



## AMERICAN CONTRACT BRIDGE LEAGUE

International City • Unit 159  
P.O. Box 3080 • El Paso, Texas 79923



June 1, 2014

Dear Bridge Friends:

We had a brief meeting in May and will be discussing the Dealing Machine in a couple weeks. The Board will decide whether to put the matter before the membership for an up or down vote.

Recently District 17 awarded our unit \$800 to continue our scholarship program. We had applied for \$1000, but the District had to fund other units as well. The \$3,000 amount designated by the District for awards to smaller units not sponsoring regional tournaments is meager amount given the wide geography of the bridge world the District covers. But your President appears to be the only one who has spoken up about the matter.

We have also applied on behalf of the Assistance League for one of the \$5000 grants District 17 will be granting from league funds. The national league gives \$30,000 grants to units every five years, and from that sum individual units are asked to apply for a portion for a local charity.

We still haven't found a way to spend the \$1000 International City Mortgage sent us from California to use our name in establishing a business in Texas.

You'll notice I had the rolling chairs recovered. They still won't fit everyone, but they are cleaner, built up, re-enforced with new padding, and covered in an olive green that doesn't match our carpeting. The whine and carping about them got to me; blame me if you don't like them.

The slip in participation in local games has caught Board members by surprise. It has caused a dip in our net income, which has been only \$185 for the last four months. Even so, we have approximately \$50,000 in cash and savings. Of that \$6274 is in unrealized gains on our investments as of May 23.

We are exploring dates for our October Membership Meeting. We hope to have two games of different types, an Open game and a 199ers game. We want a special game for 199ers that introduces them to a new movement, such as an Individual, or a team game. It will be designed especially for them. There will be our traditional catered meal, and the fee for the day will be \$20. At that Membership Meeting we have no matters on the Agenda right now, but that may change. Nominees for 2015's Board will be presented for an election.

**Chloe Rosenberg** won't be doing our bulletin boards for several months because of health issues. Is there anyone interested in doing this task for the club? Speak up to a Board member.

*Sue M. Ford, President*



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At its June meeting the Board of Directors will receive a report from Margarita Flores and Bob and Peggy Craig about the Dealing Machine. Other matters related to the machine and its purchase may need to be considered.

- ★ How much will the machine cost? What supplies, if any, must we purchase to use it?
- ★ How will we pay for the machine? Should we use our current treasury or raise funds, seeking support from those who are enthusiastic about the purchase?
- ★ Will we be able to use our Kem cards with the machine, or will we have to use ACBL cards? Does this matter?
- ★ Should this purchase be voted up or down by the unit membership, or should the Board make the final decision about the purchase?
- ★ Given the dip in attendance at Open games and 199er games other than special events, is a dealing machine necessary for our unit at this time?
- ★ With the dealing machine and [Bridgeresults.net](http://Bridgeresults.net), hands for games are printed on our web site. Will most players use this feature in increasing their knowledge and improving their games or just consider it a novelty?
- ★ Are there other matters that need to be considered?