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North County Inland, Unit 549

acblunit549.org



TABLE



TALK



THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF ACBL UNIT 549

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

WE'RE BACK AND WE WANT YOU!!!

This has been a long slug, two full years to be exact. It was either March 17th or 18th 2020 that everything shut down and we entered that long covid winter. We've been chomping at the bit to get our unit game going again and actually play bridge the way it is supposed to be played, face to uncovered face. And that is actually going to happen. The Board has decided to resume our unit game schedule of the 4th Saturday of the month starting on March 26th at Seven Oaks in RB.

We've missed you and would like to restart our unit games where we left off with a great turnout. So we're going all in. There will be food and it will be some really good food. There will be those familiar faces you haven't seen in a while. And it will be a Royal STaC game. This is a can't miss opportunity. Good food, good bridge, multi-colored points and you can enjoy it all for a measly no inflation here 10 bucks. You can't even find a burger for 10 bucks any more. And we're going to feed you and keep you entertained for 3 1/2 hours.

Just in case you've forgotten, here is how it works. The game will be at the Seven Oaks Community Center in Rancho Bernardo on Saturday March 26th. It starts at 12:30 pm and food will be ready at 11:45 am. Ida is our director and there will be a non-life master section if we get at least 3 non-life master tables. Anyone with less than 20 master points plays for free. We will be following the ACBL covid protocol that requires all players to be vaccinated and mask wearing is optional. If you've played at our Escondido club and previously provided proof of vaccination no additional proof will be necessary. If you haven't you will need to provide proof of vaccination to register.

This will also be our annual membership meeting. We haven't done Board elections in over 2 years and we are looking for at least one new Board member. If you are interested in running for a Board seat please let me know. I can be reached at art.foeste@gmail.com.

Art

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I must admit there was a little angst and anxiety surrounding our first unit game in exactly two years. But you came through for us. We hoped for 20 tables and planned for 24. So I'm pleased to report that we met and exceeded our expectations. And based on my conversations with many of you, you were glad to be back and enjoyed an afternoon of bridge, friendship and some good food.

Many of you are aware this didn't end without a little drama. I got a call the next morning from our Director, Ida, saying she just tested positive for COVID. The one positive besides the test was Ida wore a mask all day. Fortunately, we had e-mail addresses for almost everyone who played and we able to notify everybody quickly. I'm happy to report Ida's symptoms were mild and she is doing just fine. Also, I'm not aware of anyone who attended testing positive for COVID from their exposure at the game.

You may be familiar with Oasis, a local not-for profit that is committed to lifelong learning, health, wellness and community involvement for the over 50 generation. They recently purchased the former 24 Hour Fitness building in Rancho Bernardo to help better serve North County. In what truly would be a symbiotic relationship, the club (BCNC) and the unit are negotiating with them to be part of their North County footprint. Assuming we are successful, BCNC would have a dedicated club room at the facility and their large meeting room would be big enough for the unit to hold our unit games, seminars and sectionals there. The three big positives for us would be: a permanent location, lots of parking and they would be promoting bridge along with us. If this works we could be there early next year.

Just a reminder, the April unit game is this Saturday, April 23rd, at Seven Oaks in Rancho Bernardo. This is the best bridge deal in San Diego County, a really good lunch, a large non-life master section and some great competition in the open game for a measly 10 bucks. Lunch is served at 11:45 am and the game starts at 12:30 pm. See you there!!



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**THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF ACBL UNIT 549**

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

“Getting back to normal”!! How many times have you heard that refrain lately. Inflation is 8.5% and gas is \$5.85 per gallon. I’ve been waiting over a year for my new garage door. My sister ordered a new car in December and still has no idea when it is coming and COVID cases are on the rise. No wonder we are all looking for “back to normal”, whatever that might be.

Well, we would like to help get your duplicate bridge life back to some form of the old normal. Our affiliated club, the Bridge Club of North County, is providing an array of duplicate bridge opportunities including open games 4 days per week, 499 games 3 days per week, bridge lessons and supervised play. Check out their website for all the details at bridgeclubofnorthcounty.org.

The Unit is working on a return to normal also. We have a NLM Sectional in the planning stages for later this year and are planning to do an Open Sectional and some bridge education early next year. But right now our Unit games are back to normal with a really good lunch, some great competition with a lot of friendly faces at a really nice venue.

Call your partner and mark your calendars so you don’t miss our next Unit Game. It will be Saturday, May 28th at the Seven Oaks Community Center. That really good food will be ready at 11:45 am and the game starts at 12:30 p.m. And with inflation that 10 measly bucks it costs is actually cheaper than it used to be. We expect to have a 499er section and as usual any player with less than 20 master points eats and plays for free.

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We may be a divided country but we are not divided here in San Diego County. The Unit Board and the Unit 539 Board have agreed to do a joint Non-Life Master Sectional on September 24th at the Seven Oaks Community Center. It will be a one day event with two sessions. The morning session starts at 9:30 am and the afternoon at 2:00 pm. This will give our active and growing non-life masters group a chance to get silver points in F2F competition. If you are a non-life master with 500 or less master points mark your calendar, you don't want to miss this opportunity. A flyer with all the details is posted on our website. Note, this sectional will replace our regularly scheduled unit game that day.

While most units and clubs in the county are struggling to get players back to the table, things are getting better. And by most metrics The Bridge Club of North County is doing quite well compared with the other clubs. Their success is due in large part to Hazel Turner and her teaching skills. She got back to teaching beginning/basic duplicate bridge in August 2021. Since that time she has run 6 series of Bridge Basics 1, 2 and 3 and 1 series of Play of the Hand and Defense. The combination of these courses has attracted about 50 new students. She also does a supervised play with a mentor every Monday morning which gets 2 to 3 tables. These new players interest in learning and playing duplicate bridge is reason for hope and has us going in the right direction. If you know anyone interested in learning duplicate bridge please direct them to Hazel.

I don't mean for this to sound boastful, but I believe that our unit game is the biggest and best game in San Diego County right now. We are averaging about 20 tables of which about 8 are non-life masters. We are getting players from all parts of the county and the competition in the open game is first rate. I'm betting a good lunch to go along with that good friendly competition helps our turnout.

Just a reminder, August 27th is our next regularly scheduled unit game. Call your partner and mark your calendar because these games are as good as it gets in San Diego County.

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For the first time in a long time I actually feel good about where we are in our return to almost normal. Units 549 and 539 just held a joint NLM Sectional at Seven Oaks and we had a total of 30 tables over the two sessions. At our last Unit 549 NLM Sectional in 2019 we had 36 tables over the two sessions. This is a stronger turnout than other units have been experiencing. More importantly we have gotten a lot of very positive feedback from those who played.

I'd like to give a shout out to our partners in this event. Our efforts were truly joint and coordinated. Mary Rea surprised us with some great decorating and her food team provided a great lunch option and bridge snacks.

Our future is "Oasis". Oasis is a San Diego non-profit whose mission is to ensure that adults 50+ have opportunities to pursue vibrant, healthy, productive and meaningful lives. Their focus is on lifelong learning, health and wellness and community involvement. They recently purchased the old 24 Hour Fitness building in Rancho Bernardo, a large building with great access and lots of parking. They see duplicate bridge and bridge education fitting nicely into their commitment to the 50+ community. We see a forever home with dedicated space for our club and unit games, lots of parking and a group with a database and marketing program committed to adult learning. Alan Turner made our relationship official two weeks ago and we will be sharing space, and a commitment to duplicate bridge. We will be moving in as soon as renovations are complete in about 7 months.

The Bridge Club of North County recently received notification from the IRS that they have been granted 501(C)(3) status. What that means is, any donations made to the Club are tax deductible just like any other charitable donation you make. So as you plan those charitable contributions at the close of the tax year please consider the Bridge Club of North County and help us with our move to Oasis.

Our unit game on November 19th is also our annual business meeting where we conduct the election of board members. We currently have 2 openings on our board and we are looking for a couple of people who want to be part of our bridge future. Serving on the Board doesn't involve a big time commitment (about 90 minutes a month), just an interest in keeping duplicate bridge viable in North County. If you are interested you can e-mail either me or Alan Turner. Or you can just tell us in person.

Mark your calendar, October 22nd is our next unit game. If you enjoy some good competition in a great venue with some friendly people, this is where you want to be. And we'll throw in a really good lunch. The game starts at 12:30 pm at the Seven Oaks Community Center, with lunch at 11:45 am. There will be a separate non-life master section which usually exceeds 7 tables. Call your partner and make plans to join us.

Art Foeste

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I've had to wait 2 long years for this and it is finally here. My favorite unit and duplicate bridge experience each year is our November Unit game. Not only is it the best food of the year but it is our annual toy drive. It has been a long tradition for this unit to bring some holiday joy to those in North County whose holiday wouldn't be quite as joyful without our help. And Saturday is the culmination of our toy drive which started a couple of weeks ago when we set up our donation box at the North County Bridge Club.

Our next unit game is Saturday November 19th. It is our annual pot luck event where we provide the main dish and let you provide the rest of the fixin's. And the "we" this year is going to be our gourmet cook Sue Lichter, who will bring a little holiday joy to your palate.

So here is how it works. You bring an unwrapped toy and a dish to pass. We provide the main dish, some really good competition, a lot of friendly faces and a great afternoon of bridge. There are no free plays for this event and in lieu of the unwrapped toy you can make a tax deductible donation to Interfaith or the Bridge Club of North County. All the toys, donations and card fees collected that day will go to Interfaith of North County. And just to give you a little perspective, in 2019 we delivered about 150 toys and \$1,500 to Interfaith. So call your partner and make plans to join us on Saturday. You'll have a great afternoon and make someone's Holiday just a little brighter. They call that a twofer.

Saturday is also our annual unit meeting where we elect board members. We are looking for 2 people that would like to join the board and help us keep duplicate bridge viable and vibrant here in North County. It isn't a big time commitment, just 2 or 3 hours per month. So, if you're interested please let either Alan Turner or me know.

We weren't able to get any Saturday space for December so there will be no unit game. That means that January 28th will be our next unit game and our Holiday Party. And just in case you've forgotten, the unit provides everything for the Holiday Party and everyone gets a free play. So if you have vacation plans for the end of January there is still time to change them so you don't miss this party.

Art Foeste