

The Western Conference CONTRACT BRIDGE FORUM



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Riverside Regional Reprised



Riverside Convention Center

By Teri Atkinson



The Riverside Regional is finally returning to its regular time slot: the official dates in 2015 are February 2-8. Yes, you were just there in June ... and didn't you love the remodeled facility and the fine hospitality and event

schedule? So ... you will want to return soon!

We offer three great hotels ready to house you: Marriott Riverside at the Convention Center, Hyatt Place Riverside, and the famous Mission Inn. Check the ad inside for all the wonderful bridge rates at these great hotels, but hurry, some are sold out already.

Check out the ad inside for the reservation procedures, or visit the tournament website at www.RiversideRegional.com

Fine tournament hospitality, awards and full lecture program are synonymous with D22, and Riverside is also legendary for its eateries in comfort and beauty.

Maritha Pottenger and her popu-

lar Bridge Boot Camp will be there all week for the newer and advancing players.

The Riverside Regional is happy to return to its regular time slot: Super Bowl Week, late January/early February, where we've had so much past success. I'm sure you will also love a return after a two year period, as the Convention Center was completely refurbished and upgraded. For those of you who missed it in June, you are in for a wonderful treat with its great ambiance amid beautiful downtown Riverside.

Put this tournament on your must-do calendars right away! Affordable bridge in a divine atmosphere. Nice.

Pacific Southwest Regional



By Bill Grant
Tournament
Chairman

Preparations are well underway for

the 70th annual Pacific Southwest Regional, to be held (for the 37th time) Monday, March 30 through Sunday, April 5 at the Town and Country Resort and Convention Center in San Diego's Mission
(See Pacific on page 16)

Q & A for I/Ns on the D22 Website

Maritha Pottenger, the district's popular I/N teacher, and Andy Loh, past president, have requested Jon Wright, the D22 webmaster, to construct a portion of the district website to offer newcomers and intermediates a Q & A forum. Answers to their questions would then be given by presumably advanced players. The first posting is now available at acbldistrict22.com/kibitz reachable by clicking on a tab on the top menu bar of the web page. Jon has added sections for comments about tour-

naments, conventions and other miscellaneous items.

The link is not complete and Kitty Cooper has volunteered to help with the final polish. The details of how it works will depend somewhat on the volume of usage and problems with spam etc. A user will register, and will receive, a password. He/she can now write comments on existing posts or write a post on a new topic. The initial input by anybody will be approved, and further posts will be posted automatically.

Give it a try.

District Direction

By Ken Monzingo

National Board Representative



New Year 2015. Christmas Week. Western Conference Holiday STAC. Palm Springs Regional. Is there a greater time to live in SoCal? I think not. I just returned from two weeks in Providence, Rhode Island at the Fall NABC and, although it's a nice city and pleasant people, I froze my buns off battling piercing wind and rain walking just two blocks to a board dinner. I love District 22, and coming home is always a thrill ... when the unique Pacific breeze hit my face as I stepped off the Southwest Airlines 727 I knew, without a doubt, I was home.

I get very emotional at year's end with all the hustle, bustle, friendship and love we give and enjoy receiving in the season. For one fleeting moment I am a child again, awaiting the thrills of the presents and the family sharing. My troubles, struggles and disappointments are insignificant for these two weeks of peaceful harmony. And Christmas music totally mesmerizes me.

I've rotated all the CDs in my new car to sing along to the yuletide classics as I drive to the desert for what will again be the second or third largest regional in the country – the annual mid-December tournament at the beautiful Westin Hills Resort & Spa in Rancho Mirage. I hope you all attended and celebrated the week with Manager Mick Riccio and Co-chair Nancy Erickson. They always put on such a wonderful show for the players, and the district has purchased everything new for your enjoyment.

Embarrassment

While in the ACBL board meetings we faced some tough decisions which could go either way. Mostly on the past and future of ACBL Score, our directors' software used to run bridge games – club, STAC, sectional, regional, and national. After a couple of decades of falling behind the times in technology for this one-of-a-kind operating system, management attempted, first to hire outside firms to write a totally new version; and, after little success, second, to go full bore into improving ACBL's outdated edition themselves. The ACBL Score+ outside contract was terminated when it became painfully obvious to management that it was not going to work, and was becoming very, very expensive. I applaud both the majority of my board and our ACBL CEO, whose courage led us to take the loss and move forward, including his formation of a rainbow committee of three board members, three ACBL staff, and three outside software experts. Although I believe we made the correct decision to stop the bleeding, I am not unanimously joined in that opinion.

Both management and board have been subjected to an unearned assault of criticism from several sources – internally, on-line and now publically. During the Board of Governors (BOG) meeting in Providence (BOG is not the Board of Directors BOD that I sit on) disgruntled individuals – the most vocal one from Canada – were allowed unchecked time assailing our CEO before a crowd of hundreds in insulting, near personal, attacks.

Some board members (me included) were dismayed with such a display of rudeness; there is no place for such behavior in the game of bridge, or in any public gathering of comrades The BOG, and District 1, should take steps to rectify such action. It was not the season's Christmas Spirit I so look forward to. Far from it.

Providence NABC Board

A few notable facts from the Fall board meetings:

1. Regional tournaments may now be 7 full days instead of 6 1/2.
2. Gold Rush events remain in two flights, but now may have three strats each (instead of just two in A/X).
3. Masterpoint awards have again been altered somewhat – pairs events have increased MPs.
4. Sectional attendance is down slightly at 4%, clubs down 3%, but online clubs continue up 6%. Regional attendance constant.
5. League membership also remains pretty constant: 167,750+ approx. – average member age: 71+, a little older in D22.
6. An ACBL Director University has been established to better train and recruit new tournament directors.
7. On printed lifetime masterpoint lists all masterpoints won online will be included alongside the person's total.

To see all the motions, and how I voted, you can view the board minutes on my website: www.kenmonzingo.com

Personal Thanks

To those of you who sent your heartfelt support and wishes for me as I ran for ACBL President for next year, I owe you a lifetime of gratitude. Although I lost a very close race, I was overwhelmed by the support and genuine caring you showed for me to finish my bridge political career with a year representing us. I have no words adequate enough to thank you; I just wish I could have brought it home to you, but it was not in the cards. Nancy Erickson, to cool my disappointment, so nicely wrote, "Well, now we [D22] will have more of you."

What a compliment! Now that's what I call a Blessed Christmas, and hopefully a Happier New Year.

Peace, my friends.

D22 Forum Deadlines

The D22 Forum deadline for articles and ads is the 5th of the preceding month.

All ads must be prepaid, payable to D22 ACBL c/o David Lodge, treasurer 219 Loch Lomond Road Rancho Mirage CA 92270 Please e-mail all ads (after prepayment) & all copy to: Joel Hoersch joel@contractbridgeforum.com 858 336-1508

Change of Address Send change of address to: addresschange@acbl.org or snailmail to: ACBL/Address Change P.O. Box 289 Horn Lake MS 38637