

Kibitzer



Publication of the Chicago Contract Bridge Association Dec. 2021/Jan. 2022

CCBA Scores Success with Long-Awaited Regional

Many prayers may have been said at Temple Jeremiah on November 2, 3, and 4; however, they were not uttered by temple members, but by bridge players praying to make their contract.

The three-day Rake in the Gold Tournament, the first regional to be held by Unit 123 since 2019, was held in Temple Jeremiah in Northfield, and attracted a number of top players. The event featured games for all levels, including open pairs, Gold Rush Pairs, Swiss Teams, and even a 0-5 pair game. Players with 0-5 points who purchased an entry at full price received a free play for use in any other single-session game during the tournament.

Before being admitted to the tournament, players had to show a valid vaccination card. They then received a wristband. Masks had to be worn. Those were among several steps taken to ensure players' safety, according to Tournament Chair Suzi Subeck.

She called the abbreviated tournament a success. "We were happy with the turnout of 193 tables. It was about what we expected."



Players line up to show their vax card and to receive a wrist band from Bob Maxson, CCBA board member.

(See pages 5 and 9 for more tournament coverage.)

COMING SOON!

IMPORTANT NEWS ABOUT WINTERFEST

Keep an eye on the home page of the CCBA website,

www.bridgeinchicago.com

to learn the date and site of the

WinterFest Tournament and Annual Meeting,

which will be held in late January.



Congrats

Congratulations to Unit 123's George Jacobs for being among those named 2021 ACBL Member of the Year.

Tom Talks Tournaments



CCBA Pres. Tom Dressing

It would be foolish of me to say things are back to normal, but after holding our second tournament since the start of the pandemic, it feels like things are becoming more normal.

The first tournament was the Silver Point Sectional held during September in Skokie, and the second was Unit 123's Three-Day Regional, which was held in Northfield during November.

Attendance at both tournaments did not rival those of previous years, but the turnout was encouraging. It showed us that many are eager to get back to face-to-face play (F2F) and to participate in tournaments.

That is good news, because if bridge is to survive, F2F play at the clubs, at the local tournaments, and at the North American Bridge Championships is essential.

The CCBA's annual tournament roster begins with the WinterFest Sectional, normally held in late January. That is when new board members are elected and player awards, including the Ace of Clubs and the Mini-McKenney, are given. The Ace of Clubs recognizes those players in each category who won the most masterpoints in Unit 123 club games during the previous year, and the Mini-McKenney recognizes those players in each category who won the most masterpoints. Also, it is when the Invitational Pairs Game is held.

Although the future for F2F play is uncertain, I hope to see you at the Annual Meeting and WinterFest Tournament, and at the other tournaments the CCBA is planning for 2022.

Looking forward to seeing you at the tables,

Tom Dressing
2021 CCBA President

I favor light opening bids. When you're my age, you're never sure that the bidding will get back around to you in time.

Oswald Jacoby at 77



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Opinions of columnists are their own and may not represent those of the CCBA. For more information, go to www.bridgeinchicago.com or call the CCBA at 630-235-4718.

ACBL reorganization unites District 13 with Districts 12 and 14

District 13, including the CCBA (Unit 123), becomes part of the new ACBL Region 5, beginning January 2022.

The ACBL Board of Directors voted to reduce the 25 geographically defined districts as shown on the map at right, to 13 regions. Each district has a representative on the ACBL Board of Directors. Suzi Subeck, a past ACBL president. Has been director for District 13 since 2010.

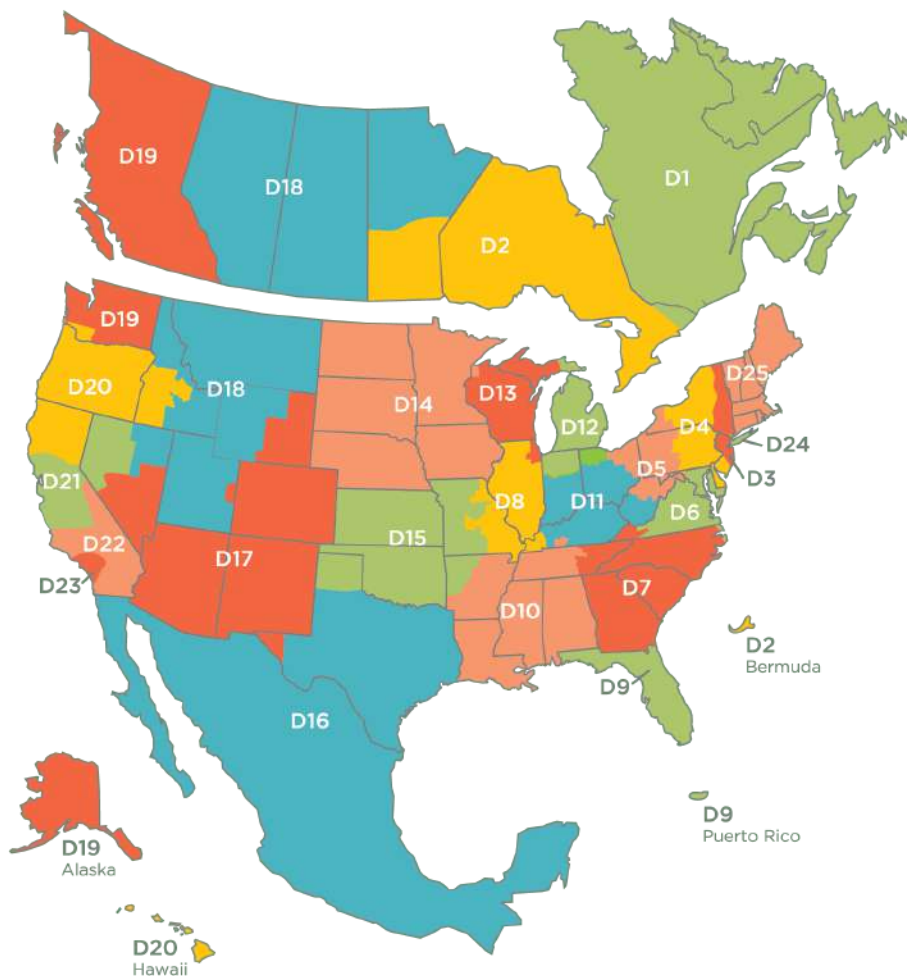
The CCBA (Unit 123) is one of the 300+ units overseen by the ACBL. District 13 consists of three units: 123 (Chicago area), 149 (Wisconsin and Upper Michigan), and District 222 (Greater Milwaukee).

District 13 will be joined with District 12 which has six units, and includes Lower Michigan, Northwestern Ohio and Northern Indiana, and with District 14, which has nine units, and includes Iowa, North and South Dakota, and Minnesota.

The ACBL Board of Directors is the league's legislative body with responsibility for establishing the regulations for tournaments and play and the overall budget and administration of the league.

The directors supervise and regulate the business, property and affairs of the ACBL, except as otherwise expressly provided by law, the Certificate of Incorporation or the ACBL Bylaws.

The Board employs an executive director to manage and conduct ACBL business in accordance with policies and regulations established by the board of directors.



Deduction on Defense – Proper Third Hand Play Is the Key



By Ginny and Jeff Schuett

Defenders are expected to listen to the bidding and make inferences, or educated guesses regarding declarer's strength and distribution.

As the play progresses, good defenders can make even more inferences from partner's leads, plays as third hand, and declarer's plays.

Key to many of these inferences is proper third hand play, which says always play the lowest of equals, including when you have an honor in dummy surrounded.

1. For example,

♥ K853	♥ J62	♥ QT4
	♥ A97	

When declarer wins the ♥A, the opening leader knows that partner holds the ♥Q, because if declarer held it, they would win the ♥T with the ♥Q, not the ♥A.

2. Another important rule for third hand play is if you win the first trick and have only two cards remaining, return the highest card of the remaining doubleton, even if it is an honor.

For example, defending a 1NT contract,

♥ 7	
♥ KT863	♥ AJ2 (win A & return J)
♥ Q954	

West has presumably led fourth best and East should win ♥A and return the ♥J, South covering with ♥Q. Based on East's play, West knows East started with three or even only two hearts and should shift to another suit to wait for East to lead through South's ♥95. If West cashes the ♥T, South will get a trick with ♥9.

3. Here is a full hand example, defending 1NT, West leads ♥7.

♠ T982	♠ KJ43	♠ A75
♥ AJ875	♥ 4	♥ KT2
♦ A8	♦ KQ762	♦ J543
♣ J3	♣ A74	♣ T85
	♠ Q6	
	♥ Q963	
	♦ T9	
	♣ KQ962	

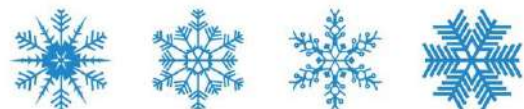
Note you frequently underlead an Ace against NT, but never against a suit contract.

East wins ♥K and returns the ♥T, South covering with ♥Q and West winning the ♥A. It is tempting to try to cash the ♥J, but partner indicated holding only two remaining ♥, so declarer is likely to hold the protected ♥9.

It is better for West to shift to another suit, the ♠T in hopes of getting to East so he can return his last ♥ through declarer, therefore cashing the whole heart suit without giving declarer a trick.

Bridge is a fascinating, but challenging game. But if defenders follow the standard rules for third hand play, logical deductions can be made when defending.

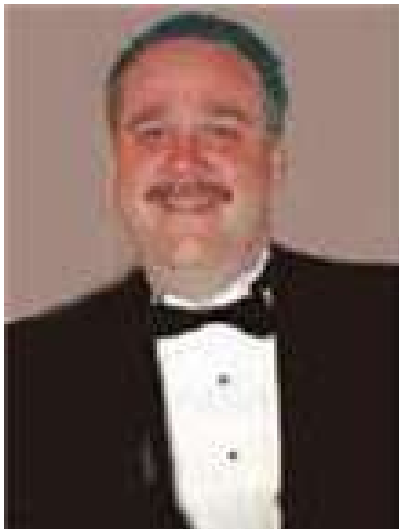
Ginny & Jeff Schuett – bridge teaching, directing, play phone 847-940-7236 Email=jgschuett2@comcast.net



Raking in Gold at Regional



Can you figure out where Wimpy went wrong?



Jim Diebel
Winning with Wimpy

I played in the Swiss Team event during the regional tournament our district hosted in early November.

We had won our first match by 10 or 11 imps, and were paired against a team of players I did not recognize. They seemed to be a bit timid, and going into the last board of an eight-board match, I estimated we were comfortably ahead.

With everyone vulnerable, I picked up the following: ♠ K962 ♥ 9
♦ AKJT5 ♣ A97.

The auction proceeded:

South (me)	West	North	East
1D	1S	2H*	Pass
3NT	Pass	4S**	Pass
?			

* One round force, not necessarily game forcing

** Transfer to clubs

My partner and I play a rather unusual convention whereby any bid after a 3NT bid made when either partner hasn't limited their hand is a transfer.

It works great when responder has say, a 6-4 hand in the majors with extra values. Having bid spades and hearts, responder is in an awkward spot if he wants to set spades as trumps and still investigate a slam. Over 3NT, he can bid 4H, which doesn't show 5-5 (he'd bid 4D with that hand) forcing opener to bid 4S, and allowing responder to take control of the auction.

Anyway, on this hand 4S was not a cue bid, but rather a transfer to clubs. In this situation, our convention is not so convenient. On one hand, I am expected to choose between hearts and clubs, but I have no real way to suggest to partner that I have a good fit for the second suit.

I can bid 4NT to play with no real fit for either round suit. I was convinced that making a vulnerable game would be enough to win the match, but we were playing victory point scoring, and point differential matters. Hop-

ing that partner had a good reason for pulling me out of 3NT, I closed my eyes and bid 6C. The ace of spades was led, and partner tabled a dummy that justified my faith in him.

North	South
♠ ---	♠ K962
♥ KJT763	♥ 9
♦ 84	♦ AKJT5
♣ KQJT3	♣ A97

I ruffed the spade in dummy and led a diamond to my ace in order to lead a heart toward dummy. As expected, West held the ♥A and jumped up with it. West exited with a diamond which went the queen and king.

At this point, I'm feeling pretty good, seeing that I've got 5 diamonds, 5 clubs, and both major suit kings for 12 tricks. There was a catch. I hadn't drawn trump yet.

If clubs were a pedestrian 3-2, I could draw three rounds of trumps ending in my hand and claim. My gut told me I'd had about as much chance of trumps being 3-2 as I had as being cast as the next *The Bachelor*.

If hearts were 3-3, or the ♥Q was a doubleton, I could cross to dummy in trump, ruff a heart high, cross back in clubs, draw trump and run the hearts. I estimated that hearts 3-3 or the ♥Q doubleton was about 52 percent. Clubs 3-2 normally is 68 percent, so that rated to be better than working with hearts. Could I do better?

I pondered for more than a minute before seeing what I was convinced would be the best line. With the exception of the ♣7, all of my trumps were high. I had won three tricks. If I cashed both major suit kings, and then scored all seven of my remaining trumps separately, I could come to 12 tricks. This would require that either hearts were 3-3, or 4-2 with length on my left, or the ♣8 being on my right. This looked to be around 70 percent or better.

I cashed the ♠K, ruffed a spade high in dummy, (♠Q falling on my right) cashed the ♥K, all following and led a heart from dummy.

I ruffed with the ♣7, knowing that if that trick lived, I could claim the rest on a high cross ruff. West overruffed and I went down. We lost the match by three instead of winning by 22 – if I had made the slam. If we stop in game, we win by 10. *(Continued on page 10)*

Bidding and play both interesting in recent matchpoint event



By Rowan Bell

The following deal from a recent matchpoint event has interest in both the bidding and the play:

North dealer, NS vulnerable
Opponents silent throughout

North	South
♠ Q9873	♠ AJ5
♥ A43	♥ K87
♦ J	♦ AQT42
♣ A754	♣ 83

Looking at both hands, you'd like to be in 4 ♠. Is it clear you'll get there, though?

Some partnerships would consider the North hand to be a first-seat 1 ♠ opener, and after a 1 ♠ opening, South will surely force to game.

If North passes, "to my tastes" South should upgrade the hand to a 1NT opening, after which North will force to game. South has an excellent 14-count with a good 5-card suit, and 3-card support for whichever major partner might happen to transfer to.

On the other hand, if North passes and South opens 1 ♦, getting to game might be more of a challenge. If the

auction starts P-1 ♦-1 ♠-1NT or P-1 ♦-1 ♠-2 ♠, both North and South have maximum values for their actions, so if either partner invites, the other ought to accept. Nevertheless, when the hand was played, a significant fraction of the field stopped short of game.

At the table, South opens 1NT and ends up declaring in 4 ♠ after a transfer sequence. After West leads the deuce of hearts, what's the right line of play?

In my view, it's attractive to win the heart with dummy's ace and lead the jack of diamonds, planning on running it. Yes, it's unusual to take a finesse holding a singleton! However, the combined hands' diamond holding is very strong, so declarer should consider the possibility of using South's diamonds to discard North's rounded-suit losers.

After the jack of diamonds runs, West wins with the king and plays another heart. Now declarer can form the following plan:

Win the king of hearts, cash the ace of diamonds discarding dummy's last heart, ruff declarer's last heart in dummy (opponents' hearts are likely to be 4-3 since the deuce was led), and play a spade from dummy towards declarer's ace-jack.

If this loses to the king, declarer wins the return, plays two more rounds of trumps ending in dummy, and hopefully discards dummy's three club losers on good diamonds



– making five, if trumps are 3-2 and diamonds 4-3.

At the table, the jack of spades holds. Now declarer can cash the spade ace and, if both opponents follow low, start cashing diamonds. If diamonds are 4-3 but East ruffs in with the king of spades on the fourth round of diamonds, then in order to make five, declarer needs to return to the closed hand after winning the club return, in order to pitch dummy's final club on a good diamond...

...And there's the rub: In order for this to line of play to work, declarer - early on - has to pay close attention to the spots in the trump suit in his hand!

After dummy's final heart was pitched on trick four, declarer needs to take care to ruff trick five in dummy with the seven of spades, and then lead the eight of spades towards the ace-jack, preserving the all-important three. If the three of spades is wasted on either of those tricks, then declarer may later be stuck with a club loser and only make four instead of five.

(Continued on page 8)

Congratulations Rank Advancers. You Did It!

Junior Master

David Fritzsche
Gabriele Grumhaus
George Israel
Patricia Kosinski
Cynthia Levin
Marlene Posner
Chris Veeneman
Pete Wentz
Bogdan Tazbierek

Club Master

Mohamed Agha
Robert Arzbaeher
Thomas Cappelle
Loretta Cooney
Kristy Declene
James Flowers
Ruby Klinger
Conrad May
MaryAlice Miller
Carol Mooney
Gary Salit
Gregory Smith
Kaci Smith

Sectional Master

Louise Burns
Dalsang Chaudhari
Gabrielle Fischer
Avrum Gray
Cynthia Harris
Diane Heller
Sally Hughes
Sherry Jost
Daniel Kuhn
Jackie Lefevre
Marcy List
Erika Meller
Mary Martin
Joe Nolan
Paul Rogerson
John Spokas

Regional Master

Steven Lewis
Cynthia Linton
Eileen Martin
Sylvia Remus
Gerry Yeggy



NABC Master

Belinda Brock
Max Brock
Sharon Gerecke
Shelley Johnson
Dershi Saxena

Bronze Life Master

Penelope Moore
Janis Morrisroe
David Sullivan

Silver Life Master

Joyce Meitus

Ruby Life Master

Beryl Block

Gold Life Master

George Roeper

Sapphire Life Master

Stephen Donahue



Bidding and Play

Continued from page 7)

The full hand:

	♠ Q9873	
	♥ A43	
	♦ J	
	♣ A754	
♠ T6		♠ K42
♥ 952		♥ QJT6
♦ K975		♦ 863
♣ KT62		♣ QJ9
	♠ AJ5	
	♥ K87	
	♦ AQT42	
	♣ 83	

On the suggested line of play, the lay of the cards after the third round of diamonds has been cashed is as follows, with South on lead:

	♠ Q?	
	♥ -	
	♦ -	
	♣ A75	
♠ - S		♠ K
♥ -		♠ Q
♦ 9		♦ -
♣ KT62		♣ QJ9
	♠ 5	
	♥ -	
	♦ T4	
	♣ 83	

When South plays the 10 of diamonds pitching a club, East ruffs with the king of spades and plays a club. If North's mystery spade is the nine because the three was squandered earlier, then declarer cannot reach the good four of diamonds and must concede a club. However, if North's low spade is the three, then declarer can take the rest of the tricks by winning the ace of clubs and playing the three to the closed hand's five.

Rowen Bell, a member of Unit 123, is a Gold Life Master, having over 2,500 masterpoints.

Raking in Gold at Regional



Figure out what went wrong

(Continued from page 8)

I showed the hand to my teammate, Dick Bruno, and he spotted my error immediately. Take a minute and go back and see if you can find my mistake. Read on when you've made your decision.

As frequently happens, the mistake was made by playing too quickly to trick one.

I failed to recognize the value of an extra entry to my hand. When I told you I ruffed the opening lead, I didn't take the time to realize how important it would be to ruff with the ten. This play would give me two entries to my hand in trump instead of only one. The difference would be critical.

Look how differently the hand plays: After a diamond to the ace, a heart won by the ace, and a diamond exit, I can win in hand, lead a club to dummy and a low club to my nine.

Now, if clubs break 3-2, I can draw the last trump, cash my hand winners in comfort, and claim 12 tricks. If West turns out to have four clubs, I can start running my diamonds through West. West will be forced to ruff, dummy will overruff, and I can still hope to bring in the heart suit with a ruff. If East turns out to have four clubs, I'm probably going down, but at least I gave it my best shot.

The complete hand:

North

- ♠ ---
- ♥ KJT763
- ♦ 84
- ♣ KQJT3

West

- ♠ AJT854
- ♥ A5
- ♦ 93
- ♣ 862

East

- ♠ Q73
- ♥ Q842
- ♦ Q762
- ♣ 54

South

- ♠ K962
- ♥ 9
- ♦ AKJT5
- ♣ A97



Milwaukee Holiday Sectional



December 28 - 31, 2021

Good Hope School – Room #26

(Follow signs to 4 Aces Bridge Club)

2315 W. Good Hope Road – Glendale WI

TUESDAY-FRIDAY

10:00 a.m. and 2:30 p.m.

Single Stratified Pair/Teams

Stratified 299er Pairs



Strata: Open Games: 0-750, 750-2500, 2500+
299er Game: 0-50, 50-100, 100-300

Tournament Chair and partnerships: Yvette Neary
(414-526-9035) or yneary@gmail.com

IN Chair: Judy Burzynski (262-391-0970)



*We will follow ACBL and local regulations
regarding COVID protocols*

Unit 222 Valentine Sectional



FEBRUARY 9 - 12, 2022



GOOD HOPE SCHOOL (4 ACES BRIDGE CLUB) – ROOM #26
2315 W. Good Hope Road - Glendale WI

Wednesday, Thursday, Friday

9:30 a.m. Pair/Team Game & 299er Pair Game

2:00 p.m. Pair/Team Game & 299er Pair Game

Saturday

9:30 a.m. & 2:00 p.m. BRUCE BROWN CUP OPEN PAIRS

9:30 a.m. & 2:00 p.m. 299er Pair Game (Single Sessions)

We will follow ACBL and local regulations regarding Covid protocols

TOURNAMENT CHAIR: John Pereles (414-559-3463)

jrpereles@gmail.com

PARTNERSHIP CHAIR: Yvette Neary (414-526-9035)

yneary@gmail.com

299er CHAIR: Judy Burzynski (262-391-0970)

Strata for all open games: 0-749, 750-2499, 2500+

Strata for 299er games: 0-49, 50-99, 100-300

(Strats may be adjusted as attendance warrants)

Zero Tolerance Policy

The ultimate purpose of the Z-T policy is to create a much more pleasant atmosphere in our NABCs. We are attempting to eradicate unacceptable behavior in order to make the game of bridge more enjoyable for all. Below are some examples of commendable behavior, which, while not required, will significantly contribute to the improved atmosphere:



Below are some examples of commendable behavior, which, while not required, will significantly contribute to the improved atmosphere:

- Being a good 'host' or 'guest' at the table.
- Greeting others in a friendly manner.
- Praising the bidding and/or play of the opponents
- Having two clearly completed convention cards readily available to the opponents (This one is a regulation, not just a nicety)

The following are some examples of behavior which will not be tolerated:

- Badgering, rudeness, insinuations, intimidation, profanity, threats, or violence.
- Negative comments concerning opponents' or partner's play or bidding.
- Constant and gratuitous lessons and analyses at the table.
- Loud and disruptive arguing with a director's ruling.

If a player at the table behaves in an unacceptable manner, the director should be called **immediately**. Annoying behavior, embarrassing remarks, or any other conduct which might interfere with the enjoyment of the game is specifically prohibited by Law 74A. Law 91A gives the director the authority to assess disciplinary penalties. The following procedures have been given to the tournament directors for implementation.

1. At the start of each event, the director shall make an announcement that the tournament will be observing ZERO TOLERANCE for unacceptable behavior. It is requested that the director be called whenever behavior is not consistent with the guidelines outlined above.
2. The director, when called, shall make an assessment of the situation. If it is established that there was unacceptable behavior, an immediate $\frac{1}{4}$ board disciplinary penalty (3 IMP in team games) shall be assigned to all offenders. This may involve any one or all four players at the table irrespective of who initiated the unacceptable behavior. If both members of a partnership are guilty, the penalties are additive ($\frac{1}{4}$ board EACH = $\frac{1}{2}$ board!). The Board of Directors strongly believes that assignment of disciplinary penalties will improve the overall behavior at our tournaments.
3. If it is determined that the same offender is responsible for a second offense in the same event, then the offender(s) shall be ejected from future competition in that event. An offender removed from an event shall be deemed to have not played in the event, no masterpoints will be awarded and no refunds will be made. All previously-obtained results shall, however, remain valid as to their effect upon other competitors. In the case of a serious offense and in the case of multiple offenses (three) during a tournament, a disciplinary committee may be convened to determine whether the offender(s) should be allowed to play in other events at the tournament and/or whether additional sanctions may be appropriate.
4. Warnings are strongly discouraged and will be given only when there is no clear violation or in cases where the facts cannot be determined. Offenders are to receive immediate penalties. Regardless of who may have initiated unacceptable behavior, ALL offenses are punishable. Retaliatory behavior is a punishable offense. Frivolous accusations will also be considered as offenses under this policy.
5. In accordance with the Laws of Duplicate Bridge, a director's decision to impose a disciplinary penalty is final; however, all such decisions may be appealed. An appeals committee may not overturn the director's decision, but could recommend that the director reconsider the imposition of a penalty. It should be noted that the committee may feel that the penalty assessed was not severe enough and may refer the matter to a disciplinary committee.
6. The DIC shall provide a summary report of all behavioral penalties to the Tournament Chairman and/or Recorder.

SMILE



A hungry lion was roaming through the jungle looking for something to eat. He came across two men. One was sitting under a tree and reading a book the other was typing away on his typewriter. The lion quickly pounced on the man reading the book and devoured him. Even the king of the jungle knows of reader's digest and writer's cramp.

I AM "WONDER WOMAN"



RENO SPRING NABC

MARCH 10-20, 2022



Players can now start booking reservations for the host hotels for the North American Bridge Championships tournament, which will be held March 10-20 in Reno, Nevada. The ACBL said the hotels should not be be booked directly. "We will be sending out emails and post a direct link, phone number, and email address of our housing provider for you to use to book your room. Or for assistance, plays can contact Conference Direct at 855-956-0776 or email acbl@conferencedirect.com.

The three host hotels are a short, mostly covered walk to the NABC space in the Reno Ballroom and the main regional spaces and IN spaces in the Silver Legacy. Lessons and meetings will be held in the Circus spaces.

The hotels are located on The Row, 407 North Virginia St., Reno, NV 89501. Lodging includes the Eldorado (\$99+tax), Silver Legacy (99+tax) and Circus, Circus (\$89+tax).

