

J
A
N
U
A
R
Y

2
0
2
4

North County Inland, Unit 549

acblunit549.org



TABLE



TALK



THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF ACBL UNIT 549

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Wow, it is 2024!!! I'm sure all of you share my feeling that time is traveling too fast. With that in mind, the Unit 549 Board would like to wish you a Happy New Year before we run out of time.

Looking back for a moment, 2023 was a really good year for our unit and our club. The move to Oasis has spawned a new interest in F2F bridge. The number of people taking bridge lessons has increased and translated into bigger 499er games. Our mission now is to turn that interest into regular duplicate bridge players. The club is approaching a pre-COVID table count and our unit games are approaching pre-COVID levels also.

We are getting the New Year started with the return of our Winter Sectional on Jan 26 - 28. Now that we have adequate parking and some really good space we are adding a third day to our sectional for a team game. Based on team pre-registration numbers this is going to be a very successful event, so don't miss it.

Our bridge seminar is also returning in 2024. Robert Todd, a professional bridge player, excellent bridge teacher and regular instructor at ACBL regionals will be doing two days of bridge lessons. Some of the topics he will cover will be slam bidding, modern preempts, opening leads and finesses. This is a great opportunity to learn from a really good bridge teacher and hone your bridge skills. The seminar dates are March 8 & 9.

Don't forget, this weekend is our Winter Sectional and a great opportunity to pick up some silver points. We are expecting a good 499er turn out, so there should be lots of points available. If you don't have a team, get one and join us on Sunday. Based on pre-registration there will be a separate section just for 499er teams.

Art

F
E
B
R
U
A
R
Y

North County Inland, Unit 549

acblunit549.org



TABLE



TALK



2
0
2
4

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF ACBL UNIT 549

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I have been hesitant to say this out loud, but our numbers don't lie. F2F bridge is back in North County. By all accounts we are back to those pre-covid numbers in our table count. BCNC has been averaging about 16 tables for their Wednesday afternoon open game and the Monday, Friday and Saturday open games are strong. Our 499er group is as good as it has ever been. And more importantly, they are active and engaged and volunteering to make us a better organization.

Our Winter Sectional was more successful than we had hoped or imagined. We added a third day for team games and you exceeded our expectations. This was the most successful sectional in my tenure with the Unit. Our table count averaged over 60 tables per day for the tournament. The Board has been discussing replacing some of our worn out tables and this success may hasten that process.

Our Seminar Series is returning on March 8 & 9. We were fortunate to get one of the best young (by our standards) duplicate bridge teachers around. Robert Todd is a professional bridge player and teacher. He is often a featured speaker at Regional and National tournaments. So don't miss the chance to have one of those light bulb moments that will change your bridge game. You can register online at <https://www.advinbridge.com/event-registration/san-diego-2024>.

And don't forget, our unit game is this Saturday at Oasis. This is one of the more competitive games in San Diego County and you play with some really nice people. Our 499er section on Saturday is one of the biggest outside of the Sectional or Regional that you will have a chance to play in. And of course the food, this is the best lunch you will get for your entry fee anywhere. So call your partner and make arrangements to play at Oasis this Saturday.

Art

North County Inland, Unit 549

acblunit549.org

TABLE



TALK

**THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF ACBL UNIT 549*****PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE***

I got an email Sunday morning that they were short one mentor for the Monday morning mentoring program at the club. I don't normally get called to help because I'm often gone and they need someone they can count on. Mentoring is always fun and fulfilling so I jumped at the chance. When I walked into the club at 8:50 I couldn't get past the doorway. Hazel was doing a chalk talk and the room was packed and at full attention. When Hazel finished we separated into those who were there for the 499er game and those for the mentoring session. There were 14 tables for the 499er game and 15 people for the mentoring session. The sight of this was nothing short of inspiring. This is our future and it looks like a very bright future. Bridge is back and we're making the most of it.

Robert Todd was here for a two day seminar which was very successful. We used Audrey Grant in the past but she isn't doing the onsite seminars anymore so we are looking for Robert to fill that void. Based on my informal survey of sitting and chatting with a number of the attendees he was a hit. I also talked with Robert and he really liked our venue and wants to work with us to make this an annual event again.

Unit 539 used the Oasis facility for their Spring Sectional. I haven't heard any official results but I did play both days. Based on my acute observations that both rooms were full, I'm betting they had a very successful event.

And last but not least, Saturday is our unit game. There is no place where you can get 4 hours of fun, some really good bridge and a great meal for a measly, not adjusted for inflation ten bucks. So call your partner and make plans to join us on Saturday. That great food will be ready for you at 11:45.

Art



TABLE



TALK

**THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF ACBL UNIT 549**

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

We just finished doing a little house keeping and it brought back some old memories. About 10 years ago the Board took up what turned out to be a very controversial issue. We were tasked with deciding if the unit needed a website. What seems like a no brainer today became a very heated issue within the unit. The unit published a newsletter each month called "Table Talk" that included unit and club news and a calendar of events. Many members were invested in "Table Talk" and thought a website would be redundant. There was an active campaign and presentation to the Board against having a website. The Board took a few meetings and a couple of proposals and ultimately decided on a website. If memory serves me correctly Sue Compton took a picture of Lake San Marcos just outside our meeting room and used that as the background for the home page she designed. We engaged Kitty Cooper to get our domain name and build the website.

I share that memory because that has all changed. Sue Lichter and Alan Turner have invested a lot of time and energy and created a new website for the unit and the Board would like to thank them for their efforts. You can check out their work product by going to acblunit549.org.

All you non-life masters mark your calendars. Saturday July 13th is our next NLM Sectional and your opportunity to earn some of those silver points you so dearly need.

This Saturday is our next unit game and it is going to be a special game. During Covid we suspended recognizing our Ace of Clubs and Mini McKenney winners. That will change this Saturday when we recognize those 2023 winners. So call your partner and make arrangements to join us Saturday to celebrate our winners.

Art

North County Inland, Unit 549

acblunit549.org



TABLE



TALK



THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF ACBL UNIT 549

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I was trying to come up with a way of explaining the Best Practices Teacher Workshop the District was offering and it was a struggle. So here it is in their words.

"District 22 is pleased to present an exclusive opportunity for you to take an ACBL Best Practices Teacher Workshop in conjunction with this year's annual Palm Springs Regional. This workshop, scheduled for December 14-15, is a unique chance to enhance your teaching skills and earn ACBL teacher certification.

The workshop is an ACBL-led two-day course with hands-on small-group activities that focus on how to teach, not what to teach. Through the workshop, teachers will gain insight into structure and activities that maximize student engagement and retention. The course teaches proven adult education methods that have been validated by more than 400 bridge teachers.

The workshop consists of three 4-hour modules taught over two days. There is a proficiency assessment at the end of the course. The course costs \$125, covering all materials. The optional proficiency assessment costs \$25.

Everyone is welcome, both experienced teachers and those who have not taught before."

Our Board believes that bridge education is the key element in promoting and maintaining a healthy and vibrant duplicate bridge community. With that in mind the Board decided to provide the \$125 stipend to up to 4 unit members who enroll in and take this course. For more information about the course please contact Millie Garrison at milliegarrison@gmail.com.

Hey non-life masters, I hope you and your partner have made plans to attend our NLM Sectional on July 13th at our OASIS facility. It is a great opportunity to get those silver points right here in town.

Don't forget that Saturday is our June unit game. We will have a little different look at this game. The Board decided our tables should look as good as the new facility, so we are in the process of replacing all of our tables. So if you haven't made plans to join us on Saturday, call your partner now and make those Saturday plans. Some really good food will be ready at 11:45 and the game starts at 12:30.

Art

D
E
C
E
M
B
E
R

North County Inland, Unit 549

acblunit549.org



TABLE



TALK



2
0
2
4

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF ACBL UNIT 549

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The Unit 549 Board would like to extend our Holiday Wishes to all of you. It is that time of the year when family and friends get together to celebrate and remember. It is also that time when our Bridge family gets together to do some serious celebrating. We would like to invite you to our Member Appreciation Unit Game this Saturday, December 21st. Join us for some seriously good food and a great bridge game. And the whole thing is on us.

Many families in North County will have a Happy Holiday Season again this year because of your generosity. We delivered over 100 unwrapped toys and over \$2,500 in contributions from you, our unit and the club to Interfaith. The Board would like to thank all of you for making our charity game a huge success again this year.

Mark your calendars and make your plans. Our Winter Sectional is January 24-26. It is a 3 day event with team games on Sunday. It is not too early to find your partners for the team game. If last year is any indicator, this will be a big event.

Duplicate Bridge is one of those games where you can never learn enough. Or some of us can never learn enough. If that is you, help is on the way. Robert Todd, recognized as one of the nation's best bridge teachers will be coming back again next year on March 28th and 29th. You can find all the details and more at our new and improved website: acblunit549.org.

I hope to see you Saturday for our Member Appreciation (Holiday Party) Unit Game. The best food of the year will be ready at 11:45am, and the game starts at 12:30. Our non-life master section is usually the biggest in the county.

Art Foeste, Unit 549 President