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North County Inland, Unit 549

acblunit549.org



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THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF ACBL UNIT 549

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings and Happy New Year!!! We're coming up on the third anniversary of the COVID crisis and looking to make this year as close to pre-COVID as possible. Our Escondido club continues to offer beginning bridge lessons, mentoring, a mixed up pairs game and recently added a Tuesday morning open game. The unit, pending the opening of the Oasis location, is making plans for at least one non-life master sectional, the return of our Winter Sectional and a bridge seminar. We have been in contact with Robert Todd, a highly respected bridge player and teacher. We both have a strong interest in putting a two day session together.

We are still facing some headwinds. Getting players back to the club for a F2F game remains a challenge but we are making progress. I recently read a piece in the District 23 newsletter which provided a perspective to that challenge. David Lodge, our Regional Director, stated that the ACBL has about 130,000 dues paying members and is losing about 10,000 per year while adding about 4,000 new members per year. The answer to this challenge is easy, the solution not as easy. I'm looking forward to our affiliation with Oasis. Their focus is education and involvement and I see the opportunity for a win-win here.

Speaking of F2F bridge, our annual Holiday Party and Appreciation Game is this Saturday at the Seven Oaks Community Center in Rancho Bernardo. This game and a great meal is free for all unit members and anyone who has played at the club or a unit game. And I don't know how much better it can get than free (good) food at a great bridge venue. So call your partner and make plans to join us on Saturday. As usual we expect a good non-life master turnout, so you will have your own section.

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

The winds of change are not only blowing, change has arrived in North County. Wednesday will be the last day that the Bridge Club of North County has a game in Escondido. Friday is moving day and Monday, June 26th BCNC has its first game at the new Oasis facility in Rancho Bernardo. This Oasis facility will be the new home for both BCNC and the unit.

Oasis provides services to older adults so they can stay healthy, engaged and involved in the world. We believe that learning and playing duplicate bridge fits nicely into their mission and ours. The club will have dedicated space for our games and classes and lots of parking. The unit will have access to a large lecture room for the unit games and storage space for our tables and supplies. The combination of the dedicated club space and the lecture room will provide enough space for our sectionals. Your support of the club and the unit in this new venture is critically important to our continued success and duplicate bridge.

Saturday is our unit game and our last game at the Seven Oaks Community Center before we move to the new Oasis facility just down the road. This is one of the biggest and best bridge games in the San Diego area and the lunch is always really good. So call your partner and make plans to join us Saturday as we say goodbye to Seven Oaks. Don't forget that we have the largest non-life master game in the county and players with 20 or less master points eat and play for free.

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**THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF ACBL UNIT 549**

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

On June 24th, Oasis had their grand opening at the new Rancho Bernardo facility. I snuck away from our unit game preparations to satisfy a curiosity and get a sneak peak. The club and the unit had made a serious financial commitment to Oasis that frankly threatened my comfort zone, and I needed to get some sense of assurance that this was going to work. I got that and more. The community turnout was amazing, and I would be surprised if it didn't exceed well over a thousand people, including the San Diego Mayor and many dignitaries. After reflecting on my visit, I had a sense of comfort and pride that our bridge community had supported and affiliated with a first class organization that supports the health and well being of our seniors.

The Bridge Club room was part of the Grand Opening, and Alan and Hazel Turner were there to greet people, promote the club and answer questions. There were about 30 people in the room when I was there, and according to Alan there was a lot of interest in the club during the entire event. Hazel's next Bridge Basics class was listed as a course option in the Oasis Spring catalog. Registration was capped at 60 and reached that number early in July.

The following weekend, the BCNC had their grand opening with an amazing turnout. They had 20 NLM tables and had to turn people away because they reached capacity for that room. There were 23 tables in the open event, and I heard lots of really positive comments throughout the game.

Now it is our turn. Saturday is our unit game, and our first game at the new Oasis facility. If you haven't been there yet, now would be a great time to check it out. It is supposed to be really hot on Saturday, and I can't think of a better way to beat the heat and have fun doing it. And don't forget we have the largest NMF section in San Diego County and people with 20 or less master points eat and play for free.

Our new address is 17170 Bernardo Center Drive, San Diego. One of the easiest places to get to in all of San Diego County.

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THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF ACBL UNIT 549

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

There are all kinds of luck. There is no luck, good luck, just dumb luck, in luck and potluck to name a few. But on November 18th, you're in luck or maybe it is just dumb luck, because it is the Unit 549 annual potluck unit game. It is guaranteed to be the best lunch of the year because you bring the food. The Unit is kicking in to provide the main dish and you get to fill in the rest of the details for a great lunch. So call your partner who brings you the best luck and make arrangements to join us for our annual good luck, dumb luck, potluck. Food should be ready by 11:45 a.m.

The November Unit Game is also our annual Holiday Toy Drive, so you need to start that holiday shopping before the Unit game. We ask that everyone playing that day bring an unwrapped toy. All of the toys collected will be passed on to Interfaith Community Services so they can make this Holiday Season just a little brighter for needy families right here in North County. If you don't bring a toy, we ask that you make a cash donation that will go to Interfaith. If you would like that donation to be tax deductible, please make your donation by check payable to Interfaith Community Services. The Unit will be donating all of the card fees collected that day to be included with your donations. And just in case you can't make the Unit game, there is a box at the club where you can leave your toy donation.

This is actually a big day for the Unit, because it is also our annual business meeting and election of Board members. We are looking for one more board member and will be taking nominations from the floor.

When we held our Unit game at Seven Oaks, the custodial staff helped with our set up and take down. When we moved to Oasis, we lost that help because Oasis isn't open on the weekends. The Board would like to thank all of you who have stepped up to fill that void. Our Club and our Unit provide one of the best duplicate bridge venues in San Diego County in my very biased opinion. Our members and their willingness to volunteer is a huge part of that.

Mark your calendars, because it is happening sooner than you think. Our annual member appreciation game will be Saturday, December 16th. The Unit would like to thank all of you for making this the best game in town. The game is free along with a great holiday meal.

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The Holiday Season is here in full force and the Unit 549 Board would like to extend our Holiday Greetings. If you haven't attended your first holiday party yet, we would like to get you started. This Saturday (December 16th) is our annual member appreciation game and Holiday Party and you're invited. This truly has been a good year for the unit and the club with our move to Oasis. Your support has met and passed our expectations and we would like to extend our appreciation more than ever. The unit game this Saturday will include a very good catered meal and no card fees. So call that partner you would like to share a good meal and a great game of bridge with, and make plans for this Saturday. Food at 11:45 and game at 12:30.

We are kicking off the New Year with our first Winter Section in three years and we are adding a new wrinkle. It will be a three day sectional (January 26th thru January 28th) and the third day will be team games only. So start planning ahead and get your partner and your teams lined up. With the parking and the space we have at Oasis, this should be a great event.

The Board would like to thank all of you that participated in our toy drive and annual charity game for Interfaith of North County. Once again it was a great success. Your generosity is going to make this Holiday Season just a little brighter for families here in North County. I delivered your donations and our card fees of \$1,380 and approximately 120 toys to Interfaith.

And just in case you missed it. BCNC is having an appreciation game on December 30th. It is free to members of the club. It is an appetizer potluck and BYOB bridge party. You need to register for the game so make your plans now.

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