## **Presidents Message for March - 3/1/2020**

February was a better month. With one exception, we came very close to matching our February 2019 performance. The exception was in the number of different players that played. In 2019 we had 172 players and in 2020 we only had 157. We really need to find some new players.

The Unit Board of Directors made two changes to Unit policies in February. The first change was to suspend the Free Play program. We did this because the number of Free Plays turned in for the Unit game has spiked in recent months. We took in 9 in November, and 11 in January. Twenty-six players qualified for Free Plays in January and twenty-six more would have qualified in February. It appears that the C & D level players have gotten much better at their games. This will be a conversation during the next board meeting in May.

The second change in Unit policy is to the Free Membership policy. The Unit has always paid for the first year of ACBL membership for new players. In the last few months, the ACBL has began to pay recruiters for bringing in new members. The Unit will still pay for new memberships but now the applications must label me as the recruiter. Any money received by me for recruitment will be returned to the Unit Treasurer.

The Unit's second GNT qualifier game is scheduled for March 14<sup>th</sup> in Temecula. The last game was a rousing success. We hope this one will be also. However, there are only three teams signed up.

The Unit game will be on March 15<sup>th</sup> this month. We have been having about 10-11 tables. As during the last three months we will split the game into an Open section and a 299er section if we have enough players in 299 and below category.

This week's Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Saturday games in Murrieta and Temecula will be STAC games. If you want/need Silver points, it's a good way to get them.

I'm still working on the Survey. I will send out another email containing a link to the Survey within the next two weeks.

For now, stay happy, healthy, and play more Bridge!

David E. Franks ACBL Unit 534 President (310) 508-2412 defranks4@verizon.net