris Draft
5. Julie Lyda
6. Marla Papernick
7. Jen Perryman
8. Kathy Rulong

9. LouAnn Soika
10. Tina Soika
11. Kathi Workman

Newsletter Update:

The open rates of Unit newsletter is above average for a member organization (typically 40-60%). The click thru rate which reflects interest in the articles was at the top of what a member organization would normally expect (5-10%). See below for the healthy metrics of the 3 most recent newsletters.

- The Fall Sectional newsletter
Open rate 48%, click thru rate 11%
- The Pittsburgh Regional results newsletter
Open rate 54%, click thru rate 13%
- The Pittsburgh Regional promotion newsletter
Open rate 61%, click thru rate 11%

The next newsletter will be published Friday, November 21st. A request for articles was sent on November 1st. I'm hoping we will have some articles, pictures, and/or interviews from the [National Gifted Conference](#) which runs from November 13-16 for teachers of gifted students. Patty Tucker's [Jump Start Bridge](#) organization is running a booth at the conference to encourage teachers of gifted students to teach bridge to their students.

Newcomers are typically interested in articles relating to beginner classes and I/N events. The Free Play for Students program has captured 11 I/N emails. The ACBL's Sapphire program is tracking 40 new players/students. See the list at the end of this report.

The Unit is now positioned to send a newsletter to students and/or new players featuring classes and I/N events as directed by the Education Chair and the I/N chair.

40 new players/students are being tracked by the ACBL Sapphire Program.

1. Autumn Allan
2. Jana Asher
3. Carole Baran
4. Carol Bucci
5. Mary Lee Burkhardt
6. Lucy Castelli
7. Chuck DENK
8. Gretchen Donahoe
9. Tim Donahoe
10. Eileen Driscoll
11. Beth Evans

12.Min Fei
13.Deborah Gill
14.Eric Johnsen
15.Donna Jornsay
16.Peter Keelan
17.Sarah Kitchen
18.first_name last_name
19.Cherie Maharam
20.Kirk McCabe
21.Robert Modrak
22.Judith Myers
23.Charles Newland
24.Steven Oconnor
25.Abby Paladino
26.Sarantos Patrinos
27.Jennifer PERRYMAN
28.Jodi Piacenti
29.James Reilly
30.Leah Roth
31.Linda Shapiro
32.Minor Shapiro
33.Mandal Singh
34.Lou Ann Soika
35.Tina Soika
36.Keith Stewart
37.Steve Strong
38.Julie Vuillemot
39.Naor Wallach
40.Caroline Wilson