

# CONTRACT BRIDGE FORUM



The Western Conference

Happy  
St. Patrick's Day!

www.d21acbl.com

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## Sacramento's California Capital Regional May 29-June 4, 2017



Sacramento, California



**By Pam Hughes**  
ACBL District  
21 Tournament  
Manager

What a crazy winter we've had, weather wise! I hope that throughout all the wind and rain and snow, you've been able to get out there to the bridge table!

I think we have set a new record for the Sacramento DoubleTree selling out early! The sad thing is, ironically, once again I predict we will fall short of our block after the tournament has finished.

I hate to sound like a broken record, but it's more important than ever that if you booked early and find yourself unable to attend that you "cancel responsibly." There are so many people who have been unable to get reservations.

The best thing you can do is re-

evaluate your plans a couple of months early. If it looks like you won't be able to make it, or you want to shorten your stay, let the hotel know as early as possible. Up until our cutoff date (May 7) the canceled rooms go back into our room block. But canceling right at the end doesn't give people enough time to get in, so cancel as much before that date as you can.

If you have to cancel after the cutoff date, please let me know personally via email [jmom380@yahoo.com](mailto:jmom380@yahoo.com) I already have a growing wait list of people that would love your room if you find you're unable to attend.

### Now, the good news!

For those of you that can't get a reservation at the DoubleTree, I've arranged three overflow properties, all of them great options and nearby.

Historically the Hilton Arden Fair has been our overflow property, but they are very busy during our tournament and not

(See Sacramento on page 12)

## District 21 Goodwill Winners



Three Goodwill Award Winners with D21 Officers: pictured left to right: Mark Humphrey (winner), Harvey Brody, Thomas Sheahan (winner), President Jim Leuker, Sandi Davis, Tom Pajak, District Director Roger Smith, Brian Haley (winner). Winners not pictured: Toni Hillman, Ken Hillman, Deborah Murphy, and Shirley Rodenborn.

## President's Letter

**By Jim Leuker**  
District 21 President



Happy 2017 to all! I hope you had a great time at the Monterey Clambake Regional. Our tournament staff and volunteers did their usual great job of putting on a terrific tournament. The Hyatt Regency loves having us each year. We expect that our happy relationship with them will continue.

In District 21 business, we held one of our three annual board meetings while in Monterey. We heard that the district is in generally good shape. We showed a very modest profit in 2016. The attendance at the Clambake was off about 2% from the prior year. We suffered an \$11,000 penalty charge from the Modesto DoubleTree Hotel at our October Harvest Regional, due to a rash of late-minute room cancellations. This penalty clause in the contract kicks in when we don't fill our agreed block of rooms. We may recoup this penalty if we have a successful contract on our next visit.

I hope you read Tournament Manager Pam Hughes' article here and in the December *Forum*. She reminds all of us of our responsibility when booking a hotel room at one of our tournaments. We want you to reserve your room, but please do so when you're pretty sure you're going to attend. And if your plans change, contact Pam as soon as possible so that she can re-book that room for someone on her waiting list.

Many players from northern Nevada have been asking for a long time to have a regional back in Reno. We've heard you and have planned a fall tournament in neighboring Sparks later this year (watch for the ads). The venue looks great, with newly renovated hotel rooms, and the nearby Victorian Village with dozens of restaurant choices. Please make plans to be there. A number of you complained about the Compact Knockouts ending on Saturday; this has been changed for Sacramento. Your slate of four officers were re-elected for another year, me as president, Tom Pajak as vice president, Harvey Brody as treasurer and Sandi Davis as secretary.

- Goodwill Awards were presented to a number of outstanding volunteers. (See adjoining photo article.)
- GNT registration is now being offered online. It is easier to register your team and to see who else will be competing.
- A \$30,000 charity grant from ACBL was apportioned to six worthy charities throughout the district.
- Our next meeting is set for June 3 in Sacramento. Please contact your unit representative or me, [jleuker100@aol.com](mailto:jleuker100@aol.com), to bring forward issues of interest to you. Please let me hear from you if you know a good graphic artist who'd like to design the logo for the upcoming Fall 2019 San Francisco NABC. Also tell me about a good web designer who wishes to help us bring our old website into the 21st Century.

On the national level, you undoubtedly have heard that ACBL CEO Robert Hartman has announced his resignation effective July 31, 2017. He is leaving to take up the reins of a family business and will be moving to Florida. He is proud of much of what has been accomplished in his five years at ACBL. A number of you in the Bay Area knew Robert as a local player and board volunteer before he moved up to the big post at ACBL headquarters. We wish him well.

## D21 FORUM DEADLINES

Deadline for all *Forum* copy and ads is the 5th of the preceding month!

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### Change of Address

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## North American Pairs

**By Jackie Ortiz**  
D21 NAP/GNT Coordinator



The District 21 North American Pairs qualifying is now over with a large turnout, and we wish all our winners good luck at the Spring NABC finals in Kansas City in March.

**Flight A winners:** 1st, Jo Anna & Lew Stansby; 2nd, Gary Soules & Ed Barlow; 3rd, Crispin Barrere & Bob Etter.

### Flight B winners

- 1st Qing Yang & Elenalani Lam
- 2nd Luen-Jyh Luo & Tsao-Tung Tsai
- 3rd Lani Ray & Richard Wasserstrom
- 4th Alan Wood & Bob Enenstein

### Flight C winners

- 1st Dominik Dudzik & Wesley May
- 2nd Benjamin Leitner & Michael Leitner

(See NAP on page 12)