



AMERICAN CONTRACT BRIDGE LEAGUE

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



April 4, 2012

Dear Bridge Players:

On March 18, 2012, your current Board of Directors reaffirmed its decision of March 11, 2012 to move \$19,000 from our \$38,000 money market fund back into a series of mutual funds, administered by Vanguard.

The Board also reasserted its right, surrendered by a well-meaning previous Board, to act as responsible fiduciaries of funds we have accumulated over the years from donations and profits from our tournaments. Our right is to control anything other than "real property," as outlined in our Bylaws. Real property is our Decker Bridge Center facility, not our cash accumulation. Decisions about "real property" in amounts above \$10,000, as you know, must be made by the entire membership.

The long history of the American stock market and its fluctuations are well known. But history tells us that we stand to lose money if we remain simply in cash because of the effects of inflation. The conservative funds that were selected by a committee of our membership (Harry Gevertz, Martin Kern, and Selina Whitworth) when I was last your President have done well over the years. Yes, they have lost ground at times, but since the shift on December 9, 2011, we have lost \$3100, only on paper, by moving from the market to cash only.

After conversations with Vanguard and careful review of prospectuses they send us, we will choose funds and reinvest our money, using dollar cost averaging, until we have reinvested the \$19,000. The remainder of the funds will remain in the money market fund. We have carefully reviewed of our investment goals (preservation of capital, modest growth, conservative investing) with our Treasurer, Pat Handly, Judge Peca, and Dr. Dangel who led this vigorous, insightful conversation on March 18. I wish all of you could have been there to hear it.

We do not believe that we are "gambling away" or "putting at risk" funds that were donated years ago by Miss Long, Clarence Decker, T. R. Sullivent, or Mrs. Sullivan. Their funds have long since been spent and enhanced by tournament profits and other more modest donations.

Thank you for your consideration and support of this current Board. Come join us at our Board meetings, or run for the Board if you think we are wrong headed. I hope this letter will explain our actions and put a stop to all the uninformed conversations and ill-conceived emails that are circulating.

Other initiatives we are currently considering are purchase of Bridgemates (20 scoring machines on each table), purchase of a new water cooler when the current one wears out, scholarships for

those going through Jay Woods and Rex Glimp's teaching program and thereafter playing in club games, unit involvement in District 17 modest grant program of \$1,000, Director's fees for novice games on Monday nights, participation in or pushing aside District 17 special games for funding entertainment for approaching District 17 Nationals in Denver, Phoenix, and Las Vegas, and other timely uses of funds for your pleasure here at the Decker Bridge Center. Speak up to your Board members if you have opinions about these current matters.

Cheers and may all of your finesses work,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Robert M. Esch". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "R" and "E".

Robert M. Esch, President
Unit 159, ACBL