



## AMERICAN CONTRACT BRIDGE LEAGUE

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



March 10, 2014

Dear Bridge Friends:

We had a successful tournament. Thanks to all who provided cash donations food, and **Terry Swegler's** necklaces in honor of **Alvis Gildewell**. We made a bit more than \$2000 on the tournament, slightly less than last September as we had 13 fewer tables. We were lucky to have **Bob Craig** back in town to direct for us. He had a major challenge in for the first time working through the difficulties with the Team/Pairs event. We started very late for the first session on Sunday, but players gradually re-learned the board-a-match movement that we once played in all sectional tournaments before Swiss Teams.

A pair of new El Paso players on Sunday teamed up with two more experienced players from Las Cruces and placed even though they had pathetic pairs games. How exciting for them! Others stumbled around, ignored the Director, couldn't find the right table, but they endured and prevailed. Every participant won SOME MASTER POINTS. How bad is that?

We had a new caterer that **Marjonie Rawlings** had suggested and was easy to work with. **Maria Elena Norte**, with the help of **Maria Glasgow** and others, chose a menu most could enjoy. Those grumbling about no dessert overlooked the trifle of **Pam Vandertulip** on Monday or **Margie Ruth's** banana bread. They also forgot all the cookies, **Florence Senkowsky's** birthday cake, and other treats that were provided. Even apples were available!

Congratulations to **Barbara Harriid** for winning the Haberstroh trophy!

Your Board will be nominating a local charity in competition for one of the District 17 \$5,000 grants. Suggest a charity you think the Board should consider. We are also applying for a \$1,000 grant from District 17 to continue our scholarships for new players. **Scott Norris** and **Barbara Dent** are the latest winners of these scholarships.

The fence in the rear of our property, which several of you have backed into, run through, or turned around in has now been repaired at considerable expense. We chose not to include a gate. Please try to be carefull when entering or leaving the parking lot.

**Margarita Flores** is looking into choices for duplicating machines for our club. You have had access to them at the **Craig's** games or at tournaments you've attended.

We have purchased some additional small tables that we use next to each bridge table in the center.

The International City Mortgage Company has asked to share our proprietary rights to the name International City. They have donated \$1,000 to our unit for this right. **Rex Glimp** has been working on this initiative

Beginning with the Senior's Pairs on March 3, at unit games only, there will be a \$2 surcharge for non-members. Players just beginning the game will be offered concessions. But it is time to recognize that non-members do not participate fully with us by not joining ACBL. The surcharge has been distorted and made to appear that we are seeking more money; that is not the case. Our club and our unit are special and worth more than the small rebates we get from ACBL fees. We offer many amenities that all playing should contribute to. People play in our games and tournaments by choice. Ours is a special group.

And finally, a non-member has pointed out the incompleteness of the Membershp Directory. The Bylaws of the unit, always appearing at the back of the book each year, were left out. They are printed on a template that the printer can easily access, never changed until the membership votes change.

This was my mistake. I simply overlooked the Bylaws in my repeated attempts to be accurate with your names and data.

Further, the same individual pointed out that the minutes and the treasurer's report are not presented in a timely manner. Both of these postings are apparently overlooked on the bulletin board just around the corner as you enter.

So your Board is not sitting by idly, doing nothing. We are working for each of our members and appreciate your support.

However modest.

Cheers,

ROBERT M. ESCH  
President, Unit 159 ACBL