

President's Perspective
D17 Bridge Buzz, May 2021
The Times They Are A-Changin'
Continued...

Tournaments are part of the future too. Sanctions have been canceled through July 31, 2021. For the remainder of the year tournaments will be individually evaluated by the ACBL and local committees. The status of all D17 tournaments will be updated in the tournament calendar on our website: d17acbl.org. Stay tuned!

Bridge life in D17 is exciting! Let's first mention the GNTs. The D17 final will be held at the end of May - virtually. The D17, Education Chair, Sharon Smith and the GNT Chair, Bonnie Bagley, (a dynamic duo), got together and orchestrated two fantastic Swiss Team Coaching events early in March.

The Swiss Team Coaching Event

Teams were provided with their own coach and partners when needed. Zoom meetings were set up to handle the event and introduce Shark Bridge to the players. Swiss Team Strategy Presentations were offered to participants and after the games players were invited back to Zoom Rooms to debrief with their coaches. As you can imagine - this took a lot of volunteer hours and we are extremely grateful to all who made this happen, including the staff of Shark Bridge. The result of all this work was the following team participation:

Event 1: 34 teams

**Event 2: 28 teams
(13 repeat and 15 new teams)**

That is 49 new teams in D17! Incredible! We hope to see them at the GNT finals online in May and at D17 club games and tournaments in the future.

The All-Western 99er NiteClub is another program for the newer bridge player. The program is supported by D17, D19, D21, D22 & D23. The games run in the evenings - Mondays through Thursdays on BBO. It is not unusual for these games to see 35 tables or more. It is great to be collaborating with other districts. Hopefully there will be more opportunities in the future to

work together. More information is available on the D17 website at www.d17acbl.org

ACBL membership has decreased 9% between June 1, 2020 and March 2021. All units in D17 have seen some attrition and the D17 board has voted to fund a membership outreach program to help reverse this trend. The program advertising started in April and the program will launch later in May. Watch your mailbox, our website and Facebook for detailed information. (Yes we have a Facebook Page. Check it out and give us a “like” - please.) Do you know someone who has been thinking about trying Bridge? This program is for them.

ACBL has a guest membership program. Great for new people who visit clubs or take lessons. The deal is that the first 120 days are free then a discounted membership is offered for the first year. Two thousand future bridge players have signed up for this program and many are converting to full membership. Good news!

The Times They Are A-Changin’... for sure. Your feedback is important so that we can move forward together constructively.

Warm Regards,

Liz Hamilton
D17 President