



# APRIL 2017 NEWSLETTER



## BOARD MEETING REPORT (**QUITE IMPORTANT – CONSIDER READING**)

At the March 15 Board Meeting we welcomed our two new Directors, Cathie Lindler and Phyllis Pellarin, and welcomed back Steve Banwarth, who appears to be serving a life sentence. In addition, Alan was named Assistant Manager, Cathie - Secretary, Kay - Party Chairperson, and Phyllis - Longest Day (annual Alzheimer's fundraiser) Chair.

After general discussions of a few other items, we moved on to the dreaded "Other Business" where the meeting took a totally unexpected, shocking, and bizarre turn. A representative of our volunteer group (game directors, set up, clean up and snack folks) informed us that our "used and abused" (the rep's words, not mine, but hard to disagree with) volunteers were seeking redress in the form of appropriate compensation for their efforts, and threatening to strike if their demands were not met. The rep set a deadline of the end of March. The Board assigned me the task of resolving this issue.

Unfortunately, negotiations reached a complete impasse, and, in the best interests of the club, I acceded to their demands. This will, of course, require restructuring our finances. Applying the sharpest pencil I could find to paper I came up with the following. First, we raise our annual dues to \$25.00; second, we appropriate 15% of our accumulated reserves (currently about \$30,000) yearly to offset expenses; and third, we charge for snacks -- \$ .80 for soft drinks and coffee -- \$ .20 for small candies, \$ .35 for large -- \$ .55 per cup for peanuts, popcorn or trail mix. Taking these steps will allow us to squeak by with a card fee of \$6.42. Just so you don't think I'm going totally all scrooge on you, first Wednesday Cake Day will continue at no charge. (go to top of next column)

While I am truly sorry to have to take these dire measures, I simply see no alternative. Due to the strike deadline, time is of the essence, and hence, these changes must be made effective April 1, which, not coincidentally, just happens to be

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## GOOD QUESTION

In response to my email reminding everyone about the ACBL – Wide Senior Game, one alert, astute and anonymous member (thanks, Marcia) was wondering if this meant you had to be both old and wide to play.

## APRIL SCHEDULE

April is Charity Month in ACBL - Nation. So, all games will be Charity Club Championships. We will donate four dollars per table to charitable organizations split about evenly between the ACBL Charity Foundation and local charities of our choice.

<b>Game Schedule- April, 2017</b>		
<b>Monday 1:30pm</b>	<b>Wednesday 1:30pm</b>	<b>Friday 1:30pm</b>
3-Apr Open Pairs\$	5-Apr Open Pairs\$	7-Apr Open Pairs\$
10-Apr Open Pairs\$	12-Apr Open Pairs\$	14-Apr Teams - Perfect 10\$
17-Apr Open Pairs\$	19-Apr Open Pairs\$	21-Apr Open Pairs\$
24-Apr Open Pairs\$	26-Apr Open Pairs\$	28-Apr Open Pairs\$
\$ = Charity Game		

## NICEST BRIDGE CLUB ON THE PLANET

Well, I'm afraid I've decided to continue this discussion. Last month when I ran out of space, I was about to talk about tolerance and respect for others points of view. I know this sounds kind of heavy, but, I'm not referring to religious, political, or societal points of view. I'm just referring to making the basic everyday interactions we have with one another more pleasant.

I assert that for every thing that exists or happens, some people like it and others don't. For example, in sports such as match play golf, tennis and pickleball ..... *Pickleball?* 🤔 *How does that even work? Like, how many pickles do you need for a match? How do you clean up the mess? What about wasting all the cucurbitacins? .... Hey, Barb -- can I get a little help here? .....* Sorry, I appear to be off track. Anyway, in each of those sports, someone likes and someone dislikes every shot. The absolute proof positive of my assertion is that I actually know someone who likes brussels sprouts.

Back to the club. There are folks who get really bent out of shape by others discussing the hands. A few years ago we even instituted a procedure to deal with it. Put the 'Stop' card, now the 'Smiley' card, on the table. However, when this is slammed on the table or shoved in somebody's face, and accompanied by a snarled "Enough", "I don't want to hear it", or the like, the Smiley face image magically morphs into the middle finger. Not nice. So, why is talking about the hands such an awful thing? I have no idea. Seems to me some find it enjoyable, others not so much.

Those who dislike hand discussions may prefer to talk about their travels, family, or even their new pet gerbil. That's fine; no "Smiley" card needed, but please realize that some folks may not give a rodent's rear about your new gerbil. So, why is talking gerbilish such a good thing? I have no idea. Seems to me some find it enjoyable, others not so much.

So, what's to do? Pretty simple – just accept that we all like and dislike different things. Don't listen, go potty, whatever, but do it nicely. Best, maybe even try the other side. Listen to and participate in the bridge discussion, you may learn something. To paraphrase the great bridge player and philosopher, Bob Hamman, 'To improve, it is important to learn from your mistakes, but it is equally important to learn from the mistakes of others, since you will never live long enough to make them all yourself.' As for participating in gerbilish, you may find out that rats are really warm, cuddly, loveable creatures.

You know, Ron, you just don't get it. It makes me really mad when they \_\_\_\_\_ (insert one: discuss the hands, or talk gerbilish). Well, not really. **It** and **they** can't make you mad, only you can. Turns out that being angry or not is a choice you make. So, your choice -- whatever floats your boat. Personally, my boat seems to have much more buoyancy when not laden with anger.

**BIG TIME NOTE:** *There should be no hand analysis and/or gerbilish until you have finished the round and only if time remains on the clock.*

# April Fool's Day.

